

**DRAFT #6**  
08/2/2022

**CONSTITUTION  
and  
BY - LAWS  
Pinellas Lodge 43  
Fraternal Order of Police**

Reading Notes: The black text is language from the lodge's original documentation. The [Blue](#) text is content contained in the Florida State Lodge's Constitution and By-laws. The [red](#) text is content that was amended by the By-Laws Committee and or the Lodge Board of Directors. Language to be removed has a ~~strikethrough notation~~. New language is underlined.

# Pinellas Lodge 43 Fraternal Order of Police CONSTITUTION

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# Pinellas Lodge 43 Fraternal Order of Police BY-LAWS

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## PREAMBLE

We, the members of the various law enforcement agencies in Pinellas County, Florida, and the political subdivisions thereof, represent the members of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 43, for the following purposes:

To support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Florida; to inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the United States of America; to promote and foster the impartial enforcement law and order; to improve the individual and collective proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage fraternal, educational, charitable and social activities among all law enforcement officers; to advocate and strive for uniform application of the civil service merit system for appointment and promotion; to support the improvement of the standard of living and working condition of the law enforcement profession through every legal and ethical means available; to create and maintain a tradition of esprit de corps insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our members and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession and thus more firmly to establish the confidence of the public in the service that is dedicated to the protection of life and property.

All terms used herein to denominate gender shall be generic and, whenever appropriate, the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular.

August 15, 2013 (amended)  
October 19, 2015 (amended)  
June 18, 2016 (amended)  
October 27, 2016 (amended)  
June 16, 2018 (amended)  
          , 2022 (amended)

**Pinellas Lodge 43  
Fraternal Order of Police  
CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE 1**  
**NAME**

Section 1. This organization shall be known as Pinellas Lodge No. 43, Fraternal Order of Police, and is hereinafter referred to as the "Lodge".

Section 2. The Florida State Trustee of the Lodge shall police the trademark of the Order.

Section 3. The Lodge, by virtue of its affiliation with the [National Fraternal Order of Police](#) and the State Lodge, shall have the right to use the name, insignia, emblem and mark, trademark, or service mark of the Fraternal Order of Police in order to signify or denote their affiliation therewith. In the case of prospective for-profit use of the name, insignia, emblem or mark, trademark, service mark of the Fraternal Order of Police, or such other use that may place such state or subordinate lodge in competition with the [National Fraternal Order of Police](#), such permission may be withheld by the National Board of Trustees.

## ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

Section 1. As used herein, the following terms, phrases or words shall be defined as follows:

A. "Elected/~~Regularly~~ Appointed Law Enforcement Officer" shall mean for purposes hereof, any law enforcement or correctional officer who meets the qualifications of this constitution, the Florida State Lodge Constitution, or who by law is exempted from meeting the minimum training standards. ~~the minimum standards for training and education required by the United States, the State of Florida, the political subdivision, or agency by which they are employed or appointed.~~

B. ~~"Full-time employed" shall mean law enforcement officers that are engaged in such employment as their full-time occupation.~~ "Full-time" shall mean law enforcement and correctional officers that are engaged in such employment as their full-time occupation as to hours worked and income derived as determined by their lodge. The term may also include law enforcement officers that are employed with multiple law enforcement agencies and are engaged in such employment as their full-time occupation on average of at least thirty (30) hours per week.

C. "Good Cause" shall mean nonfeasance, malfeasance, dishonesty, or refusal to carry out the will of ~~the Lodge 43 Executive Board~~ of Directors, State Board of Trustees, Biennial National Conference, Annual State Conference, or the Membership.

D. "Jurisdiction" shall be the territorial range of authority or control, where the Lodge is located. The primary areas of jurisdiction are Municipalities, Counties (unincorporated areas), the State (not to infringe on a Municipal or County Lodge) and Federal (having no REAL area of jurisdiction in the State). Disputes over jurisdiction, because of membership and solicitation, shall be settled by the membership at either a State Board of Trustees or State Conference. All decisions are appealable to the ~~State~~ and the National Lodge.

E. "Member in good standing" in respect to the Lodge, shall mean a member who fulfilled all requirements of membership in good standing in this Lodge or in and for whom appropriate per capita tax has been paid to the State and National Fraternal Order of Police. Any member of the Lodge that is delinquent or has been suspended shall not be a Member in good standing.

F. "Member/Lodge in good standing" shall mean a member which that is not greater than thirty (30) days in arrears in the payment of all dues, delinquency fees, and assessments due and payable to or for Lodge 43, and/or the State Lodge and/or National Fraternal Order of Police on behalf of its Member. Any Member/Lodge in arrears of payment of dues or assessments more than thirty (30) days and less than ninety (90) days shall be deemed to be delinquent and not in good standing. Any Member in arrears of payment of dues or assessments more than eighty-nine (89) days shall be and is hereby automatically suspended from membership in good standing in the Fraternal Order of Police.

G. "Board of Directors" shall refer to the collective body consisting of the President, Immediate Past President, ~~all Active Past Presidents~~, Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Inner and Outer Guards, the Chaplain, and the State Trustee. Any member of this lodge that is elected to the District, State, or National Board would also be part of the Board of Directors.

~~G. The pronoun he or his shall be used generically and shall refer to members of either sex.~~

**ARTICLE 2**  
**DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)**

H. RESERVED

I. “State Trustees” shall mean the individual elected State Trustees or the collective body thereof (excluding the State Executive Board) who may meet from time to time as provided in this Constitution and By-Law.

J. “Past President” shall be defined as any person elected to the office of President by the Lodge and who served not less than one (1) full term and was not removed from office.

K. “Regularly appointed law enforcement” shall mean for the purposes hereof, any law enforcement or corrections officer who meets the minimum standards, has received the training and education required by the United States, the state, the political subdivision, or agency by which they are appointed, and who is granted arrest powers.

L. “Local Lodge Territory” shall be as defined in the National Constitution which states “no more than one lodge shall be established and maintained in any city, town, or other political subdivision. Upon application by a State Lodge, the National President may grant an exception for worthy cause shown, mandated by applicable law. This section shall not prohibit the establishment or maintenance of any Subordinate Lodge whose jurisdiction may overlap that of another Subordinate Lodge.

M. “Distribute” shall be defined for the purpose hereof, the sending out of Constitution and By-Laws or any other notices as e-mail, fax, mail, or other delivery service if needed. In most cases the method which will be used shall be e-mail, unless for some reason the intended receiver is not able to get such delivery. If in time technology develops a better method of distribution, then that may also be used as a preferred method.



## ARTICLE 3 CHARACTER

Section 1. Lodge 43 is ~~an fraternal organization composed~~ consisting of professional law enforcement and correctional officers, within Pinellas County, FL. ~~who have joined together for their common good.~~

A. Lodge 43 is a fraternal organization composed of professional law enforcement and corrections personnel who have joined together for their common good.

B. In no event shall the Fraternal Order of Police, Florida State Lodge, and Lodge 43 join or be controlled by any labor organization, provided, however, that this section shall not prohibit cooperative efforts by the state or subordinate Lodges of the Fraternal Order of Police with labor organizations for their common good.

Section 2. Members ~~The~~ of the Lodge shall not strike or by concerted action cause a cessation of the performance of police duties or induce other members or lodges to do likewise.

Section 3. This Constitution shall be the fundamental law of the Order and, with the Rituals adopted and such By-Laws as may be adopted from time to time, shall govern the conduct of the Lodge and all its members.

Section 4. There shall be By-laws ~~which~~ that shall govern the day-to-day operation and administration of the Lodge. The By-laws of the Order may be promulgated, amended, or revised by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership voting at a Lodge General meeting, after proper notice has been ~~posted~~ distributed.

## ARTICLE 4 OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

Section 1. This organization is formed for the purpose of bettering existing conditions of Law Enforcement by solidifying their ~~strength~~ unity and promoting their mutual welfare in this County, State and Nation through our affiliation with the National Order.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of this organization to be always on the alert at all sessions of Pinellas County's Cities and/or County Commission meetings and the Florida Legislature to promote the interest of law enforcement officers, and work for the passage of laws ~~of benefit to~~ that benefit law enforcement.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of this organization to see that all laws protecting law enforcement officers are upheld.

Section 4. It shall be the purpose of this organization to assist any member of this lodge in protecting that member's rights.

Section 5. The Lodge Officers shall have the power to act in all matters pertaining to the welfare of this organization, subject to the provisions of Article 8, Section 6 of this Constitution.

Section 6. The Fraternal Order of Police of Florida, Lodge 43, advocates defined benefit pensions for law enforcement officer and will work for the establishment of defined benefit pensions or relief for the law enforcement officers in agencies that do not have them.

Section 7. The Fraternal Order of Police of Florida Lodge 43 is an organization of law enforcement and ~~corrections~~ officers, sworn to enforce the law under all circumstances.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**Constitution MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Any regularly appointed, ~~or elected~~ and full time, reserve volunteer, part-time, selected, or commissioned ~~employee~~ law enforcement or correctional officer of the United States, any state or political subdivision thereof, or any agency may be eligible for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, subject to provisions of this Constitution. No person shall be denied membership ~~on account~~ because of race, religion, color, creed, gender, age or national origin.

Section 2. Subject only to the provisions of this Constitution, this lodge shall be the judge of its membership. This lodge shall establish requirements for membership in good standing of its respective membership, which requirements shall not be inconsistent herewith.

Section 3. There shall be ~~three (3)~~ four (4) classes of membership: Active, Retired, ~~and~~ Honorary and Associate.

A. Active Membership

1. Shall include regularly appointed, ~~or elected~~ full-time, volunteer, part-time, elected, or commissioned, reserve full-time law enforcement officers.

2. ~~May include retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement or correctional officers.~~ Shall include retired regularly appointed, reserve volunteer, part-time, selected, or commissioned law enforcement officers who have remained in good standing with their state and subordinate lodges after retirement from their law enforcement agency. In good standing shall mean a member who fulfilled all requirements of membership in good standing in his respective subordinate and state lodges and for whom appropriate per capita tax has been paid to the Grand Lodge.

3. May include, subject to the approval of the State Lodge Board of Trustees and this lodge, regularly appointed ~~or elected~~, reserve volunteer, part-time, selected, or commissioned law enforcement ~~or correctional officers~~ who have resigned from their law enforcement duties and who have remained in good standing with this Lodge.

4. Only active members, as herein defined, shall have voice and vote.

B. Associate Membership - There shall be a class of membership for those non-sworn employees interested in associating with the Fraternal Order of Police and promoting the general welfare of the law enforcement profession. The following job class shall be eligible for membership: Crime Scene, Forensic and Identification Technicians.

C. Retired Membership - shall be comprised of regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officer who withdraw from active membership or after retirement.

D. Honorary Membership - shall be comprised of individuals recognized by the Lodge, for exceptional service or contribution to the Nation, The State, or Political Subdivision, the law enforcement community, or the Fraternal Order of Police. Honorary Memberships must be renewed yearly at the February General Membership Meeting.

Section 4. No person shall be a Member of more than one subordinate lodge at the same time nor shall any member who is delinquent, or who has been suspended by a subordinate lodge for any reason, be eligible for membership in this lodge until such suspension has been lifted.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**MEMBERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

Section 5. The Fraternal Order of Police may deny membership to anyone who is, or has been, a member of any organization regardless of what name which advocates the abolition, destruction, or violent overthrow of the government of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof.

Section 6. Any active member may be granted a transfer from one Subordinate Lodge to another provided that, ~~he or she is in~~ they are in good standing, both subordinate lodges agree to the transfer, and the member cannot be active within his or her own law enforcement agency's Lodge because of collective bargaining law restrictions or geographical location.

Section 7. Specifically excluded are private security guards, special police, members of profit-making security and correctional organizations, auxiliary or reserve police.

Section 8. No person at any time shall be a Member of the Auxiliary or Associate Lodge when they are qualified for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police Active Lodge.

Section 9. Application for active membership in the Lodge will be presented during a regular meeting. Such applications will then be read and voted upon for acceptance at the regular monthly general membership meeting. These applications shall be accepted or denied by a majority vote of the members present.

## ARTICLE 6

### ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Pinellas Lodge 43 is composed of a group of county deputy sheriffs and state and local municipal law enforcement officers who are admitted and who conform to the Constitution and such rules and regulations as may be adopted. The Lodge and its membership are dedicated to support and defense of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Florida; to inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the United States of America; to promote and foster the enforcement of law and order; to improve the individual and collective proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage fraternal, educational, charitable and social activities among law enforcement officers; to advocate and strive for uniform application of fair non-discriminatory appointment and promotional processes; support the improvement of the standard of living and working conditions of the law enforcement and corrections professions through every legal and ethical means available; to create and maintain tradition of esprit de corps insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our members and the people served; to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement and corrections profession and thus more firmly to establish the confidence of the public in the service dedicated to the protection of life and property.

Section 2. Pinellas Lodge 43 provides a full array of legal support for its membership as well as collective bargaining for its member agencies, as well as assistance for unexpected emergencies and to other civic and sports groups through our local communities.

Section 3. Pinellas Lodge 43 will have a general membership meeting as designated by the Board of Directors each month. The members shall approve a Constitution, and shall elect from their ranks, the officers of the lodge.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Chaplain, a State Trustee, and any District, State, or National Officer elected from this Lodge.

Section 5. Delegates to the National Biennial and State Conferences will be elected in the manner and method as prescribed by the provisions of the National and/or State Constitutions.

## **ARTICLE 6 7** **OFFICERS**

Section 1. The "Officers" of the Lodge shall consist of a President, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Chaplain and State Trustee.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Chaplain, a State Trustee, and any District, State, or National Officer elected from this Lodge.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to exercise all administrative powers of the Order during the periods between meetings. It shall have the power to act in all emergencies pertaining to the welfare of this lodge and its members.

Section 4. The "Officers" of the Lodge shall be elected for a term of two years and shall serve until their successors are elected, qualified and installed.

Section 5. The nomination and election for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Inner Guard and Outer Guard shall be held on even years. The State Trustee shall be nominated and elected on odd numbered years. The State Trustee is appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. To be eligible for office, a member shall be in good standing and shall have attended at least six of the regular meetings in the past twelve months.

Section 7. No member shall be nominated or be a candidate for election to more than one office at the same time.

Section 8. To be eligible for the office of President, the candidate shall have served at least one term on the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Nominations will be conducted and closed at the November membership meeting. The election shall be conducted during the month of December by a show of hands at the general members meeting.

Section 10. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be ruled the winner.

Section 11. The officers-elect shall be installed at the end of the December meeting as the last order of business. Any Past President or District President may install the officers.

**ARTICLE 7 ~~8~~**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Chaplain, a State Trustee, and any District, State, or National Officer elected from this Lodge.

Section 2. The "Officers" of the Lodge shall be elected for a term of two years and shall serve until their successors are elected, qualified, and installed.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly at least twelve (2) each year in addition to the meeting held at the State Conference and shall transact such business as may come before it. The Board shall keep minutes and present them to the membership State Conference for consideration or action thereon.

- A. The quorum for the Board of Directors shall be a majority of those board members attending and registered.
- B. The meeting site shall be the Lodge business office, or the meeting site shall be selected by the President.
- C. If, in the opinion of the Board, the existence of a national emergency makes the holding of the Board of Directors Meeting impracticable, the Board may offer a virtual option, postpone, or cancel said meeting.

Section 4. Any vacancy in any office of the Lodge, shall be filled by appointment by the President within thirty (30) days and ratified at the next scheduled Board meeting by a two-third (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors and membership voting.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to exercise all administrative powers of the Order during the periods between meetings. It shall have power to act in all emergencies pertaining to the welfare of this lodge and membership.

Section 6. It shall be mandatory for the President of this Subordinate Lodge to notify the President of the State Lodge, in writing, if and when a member of the Subordinate this Lodge holding an office in the State Lodge and/or State Trustee resigns or is dismissed from his or her respective law enforcement agency (other than being retired under a paid pension for length of service or disability) or is considered no longer a member in good standing of that subordinate Lodge. Members changing positions from one law enforcement agency to another agency shall not be affected.

## **ARTICLE 7 9** **PRESIDENT**

Section 1. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of Pinellas Lodge No. 43, Fraternal Order of Police. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Lodge. The President shall have general management of the business of the Order and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors and the membership are carried into effect.

Section 2. The President shall execute any and all contracts that may be authorized by the Board of Directors and/or the membership.

Section 3. The President shall be ex-officio member of all Standing Committees.

Section 4. The President shall have the power, with the advice and consent of the membership, to appoint the majority of all Standing and Special Committees.

Section 5. ~~He~~ The President shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors and/or the membership whenever an emergency arises or upon the petition of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. ~~He~~ The President shall submit a written report of the business transacted by him together with such recommendations as he may deem advisable at each meeting of the Board of Directors and membership meetings.

Section 7. ~~He~~ The President shall convey to his successor all unfinished business of the Lodge.

Section 8. ~~He~~ The President shall attest to all warrants or vouchers drawn on any fund of the Lodge 43 before payment by the Treasurer.

Section 9. And shall furnish a fidelity/surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Directors.

~~Section 10. The President shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors or the membership whenever an emergency arises or upon the petition of a majority of the Board of Directors. Duplicate wording of Section 5~~

~~Section 11. It shall be the duty of the President to promote the growth of the organization. It shall be the duty of the President to give lectures about the organization, its aims, and objectives, what it has accomplished, what it can accomplish, and what it strives to do for its members and the law enforcement profession in Pinellas County, Florida.~~

~~Section 12. The President shall have the authority to spend up to five hundred dollars (\$500)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for special expenditures for the good of the Lodge.



**ARTICLE 8 10**  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Section 1. The Immediate Past President may attend all meetings of the Board of Directors, and the State and National Conference, and shall assist and advise the President and other officers of the Lodge. He They shall execute such arrangements or orders as may be issued by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 2. To be active, the Immediate Past President would have to attend four (4) Lodge meetings in a two (2) year period. An excused absence due to police work or medical will count as an attended meeting if approved by the President and or his representative.

**ARTICLE 9 11**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

Section 1. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties, in the absence of the President, shall exercise the powers and duties of that office.

A. The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be ordered by the Lodge President or Board of Directors.

B. Have the power, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees to appoint the minority of all Standing and Special Committees.

C. Furnish a fidelity/surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Trustees, such bond to be paid for by the Lodge.

## ARTICLE 40 12 SECRETARY

Section 1. The Secretary shall have custody of the books, records, documents, the seal of the Lodge and office paraphernalia and equipment, under the general orders of the President and the Board of Directors.

Section 2. He The Secretary shall keep and maintain a **recorded** record of the minutes of the meetings of the general membership and meetings of the Board of Directors. He They shall further prepare the written minutes of the meetings for approval, alteration, or rejection **at** the next meeting of the membership **and/or** Board of Directors. The Secretary shall make available a copy of said minutes as soon as possible after said meeting of the membership and/or Board of Directors.

Section 3. He The Secretary shall conduct general correspondence of the Lodge.

Section 4. He The Secretary shall attest, under the seal of the Lodge, all duly authorized contracts of the Lodge.

Section 5. He The Secretary shall be the official custodian of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Lodge, which shall be authenticated by the seal of the Lodge and the signature of the President and Secretary. He The Secretary shall keep a record of the official amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the Lodge and shall cause them to be properly inserted therein.

Section 6. He The secretary shall handle the membership roster and prepare the necessary Per Capita tax and assessments forms due to the National Fraternal Order of Police and the State Lodge.

Section 7. ~~He shall furnish a surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Directors.~~ The Secretary shall furnish a surety bond for faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Directors, such bond to be paid for by the Lodge.

Section 8. He The Secretary shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the Office of Secretary.

Section 9. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the office of Secretary.

**Section 11.** At the expiration of ~~the~~ Secretary's term of office, the secretary shall deliver successor the seal of the Lodge and all books, documents, records, funds, supplies, equipment, paraphernalia, etc., and shall require and receive a receipt of same.

Section 12. The Secretary shall distribute to each member of the Board of Directors notice of special meetings thereof not less than ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

## ARTICLE 11~~13~~ TREASURER

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Lodge. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond for faithful performance of duty in the amount specified and approved by the Board of Directors, such bond to be paid by the Lodge.

Section 2. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall sign all checks, duly authorized for disbursement of funds.

Section 3. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall keep an itemized record of all receipts and disbursements.

Section 4. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall deposit all funds collected in a bank approved by the Board of Directors and shall maintain direct control over all bank accounts involving the Lodge. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall retain in his office a contingency fund of not more than \$400.00 two hundred (\$200.00) dollars for the purpose of paying emergency current expenses.

Section 5. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall set up special accounts for special funds, approved by the Board of Directors, and allocate to each, respectively, the amount allocated.

Section 6. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the office.

Section 7. ~~He~~ The Treasurer shall give a complete report of all receipts and disbursements of all Lodge funds at each Lodge Board of Directors meeting and the Lodges general monthly meetings. The Treasurer shall also provide a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet to the Board of Directors at the end of each calendar year.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall collect all revenue derived from ~~contractual terms set forth for the promotion of the Lodge (the official publication)~~ fundraising events sponsored by Lodge and shall deposit all funds into the Lodge General or Savings Funds.

Section 9. The Treasurer shall prepare a report of all credits and disbursements pertaining to Lodge funds and shall submit a copy of such report prior to any Board of Directors meeting.

Section 9. 10. At the expiration of ~~his term of office~~ the Treasurer's term of office, the Treasurer shall deliver to his successor all books, documents, records, funds, supplies, equipment, paraphernalia, etc., and shall require and receive a receipt, thereof.

Section ~~10.~~ 11. In the event the Treasurer becomes unable to perform his Treasurer's functions temporarily, the Lodge's Vice President shall assume these functions until such time as the Treasurer can resume his the Treasurer's duties or a new Treasurer is appointed in accordance with these Constitution and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE 14**

(RESERVED)

**ARTICLE ~~43~~<sup>15</sup>**  
**GUARDS**

Section 1. The [Lodge](#) Inner and Outer Guard shall have charge and control of the meeting room. They shall permit only qualified persons to enter or to remain.

**ARTICLE 14 16**  
**CHAPLAIN**

Section 1. The Chaplain shall open each Lodge meeting with a prayer. ~~He~~ The Chaplain shall be responsible for reporting all members "Sick or in Distress" and shall be the Chairperson of the Lodge Memorial Committee.

**ARTICLE 17**

**(RESERVED)**



**ARTICLE 15 18**  
**STATE TRUSTEE**

Section 1. The State Trustee shall act as a member of the State board of Trustees and shall perform the duties of the office described in the Florida State Lodge By-laws.

Section 2. The State Trustee shall take charge of all physical property of the Lodge, make a complete itemized inventory of such property, and file a certified copy with the Secretary.

Section 3. ~~He/She~~ **The State Trustee** shall recommend the amount of bond to be required of the President, Vice President, Secretary, ~~the~~ **and** Treasurer, **and any standing committees that are deemed to require a performance bond**, for the faithful performance of their duties.

Section 4. The State Trustee shall examine and audit the financial books, records, and funds of the Lodge and make a report of their findings at the November meeting.

Section 5. **The State Trustee shall ascertain that all monies received have been allocated to the credit of the proper funds and so deposited in the name of the State Lodge.**

Section 5. The State Trustee shall **present a** report to the **Board of Directors meetings and the local Lodge at a general membership meeting**, the events taking place on a state level after meeting with the State Board of Trustees and shall furnish the same to the local Lodge Secretary upon request.

**ARTICLE 19**  
**SUBORDINATE LODGES LODGE GOVERNANCE**

Section 1. Pinellas Lodge 43 has been chartered by the Board of Trustees of the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police and shall abide by all mandates set forth in the National Fraternal Order of Police and State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. The Lodge must hold at least one (1) regular meeting each calendar quarter (¼) and must hold monthly meetings, when required, as prescribed by the National Fraternal Order of Police and State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws. Nothing shall prohibit the Lodge from holding regular meetings more frequently than quarterly.

Section 3. The Lodge must furnish its own Lodge Seal, which must be purchased from the National Fraternal Order of Police.

Section 4. Constitution

A. The lodge shall adopt a Constitution and such By-Laws as it deems necessary for the governance thereof, provided, however, that such Constitution shall not be in conflict with the State or National Constitution and by-Laws.

B. The lodge shall submit for approval to the Florida State Lodge and National Fraternal Order of Police shall submit for approval to the National Fraternal Order of Police and State Lodge, an electronic copy of its Constitution and, if any, its By-Laws, and each and every revision thereto. The National Board of Trustees and State Board of Trustees shall, prior to approval thereof, determine that such Constitution and By-Laws, if any, and any revisions thereto are not in conflict herewith.

Section 5. No suspended member of the Lodge shall be allowed to affiliate with any other Lodge without approval of the State Board of Trustees. If such suspension is due to non-payment of required dues or assessments, such dues and/or assessments shall be remunerated to the State Lodge prior to granting such approval.

Section 6. Any Lodge accepting members into their Lodge and not reporting same to the State Lodge, and not complying with the Constitution and By-Laws, shall be subject to expulsion from the Fraternal Order of Police, Florida State Lodge.

Section 7. The Lodge must pay a Per Capita tax to the State Lodge as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Florida State Lodge. It shall include the Per Capita tax of the National Fraternal Order of Police as set forth in the By-Laws of the National Fraternal Order of Police. All State Lodge and National Fraternal Order of Police Per Capita tax shall be sent directly to the (State) Secretary of the Florida State Lodge. The National Fraternal Order of Police and the State Lodge Per Capita tax must be paid semi-annually and shall be due and payable on May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Section 8. Candidates for offices of Subordinate Lodges.

A. Nominations of qualified candidates for offices for the Lodge shall be held no later than the regular meeting in November.

B. Election of officers shall be held no later than the month of December.

C. Installation of elected officers of the Lodge shall be held no later than the month of January.

**ARTICLE 19**

**LODGE GOVERNANCE (CONTINUED)**

Section 9. Solicitation:

A. A local Lodge shall not solicit funds, or anything of value, for any reason whatsoever from persons, firms, or any type of business whatsoever in the territory of another local lodge without notifying the local Lodge in whose territory the solicitation is to be made. Written permission shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the local Lodge granting permission and shall certify that permission was granted for the specific purpose and time period.

B. Any money that is accumulated in violation of this section shall be seized by the Florida State Lodge and placed in the general fund of the Florida State Lodge.

C. All monies seized by the State Lodge shall be returned to the prevailing local Lodge after the final decision has been made by the State as to the territorial disputes minus the expenses incurred by the State Lodge investigating committee.

Section 10. The lodge shall provide to the National Secretary an active email address which shall be used for official communications. The National Fraternal Order of Police shall issue an email address to lodges upon request. (Added 8/21).

## ARTICLE 16 20 DISCIPLINE

Section 1. This article shall govern discipline of officers and members and shall be interpreted in such manner as to afford equity and fairness to all affected thereby.

A. Any and all charges shall be in writing, utilizing the prescribed Discipline Hearing Forms (D.H.F. # 1-A & 1-B), attested to and signed under oath and served upon the Secretary to the Subordinate Lodge.

Section 2. Discipline shall be initiated by the Lodge and imposed upon an individual member, or officer only in extraordinary circumstances where the member or officer has acted or failed to act in respect of a matter of direct and significant importance that brings dishonor or discredit to the Lodge or has violated this Constitution, the By-laws, or the Ritual of the Order.

### Section 3. Individual Members

A. The Lodge shall develop and promulgate rules that provide for the fair and appropriate discipline of its members that are not inconsistent with the Florida State Lodge Constitution, By-Laws or Ritual of the Order.

B. In the case of discipline imposed upon an individual member involving suspension, expulsion, or removal from office by the Lodge, an appeal may be taken by the Member to the State Lodge and an appeal may be taken from the decision of the State Lodge by the non-prevailing party to the National Fraternal Order of Police National Board of Trustees and, ultimately, to the Biennial Conference of the National Fraternal Order of Police.

1. An appeal to the state lodge may be brought by the filing of a written notice of appeal with the State President no more than thirty (30) days after the Member's receipt of official notification of his their suspension, expulsion or removal from office. Unless continued or delayed for good cause, such appeal shall be heard by the State Lodge Board of Trustees at the next board meeting following the State Lodge President's receipt of such notice of appeal, and unless waived in writing by both the appealing member and the responding Lodge, a written decision shall be rendered by the Board of Trustees within ten (10) days after such meeting. Both the appealing Member and the lodge from whose action the appeal is brought shall have the right to a hearing at which both parties may be heard and may present witnesses and documents. Such hearing shall be conducted in conformity with the By-laws an open to active members in good standing only. The parties to the appeal shall receive notice of the date of the hearing by registered mail not less than ten (10) days before such hearing. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall be the Presiding Officer, provided the Chairman is not the accused member or an involved party, in which case the Board of Trustees shall nominate and elect a Presiding Officer for this hearing. The approved Document on Demand, Discipline Hearing Form (D.H.F. #2) shall be completed by all parties involved in the appeal.

2. The ~~state lodge~~ Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees may sustain, modify, or reverse the disciplinary action against the member, Officer or subordinate Lodge.

C. In any case of discipline involving suspension, expulsion or removal from office of an individual member initiated by the Lodge, or upon the decision of the State Lodge in respect to an appeal from the action of a Subordinate Lodge, an appeal may be taken to the National Board, of Trustees and, ultimately, to the Biennial Conference.

**ARTICLE 16 ~~20~~**  
**DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)**

D. ~~C.~~ Except in the case of discipline initiated thereby, the State Lodge Board of Trustees shall review appeals of disciplinary matters solely to ensure that the parties were afforded due process and that the decision was consistent with this Constitution, the By-laws, and Ritual of Order of the ~~Grand~~ **Lodge National Fraternal of Police**.

1. Those appeals received by the State Secretary after the Annual Conference but before the next State Board of Trustees meeting shall be considered by the State Board of Trustees. The State President may shall appoint a special committee ~~which~~ **that** shall meet, gather, and review facts and arguments of the parties, consult with all interested parties in attendance and make a full report, including its recommendation, to the ~~Board~~ State Lodge Board of Trustees prior to its adjournment.

2. Following the report of the special Committee, if any, interested parties may appear before the entire ~~Board~~ State Board of Trustees, which shall decide the matter by majority vote.

E. An appeal may be taken by either party to the Annual Conference ~~from~~ on the decision of the State Lodge Board of Trustees respecting any appeal of disciplinary action imposed upon an individual member by a subordinate lodge, or discipline imposed by the State Lodge Board of Trustees.

1. A party seeking to appeal a decision of the State Board of Trustees to the Annual Conference shall serve notice thereof upon the State Secretary and the opposing party. Such notice of appeal shall consist of a concise statement describing the act ~~of~~ or failure to act upon which the appeal is based, the basis for such appeal, the decision appealed from, and those written materials the appellant deems appropriate and relevant to a fair consideration of the appeal by the State Board of Trustees. The opposing party may respond in writing to such notice of appeal with such materials as it deems necessary and shall submit a copy of such response to the State Secretary and the appealing party. Said notice of appeal and any responsive submissions shall be forwarded by the State Secretary to the State President who shall deliver said materials to a committee appointed by the President which that shall consider the matter and report thereon to the Conference prior to a vote thereon by the delegates.

2. Discipline may be initiated by the State Lodge and imposed upon an individual member thereby only in extraordinary circumstances in which case, such ~~Member~~ shall be afforded a hearing before the ~~Board~~ State Lodge Board of Trustees. ~~of which he will~~ The individual Member shall be given notice of the hearing, at which ~~he~~ they will be permitted to present witnesses and documents. ~~They and in which process he~~ shall be afforded the same protections set forth in Article 20, Section 3B (1) of the **Florida State Lodge** Constitution in respect to discipline imposed by a ~~local lodge~~ an individual members Lodge.

Section 5. Lodge Officers

A. Lodge officers shall be subject to discipline, including censure, reprimand, removal from office or expulsion from the order only upon proof of ~~good cause~~ actions that brings dishonor to himself/herself themselves, the Local Lodge and/or the Florida State Lodge. These actions must be a direct violation of the Lodge Constitution, By-Laws and Ritual of the Order.

**ARTICLE 16 20**  
**DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)**

1. The President may suspend a Lodge Officer from their current duties; however, the Lodge Officer will not lose his **their** status as a Member, Officer, or any benefits thereof.

B. Allegation(s) of misconduct against a Lodge officer in respect to his **their** duties as a Lodge Officer shall only be brought by a member in good standing or a member of the **Lodge Board of Directors**. Said allegation(s) shall be in writing, attested to and signed under oath, and notice thereof shall be served upon the **Lodge Officer** whom the allegation(s) are made and the Secretary, provided however, that if such allegation(s) are made against the Secretary, said allegation(s) shall be served upon the President. The Secretary shall immediately notify the President of the allegation(s) and supply the President and the accused officer with all documentation received. Said allegation(s) and any accompanying documentation shall specifically describe the nature of the alleged misconduct and the Article of the Constitution, By-Laws of Ritual of the Order violated, in sufficient detail for a determination by the Board of Directors as to whether there exists good cause to proceed with the inquiry.

C. If the President can't resolve the allegation(s), he—the President shall appoint a Committee, comprised of members of the Board of Directors to investigate the allegation(s). The Committee shall thoroughly investigate the allegation(s) and report, in writing, back to the President their findings within thirty (30) days of the appointment of the Committee. The Committee may request additional time to complete the investigation only upon showing of good cause in writing and must contain the reason for the extension.

~~C. Upon service of the allegation(s) on the affected lodge officer and the Secretary (or President, as the case may be), copies of the allegation(s) shall be distributed to each member of the Board of Directors. The lodge officer against whom the allegation(s) are made shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the allegation(s) prepare a response thereto and serve said response upon the Secretary (or President, as the case may be), which response shall be distributed to each member of the Board of Directors. The Secretary or President, in the event that the allegations pertain to the Secretary, shall forward to each member of the Board of Directors an anonymous ballot upon which each member shall indicate, after reviewing the allegation(s) and the response thereto, whether he believes that there exists good cause to proceed with the inquiry. Said ballots shall be returned to the Lodge office from whom they are received and shall be counted, and the results thereof certified to the State Trustee (unless he is the officer against whom the allegations are made, in which case the results shall be certified to the President). The ballots shall be retained until the resolution of the matter.~~

D. Upon receipt of the completed investigation, the President shall order the Secretary to serve a copy of the completed investigation to the affected Lodge Officer. The Lodge Officer against whom the allegation(s) are made shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the completed investigation, prepare a response thereto and serve said response to the Secretary (or the President, as the case may be). The Secretary or the President, in the event that the allegations pertain to the Secretary, shall distribute\* to each **Board of Director member** all documentation to include the original allegation, investigation, the response from the affected Lodge Officer and **an** anonymous ballot upon which each **President** shall indicate, after reviewing the allegation(s), investigation and the response thereto, whether ~~he~~ they believe that there exists good cause to proceed with a hearing. Said Ballots shall be returned to the **Officer** from whom they are received within five (5) days of receipt. The Secretary shall count the ballots immediately, upon receipt, and certify the results to the **President** unless ~~the President~~ **he** is the Officer against whom the allegations are made, in which case the results shall be certified to the **Vice President**. The ballots shall be retained until resolution of the matter. \* See Article 2- DEFINITIONS, Section 1. M.

**ARTICLE 16 20**  
**DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)**

~~D. Upon receipt by the State Trustee (or the President, as the case may be) of the certified results of the ballot, said Lodge officer shall determine whether good cause to proceed further with the inquiry was found by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of all of the members of the Board of Directors (present at a meeting/hearing) shall be necessary for a finding of good cause to proceed further with the inquiry. The State Trustee shall either (i) immediately cause the Secretary (or shall himself) distribute to each member of the Lodge (present at a Special meeting) notice that good cause was not found to proceed with an inquiry, or, (ii) certify to the President (or to the 1st Vice President in the event that the allegations are made against the President), that good cause has been found to proceed with further inquiry. The President (or 1st Vice President) shall declare an emergency, call a meeting of the membership and ensure that notice thereof is given accordance with this Constitution within forty five (45) days of said notice.~~

E. Upon receipt by **Lodge Board of Directors** or the President, as the case may be, of the certified results of the ballot, said officer shall determine whether good cause to proceed further with the inquiry was found by the **Board of Directors**. A majority vote of all of the members of the **Board of Directors** voting, shall be necessary for a finding that a hearing is needed to resolve the allegations. The President shall either immediately cause the Secretary (or shall himself) to notify the **Board of Directors** that a hearing is or is not required. The President (or Vice President) shall ensure that a special disciplinary hearing by the **Board of Directors** is called to resolve the allegation(s) at the next scheduled **Board of Directors Meeting**.

F. The hearing by the **Board of Directors** shall be held for the purpose of resolving the charges against the **Lodge Officer** and there shall occur a disciplinary hearing thereon before the **Board of Directors** at which the charged Officer shall be entitled to representation, and shall be afforded due process to the same extent afforded members and lodges herein. The **Vice President** or his their designee, if the charges have been brought against the President, shall preside over such disciplinary hearing and shall resolve all questions of procedure and evidence.

~~F. The emergency meeting of the membership shall be held for the purpose of resolving the charges against the officer and there shall occur a disciplinary hearing thereon before the membership at which the charged officer shall be entitled to counsel and shall be afforded due process to the same extent afforded members herein. The State Trustee or his designee (or the President, if the charges have been brought against the State Trustee), shall preside over such disciplinary hearing, and shall resolve all questions of procedure and evidence.~~

G. No disciplinary action shall be taken upon a Lodge Officer except upon three-fourth (3/4) vote of the membership present and entitled to vote.

H. A lodge officer against whom discipline is imposed in accordance herewith shall be entitled to appeal the decision of the Board of Directors to the next ~~State Board of Trustees meeting or to the next~~ Annual State Lodge Conference. By taking the oath of office, each lodge officer acknowledges and agrees that until and unless reversed by the State Lodge Conference, however, the decision of the membership State Board of Trustees shall be final.

1. An appeal by a **Lodge Officer** shall be made by filing notice thereof with the State Secretary within thirty (30) days of the decision of the membership State Board of Trustees.

2. The lodge officer making the appeal shall be permitted to address the State Lodge Conference for such time as the Chair shall deem appropriate and the State Trustee or his designee (or the Lodge President, as the case may be) shall be permitted an equal amount of time to respond thereto.

**ARTICLE 16 20**  
**DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)**

I. Any member of this Lodge **Board of Directors** who brings an allegation against another ~~member~~ Officer or ~~lodge officer~~ which allegation is found to be brought frivolously or for personal gain shall, himself, be subject to discipline by the Lodge Board of Directors.



## ARTICLE 17 ~~21~~ ASSOCIATES

Section 1. The Lodge shall establish an Associate membership for those non-sworn members composed of specific units or job classes for the purposes of promoting the general welfare of the law enforcement profession. ~~Associate members shall not have voice or be eligible to any of the secret works of the organization.~~

A. The Lodge may organize Associate Lodges of public-spirited citizens who are interested in law enforcement officers, their welfare and the Fraternal Order of Police. In the organization of such Lodge, it should not be forgotten that the Fraternal Order of Police is the parent organization and should be treated as such at all times.

1. Prospective Associate members shall be strictly investigated, and upon favorable report of ~~investigating committee???~~ Or Lodge Secretary??? from Lodge shall be balloted on and elected in the same manner as regular members by the Lodge.

2. Associate Lodges shall have the right to organize and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, not in conflict with the Constitution of the parent lodge, or the State Lodge, or the National Fraternal Order of Police.

Section 2. The National Fraternal Order of Police FOP and Florida State Lodge FOP shall govern associate membership ~~in regard to~~ regarding membership and entitlements thereof.

~~Section 3. Associate members shall enjoy the privileges of membership including but not limited to participation in collective bargaining negotiations and representation, the FOP legal defense program, life insurance enrollment and the social activities of the Lodge.~~

Section 3. There shall be no collective bargaining on behalf of the civilian public employees without the consent of the Florida State Lodge and the consent of the subordinate FOP Lodge chartered in the political subdivision/jurisdiction.

Section 4. Associate members shall not have voice or vote and shall not be entitled to run for elected office within the organization.

Section 5. Associate members shall pay the dues prescribed by the Lodge By-laws.

**ARTICLE 18 22**  
**AUXILIARY**

Section 1. An Auxiliary may be formed by individuals eligible for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary as defined by their Constitution, who are related to the active members of any Subordinate Lodge in the State of Florida, provided that the Subordinate Lodge has given permission for same. Such auxiliaries shall be subject to the control and the supervision of the Subordinate Lodge with which they are affiliated. They shall conform to and be governed by this Constitution and the By-Laws thereof.

Section 2. Any member or members of an Auxiliary Lodge who have a complaint regarding the actions of the Auxiliary Lodge, its officers or members shall have the right to present such complaint or charges to the Auxiliary Lodge for investigation or adjudication. A member or members may appeal from the imposition of discipline by its respective Auxiliary Lodge to the Parent Lodge whose decision shall be final.

**ARTICLE 19 23**  
**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Section 1. Except as provided in the Constitution and By-laws, the State Lodge and National Lodge Constitution and By-Laws, the latest edition of "*Roberts Rules of Order*" shall govern the conduct and deliberation of this Lodge during meetings.

**ARTICLE 24**  
**RESERVED**

**ARTICLE 25**  
**RESERVED**

**ARTICLE 20 ~~20~~ 26**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Only a ~~member~~ **Lodge Member**, Lodge Constitution and By-Laws Committee or a majority of the Board of Directors may propose an amendment to this Constitution. ~~Which~~ All proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted ~~to~~ for consideration and vote by the Lodge membership. No proposed amendment shall become part of this Constitution except upon three-fourths (3/4) vote of those voting at a ~~the~~ designated meeting.

Section 2. A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the state Conference at which it is to be considered. Such proposed amendment shall be attested to by the secretary and shall bear the official seal of the lodge submitting same or of the State Secretary if proposed by the State Board of Trustees and shall state the date of the meeting at which it was agreed that the proposal would be submitted for consideration by the State Conference. The Secretary shall distribute\* such proposed amendment and any related materials to each member of the State Board of Trustees, each and subordinate lodge secretary, and the Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee not less than sixty (60) days prior to the next State Conference. Amended 8/21

\* See Article 2- DEFINITIONS, Section 1. M.

~~Section 2. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next regular meeting. The Secretary shall distribute\* post a copy of such proposed amendments at least twenty (20) days prior to the next regular meeting.~~

Section 3. A proposed amendment shall contain the precise language of the proposed amendment, shall specifically set forth the language to be added, deleted and/or revised, and shall identify each and every Article and Section of this Constitution affected thereby. Proposed amendments shall not be set forth in resolution form but shall be accompanied by a statement, not to exceed one (1) page in length, setting forth the basis for the proposed amendment.

Section 4. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall receive proposed amendments to this Constitution and shall review same for form, grammar, and placement within this Constitution and shall report to the Lodge membership its conclusions and recommendations thereof.

**ARTICLE 27**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

Section 1. Resolutions may be submitted for vote to the Board of Directors and membership at the November general meeting. Such proposed resolutions may be submitted at any time between or during the year. All proposed resolutions shall be in writing, shall state the basis for the resolution, and shall be submitted to the Secretary who shall review same for grammar, clarity and meaning.

**ARTICLE 28**  
**OFFICIAL RITUAL**

Section 1. There shall be an official ritual of the Order which shall be known as the Fraternal Order of Police Ritual.

Section 2. Revisions of the Fraternal Order of Police Ritual shall be made in the same manner as amendments to the Constitution.



**ARTICLE 21 ~~29~~**  
**LODGE PER CAPITA TAX AND ASSESSMENTS**

Section 1. Each member shall pay to the Lodge a Per Capita Tax (dues) as stated in the By-laws.

Section 2. If two-thirds (2/3) of the Lodge Board of Directors should deem it necessary that a special assessment is needed to meet an emergency, they shall follow the same procedures set forth in the [National Fraternal Order of Police](#) By-Laws.

**ARTICLE 22 30**  
**LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL AID**

Section 1. Upon such terms and in accordance with the procedures established in Article 23 of the By-laws, a member, may request and be granted legal assistance or financial aid.

**ARTICLE 31**  
**DUES, ASSESSMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES**

Section 1. The Secretary shall transmit all deposit records for funds collected in respect to per capita taxes and assessments to the State and National Treasurers for recording of deposit in the proper accounts. Upon receipt of all dues and assessments owing from each lodge, the National Secretary shall furnish such lodge the Password and a membership card for each member for whom payment is made.

Section 2. The official membership card of the National Fraternal Order of Police shall be printed or electronic and may interface with other functions of the Order. No state lodge, subordinate lodge or member thereof shall print or cause to be printed or create electronically a replica of the official membership card of the National Fraternal Order of Police nor shall any member use any other membership card for Active Members.

**DRAFT #6**  
8/2/2022

**BY - LAWS**  
**Pinellas Lodge 43**  
**Fraternal Order of Police**

**ARTICLE 1 – BY-LAWS**  
**USE AND DISPLAY OF EMBLEM (NAME)**

Section 1. No person, other than a member in good standing of the Fraternal Order of Police, its Associate Lodge, or its Auxiliary, their spouse or child living in the same residence, shall use or display the official emblem of the organization on any automobile or other motor vehicle.

Section 2. The unauthorized use or the abuse of the name or insignia of the Fraternal Order of Police or the infringement of a trademark thereof by a member or local lodge, shall be grounds for discipline, including suspension, expulsion, removal from office, or revocation of lodge charter.

~~Section 3. Automobile emblems purchased from the National Lodge for re-issue to the members of this Lodge shall not be "SOLD" to the members thereof but shall remain the exclusive property of the Lodge.~~

~~Section 4. All emblems as described in Section 3, shall be re-issued to the members on a "lend-lease" basis and upon their separation from the Lodge, they shall surrender their emblem(s) to the Lodge Secretary. The legal right to possession of the emblem shall be vested in the Lodge.~~

~~Section 5. Any person who is not a member of an active or associate lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police or an member thereof who is unable to produce a current dues card, shall not use, wear or display the insignia or logo of the Fraternal Order of Police.~~

**ARTICLE 2 –BY-LAWS**  
**LODGE ACTION CONCERNING STATE AND/OR LOCAL MATTERS**

Section 1. The Lodge shall take cognizance of all matters concerning and affecting the welfare and interests of law enforcement officers and their dependents. The Board of Directors shall take such immediate action as shall be necessary to safeguard their welfare or interests by providing aid or such other services as may be required.

Section 2. In matters of purely local scope or concern, the Board of Directors shall provide such legal or technical advisory service as may be appropriate.

## **ARTICLE 3 – BY-LAWS ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. There shall be established such committees of the Order as the Board of Directors and President shall prescribe.

Section 2. The President shall appoint members to committees in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution or as deemed to be needed by the Lodge Board of Directors.

### Section 3. Committees

A. There shall be established certain Standing and Special Committees as called for in the Constitution and By-Laws or as deemed to be needed by the Lodge Board of Directors.

B. These committees shall consist of a Chairperson and members appointed in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Lodge.

C. These committees shall submit a report of all activities to the general membership at each meeting.

D. All expenditures of these committees shall be reported in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Lodge.

E. These committees shall, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws, submit a written budget for approval of the Board of Directors at the meeting immediately following the meeting approving the appointment of these committees.

F. All revenue generated by the activities of these committees shall, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws, be placed in the general fund of the Lodge. These funds shall be utilized for the efficient operation of the Lodge.

#### G. Duties:

1. It shall be the duty of these committees to perform the stated responsibilities of their respective committee in an effective and efficient manner.

2. It shall be the duty of these committees to perform their responsibilities in a manner so as not to bring discredit or financial hardship upon the Lodge.

**ARTICLE 4 – BY-LAWS**  
**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DELEGATES**  
**TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

Section 1. Delegates from this lodge to the National Conference shall include the elected Board of Directors and be elected as prescribed in ~~the Grand Lodge BY-LAWS Article 17 of~~ [National Fraternal Order of Police By-Laws](#).

~~Section 2. Delegates from the lodge shall be elected no later than the general meeting of the lodge held in the month of June preceding the National Conference.~~

[Section 2. The Lodge shall be entitled to one \(1\) delegate for each fifty \(50\) active members or major portion thereof. The number of delegates to the Biennial Conference to which each Subordinate Lodge shall be entitled, by reference to the number of active members on the first of April for whom all indebtedness, then owing, has been fully paid or postmarked to the Grand Lodge National Fraternal Order of Police by the first day of July of the year in which the Biennial Conference is held.](#)

~~Section 3. Only members in good standing who have attended not less than eight (8) regular meetings in the preceding year shall be eligible for nomination as an elected delegate of the National conference.~~

[Section 3. Delegates and Alternate Delegates, for the Lodge to the State Conference shall be selected no later than the meeting held by the Lodge in the month of April preceding the Conference. Qualified candidate \(of the number of which each lodge is entitled by the provisions of Article 6, of the State Lodge Constitution\) receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.](#)

Section 4. The term of office of the delegates shall commence with the assembling of National Conference and shall terminate upon the election of their successor.

Section 5. The Secretary of the Lodge shall fill out the delegate forms certifying those selected as delegates. They shall then be signed by the President and Secretary and authenticated by the seal of said lodge. One copy shall be forwarded to the State Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the State Conference and the original shall be given to the delegates for presentation on the floor of the Conference.

[Section 6. No delegates representing the Lodge that is delinquent in the payment of Per Capita tax assessment or other indebtedness due the Grand Lodge National Fraternal Order of Police or State Lodge shall be admitted or seated at any Conference of the Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police.](#)

[Section 7. Should the Lodge be denied National Conference credentials, an appeal, in writing, to the National Secretary, can be submitted who will forward the appeal and recommendation to the Executive Board for a decision. The Lodge can appeal the decision of the Executive Board to the Board of Trustees at the Pre-Conference Board Meeting. The Lodge can appeal the Board of Trustees' decision to the floor of the National Conference in question. The decision of the delegates will be final.](#)



## **Article 5—BY LAWS**

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO A STATE CONFERENCE**

~~Section 1. Delegates to the State Conference shall include the elected Board of Directors and be elected no later than the general meeting of the Lodge held in the month of April preceding the conference. Qualified candidates of the number of which each Lodge is entitled by the provisions of Article V, Section 2, of the State Lodge Constitution, receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. An alternate shall also be elected to insure a maximum delegate vote at each State Conference. The Florida State Lodge provides each subordinate Lodge with one (1) delegate for every fifty (50) lodge members.~~

~~Section 2. The terms of office of the delegates shall commence with the assembling of the State Conference and shall terminate upon the election of their successors.~~

~~Section 3. The Secretary of the Lodge shall fill out the forms certifying the election of these delegates. They shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the Lodge and authenticated by the seal of the Lodge. One (1) copy shall be forwarded to the State Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the State Conference. The original shall be given to the elected delegates for presentation on the floor of the conference.~~

~~Section 4. Only members in good standing who have attended not less than six (6) regular meetings in the preceding year shall be eligible for his/her nomination for an elective office of Conference delegate. No absenteeism will be excused.~~

~~Section 5. All delegates shall obey all instructions from the Lodge given them under the seal of the Lodge.~~

**ARTICLE 6 5 – BY-LAWS**  
**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. ~~Nominations~~— Candidates for election to Office shall be nominated at the regular business meeting during the month of November of each even numbered year. After being declared closed, nominations shall not be reopened. No member shall be nominated or be a candidate for election to more than one (1) office at the same time. The election of Officers shall be held at the regular December membership meeting of each even year. Election of Officers by absentee ballot shall commence after the regular November meeting and be completed one week before the regular December membership meeting. Absentee ballots shall be submitted in written form and shall be retained and counted at the December membership meeting. Any member that casts an absentee ballot that votes at the December meeting will have voided their absentee ballot.

A. The State Trustee shall be elected at a meeting of each Subordinate Lodge prior to the State convention and announced at the opening of the convention. They shall be sworn, declare elected by the State President and shall take office immediately.

B. When a duly elected State Trustee is unable to attend any meeting or function called by the State Lodge President, the Subordinate Lodge President, the Subordinate Lodge President of which the State Trustee has been elected will be permitted to attend the called meeting or function. If the Subordinate Lodge President is unable to attend, it would be at the discretion of the State Trustee to appoint from within the elected Officers, of the Subordinate Lodge, a member to attend in his place. The Subordinate Lodge President or representative shall have voice and vote at such meetings and functions.

~~Section 2. Elections—The election of Officers shall be held between the regular meeting in November and one week preceding the regular meeting in December of each even numbered year.~~

Section 2. The Lodge Officers shall be elected by a majority of plurality vote of the membership at the meeting. A printed ballot listing the names of the candidates shall be furnished each voting member and he they shall deposit same in a receptacle provided for that purpose. The ballot box shall not be taken from the floor until the votes have been counted and the election returns certified by the Election Committee.

Section 3. Installation of newly elected Officers - The duly elected Officers shall be declared elected at the regular business meeting and shall take office during the regular business meeting in January. The date, place, and time for the installation of the newly elected Officers shall be announced at the regular business meeting in December.

~~Section 4. Election Procedures—The Lodge Officers shall be elected by a Plurality vote of the membership. A printed ballot listing the names of the candidates running for office shall be furnished to each member.~~

Section ~~5~~ 4. Election Committee - An Election Committee of at least three (3) members of this Lodge shall be appointed by the President and Vice President, of which one (1) shall be appointed Chairman. Each Candidate will be permitted a Poll Watcher during the election and the counting of the ballots.

Section ~~6~~ 5. Absentee Ballots - Absentee Ballots shall be e-mailed distributed by the Chairman of the Election Committee to members in good standing requesting same in writing, via e-mail at least one (1) week prior to the election. These are to be returned, in a sealed envelope ~~provided for that purpose~~, to a member of the Election Committee. Only those ballots returned prior to the opening of the voting receptacles shall be opened and counted.

Section 7 ~~6~~. Ballots - The ballots shall be tabulated by the Election Committee and shall not be destroyed until the election results are certified by the Board of Directors and the membership at the next regular business meeting. The Ballot Voting will pertain to matters arising under New Business and/or Old Business as defined by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 8 ~~7~~. Qualification for Office - ~~No member shall be a candidate for more than one (1) office.~~ To be qualified for nomination to office, the proposed candidate must be in good standing in this Lodge for a period of at least one (1) year prior to nomination and must have attended a minimum of six (6) Lodge meetings during the preceding year.

**ARTICLE 7 ~~6~~ – BY-LAWS**  
**PRESIDENT**

Section 1. At each meeting of the Lodge Board of Directors, ~~he~~ The President shall submit a full and complete report in respect to the business transacted ~~by him~~ since the last meeting of this Lodge together with such recommendations as ~~he~~ the President may deem advisable.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the President, upon approval of the Board of Directors, to promote the growth of the organization, seek new members, give lectures about the organization, the aims, and objectives, what it has accomplished, what it can accomplish and what it strives to do for its members and the Citizens of the Community.

**ARTICLE 8 ~~7~~ – BY-LAWS**  
**PAST PRESIDENTS**  
**(RESERVED)**

Section 1. To be active, a Past President would have to attend four (4) Lodge meetings in a two (2) year period. An excused absence due to police work or medical will count as an attended meeting if approved by the President and or his representative. (Amended 6/2017)

**ARTICLE 9 ~~8~~ – BY-LAWS**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

Section 1. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties. In the absence of the President, he shall exercise the powers and duties of that office.

Section 2. The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be ordered by the Lodge President or Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE 10 9 – BY-LAWS  
SECRETARY**

Section 1. The secretary is responsible to managing all Lodge correspondence and communicating said with the membership during monthly meetings.

Section 4- 2. A petty cash fund in the amount of ~~one~~ two hundred dollars (~~\$100.00~~) (\$200.00) shall be allowed to the Secretary for the purpose of paying emergency expenses.

Section 2- 3. The Secretary shall be responsible for the compilation, printing, and distribution of the Lodge Constitution and By-laws.

**ARTICLE 11 10 – BY-LAWS**  
**TREASURER**

Section 1. The Treasurer shall submit a report to the Secretary **and the membership** at each regular monthly business meeting.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall cause an annual audit of the accounts, books, and records of the Lodge, to be conducted by a certified public accountant.



**ARTICLE 42 11 – BY-LAWS  
CONDUCTOR**

(RESERVED)

**ARTICLE 43 12 – BY-LAWS  
GUARDS**

Section 1. The [Inner and Outer](#) Guards shall submit a report to the Secretary every month advising what Lodge activities they have attended.

**ARTICLE 44 13 – BY-LAWS**  
**CHAPLAIN**

Section 1. The Chaplain shall open each Lodge meeting with a prayer. ~~He~~ The Chaplain shall be responsible for reporting all members "Sick or in Distress" and shall be the Chairperson of the Lodge Memorial Committee.

Section 2. The Chaplain shall be authorized to send Fruit and/or Flowers to those members or immediate family members that are hospitalized or deceased.

Section 3. The Chaplain's role shall be that of an Interfaith Chaplain.

**ARTICLE 14 – BY-LAWS**

**(RESERVED)**

**ARTICLE 15 – BY-LAWS**  
**STATE TRUSTEE**

Section 1. The State Trustee for this Lodge shall consist of one member nominated and elected at the time, date and method as set forth in the ~~Grand Lodge~~ [National Fraternal Order of Police](#) BY-LAWS.

Section 2. The State Trustee shall make a complete report of the financial conditions of the Lodge at the regular meeting in November, prior to the Nomination of Officers.

Section 3. The State Trustee shall select a chairman to speak for them at meetings, giving all reports to the Lodge.

**ARTICLE 16 – BY-LAWS  
GENERAL COUNSEL**

Section 1. There may be a General Counsel and when necessary, Associate Counsel, designated by the Lodge President.

Section 2. The General Counsel shall serve as legal representative to the Lodge in all legal matters so ordered by the Lodge President or Board of Directors.

Section 4 **3**. The General Counsel shall report to the President and the Board of Directors at each meeting thereof upon any legal matter of significance to the Lodge.

**ARTICLE 17 – BY-LAWS  
EXPENSES OF LODGE OFFICERS**

Section 1. The elected Board of Directors of the Lodge and any other delegate or alternate to the Conference, Board Meeting, or when attending functions or traveling on business specifically in reference to their duties of the Lodge, shall receive expenses as prescribed in Subsection ~~(a)~~A, ~~(b)~~B, ~~(c)~~C, and ~~(d)~~D of this Section.

~~(a)~~ A. Travel - Shall be paid at tourist rate air transportation. When traveling in areas not covered by air transportation shall receive mileage at the current IRS rate.

~~(b)~~ B. Hotel or motel accommodations are **not to exceed the Federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) per diem rate.**

~~(c)~~ C. ~~Thirty Five (\$35.00)~~ **Fifty (\$50.00)** dollars per day for meals.

~~(d)~~ D. Registration fees.

Section 2. Any lodge officer or member performing duties and services for the Lodge, upon order of the President, shall be compensated for such expenses pursuant to Section 1.

Section 3. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall receive a monthly compensation in the following amounts, to be paid at each regularly scheduled Lodge meeting:

**President - ~~Forty~~ Fifty cents (~~\$.40-.50~~) per member per month.**

**Secretary and Treasurer – ~~Twenty~~-five cents (~~\$.20-.25~~) per member per month.**

Section 4. The monthly compensation of the Lodge President, Lodge Secretary, and Lodge Treasurer shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors and ratified by the membership at the February meeting (in the election year).

**ARTICLE 18 – BY-LAWS**

**(RESERVED)**



**ARTICLE 19 – BY-LAWS**

**(RESERVED)**

**ARTICLE 19 ~~20~~– BY-LAWS**  
**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Section 1. The Lodge shall establish an Associate membership for those non-sworn members composed of specific units or job classes for purposes of promoting the general welfare of the law enforcement profession.

Section 2. The ~~Grand Lodge FOP~~ [National Fraternal Order of Police](#) and Florida State Lodge [of the](#) FOP shall govern associate membership [in regard to](#) membership and entitlements thereof.

Section 3. Associate members shall enjoy the privileges of membership including but not limited to participation in collective bargaining negotiations and representation, the FOP legal defense program, life insurance enrollment and the social activities of the Lodge.

Section 4. Associate members shall not have voice or vote and shall not be entitled to run for elected office within the organization.

Section 5. Associate members shall pay the dues prescribed by the Lodge By-laws.

**ARTICLE 21 – BY-LAWS**  
**AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

(RESERVED)

**ARTICLE 21 ~~21~~ 22 – BY-LAWS**  
**DISCIPLINE AND HEARINGS**

Section 1. In respect to any disciplinary hearing conducted by ~~this~~ the lodge, due process shall be afforded the parties thereto.

Section 2. In all disciplinary hearings conducted by ~~this~~ the lodge, the body conducting such hearing shall:

A. Require the complaint, charge or allegation be made under oath and in writing, utilizing the Discipline Hearing Forms (D.H.F. # 1-A & 1-B), attested to and signed under oath and served upon the Secretary of the Lodge, and prove such facts as may enable the charged party to be fairly apprised of the nature of the charge.

B. Ensure that the party charged is provided with a copy of such complaint, charge or allegation and given sufficient time, which in any event shall be not less ~~that~~ than thirty (30) days, to prepare a defense, if any, thereto.

C. Conduct a hearing upon the matter during which the trier of fact shall limit the scope of the inquiry to the specific complaint(s), charge(s) or allegation(s) set forth in the written notice thereof.

D. Adhere to an order of procedure which places the burden of proof upon the party charging the member.

E. Permit the parties thereto to introduce documents and exhibits and the testimony of witnesses in accordance with such rules of evidence as may be determined and applied uniformly by such body.

Section 3. Discipline may be imposed upon a member for any violation of the good of the order, including, but not limited to, the following:

A. Violation of the lodge Constitution and By-laws, State Lodge or National Fraternal Order of Police Constitution and By-laws, of the Ritual, oath or obligation of the Order.

B. Acts of disloyalty to the Fraternal Order of Police, including, but not limited to, overt attempts to decertify the Fraternal Order of police, where such lodge is the certified bargaining representative of its members, holding office in an organization ~~which~~ that encourages members of the Fraternal Order of Police to leave the Order or, where applicable, ~~which~~ attempts to decertify the F.O.P. or such other acts as bring disrepute, disgrace or dishonor upon the Fraternal Order of Police.

C. Distribution or use of the membership list for any reason without the express permission of the Lodge Board of Directors.

D. The unauthorized use or the abuse of the name or insignia of the Fraternal Order of Police or the infringement of a trademark thereof.

**ARTICLE 23 – BY-LAWS**  
**LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL AID**

Section 1. Requests for legal assistance or financial aid shall be made in the following manner:

A. A written request for aid or assistance setting forth the specific aid or assistance requested, and the reason therefore shall first be made to the appropriate subordinate lodge.

B. In the event that the Lodge is unable to provide all or part of the requested aid or assistance, the Lodge may request such aid or assistance from the appropriate District. The request of the Lodge shall include the original request and a statement of the action taken thereon by the Lodge.

C. In the event that the district is unable to provide all or part of the requested aid or assistance, the lodge and the District may request such aid or assistance from the Florida State Lodge. The request of the Lodge and District shall include the original request and a statement of the action taken thereon by the Lodge.

D. Requests for legal assistance or financial aid shall be made to the State Lodge in writing, shall include all appropriate and relevant documentation and materials, and forwarded to the State Secretary (State Office) who shall forward copies of same to the Chairperson of the Legal Aid Committee and the State President.

E. All requests for financial assistance submitted to the State Lodge Legal Assistance Committee must include a statement (of good faith effort on the part of the member requesting such assistance) of participation or some remedy designed to provide Legal Aid or Assistance benefits for the member making the request.

Section 2. No Member of the Lodge shall allege, represent, or promise, that the State Lodge will assume any payment or provide any assistance or aid. Any provision of such legal assistance or financial aid shall be specifically authorized by the State Lodge, memorialized in writing, signed by the State President and State Secretary under the State Lodge Seal.

Section 4 ~~3~~. ~~This~~ **The** Lodge shall establish a Legal Aid Fund to provide legal representation to aid members in good standing.

Section 2 ~~4~~. The purpose of this fund is to assist members of this Lodge should they be charged with any criminal offense or have charges brought against them administratively by their Agency that may have occurred within the scope of the member's employment.

Section 3 ~~5~~. Members in good standing at the time of the alleged incident are entitled to this aid.

Section 4 ~~6~~. The Lodge shall maintain an approved attorney pool for those members requesting legal assistance, when necessary for a member to defend ~~himself/herself~~ **themselves** for any actual or alleged on or off duty incident.

Section 5 ~~7~~. Any member of this Lodge in need will follow this procedure to obtain this assistance:

A. The member shall outline the purpose of his/her request to the Lodge President, or in ~~his/her~~ **their** absence, a designee. The attorney or representative shall then be contacted after first receiving authorization by the Lodge President or designee.

B. The Board of Directors, Pinellas Lodge No. 43, shall then grant authorization to assist the member.

**ARTICLE 23 – BY-LAWS**  
**LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL AID (CONTINUED)**

C. Request for additional assistance shall be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing in accordance with existing By-laws prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The recommendation of the Board of Directors will then be presented to the membership at the general membership meeting.

D. The member shall have the right of appeal if the Board of Directors determines that the member is not entitled to such assistance. He shall then go before the general membership at the next regular general membership meeting whereby a majority vote of those present shall be final.

E. The Lodge President shall report to the membership upon all action taken by the Board of Directors pursuant to this By-law.

Section 6 **8**. Any member receiving assistance under this Article and who subsequently successfully receives compensation for attorney's fees in excess of his normal compensation, shall return to this Lodge that compensation received.

Section 7 **9**. No member shall allege, represent, or promise that the Lodge will assume any payment or provide any assistance or aid nor shall the Lodge, or any officer, employee, agent, or representative provide or promise to provide any legal assistance or financial aid except in conformity herewith. Any provision of such legal assistance or financial aid shall be specifically authorized by the Lodge, memorialized in writing, signed by the President and Secretary under the Lodge Seal.

**ARTICLE 25 24 – BY-LAWS  
SOLICITATION**

Section 1. This Lodge (F.O.P., F.O.P.A.) shall comply with all Florida State laws in reference to solicitation.

Section 2. Failure to comply can result in disciplinary action as stated in the Florida State Lodge Constitution and By-laws.

**ARTICLE 26 25 – BY-LAWS**  
**ANNUAL BUDGET**

Section 1. The Annual Budget of this Lodge may include an estimate of anticipated revenue, anticipated expenditures, and line-item estimates of the needs of the administrative and operational functions of the Lodge. Line items shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. State Conference and Board Meeting Expenses
- B. Lodge Office Expenditures
- C. Committee Expenditures
- D. Legal Expenses

Section 2. Any other provision of these By-laws notwithstanding, the Lodge President shall not approve any warrant or voucher in excess of the budgeted amount for any particular line item, or subline-item account. Each Officer, committee chairman and employee will cooperate in the institution of and compliance with the annual budget of the Lodge and will, upon request thereof, submit an itemized budget with respect to anticipated revenues and expenses in their area of control or interest for the next fiscal year.

Section 3. The Annual Budget shall be presented to the Board of Directors at the Fall Board Meeting for approval and adoption. After adoption all expenditures exceeding line item budgeted amounts must be approved by the Board of Directors as an amendment to the adopted budget.

Section 4. A “deficit budget” shall not be adopted.



## ARTICLE 22 ~~26~~ – BY-LAWS DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. The yearly dues for each active member, as defined in Constitution Article 4 ~~5~~, Section 3, A, 1, shall be \$360, (\$30.00 per month).

~~Section 2. The yearly dues for each active member, as defined in Constitution Article 1, Section 3, A, 2 or 3, shall be \$50.00.~~

Section 3. Additional yearly dues for each active member participating in FOP life insurance program shall be \$60.00 (\$5.00 per month)

Section 4. The yearly dues for each associate member as defined in Constitution Article 4 ~~7~~ 21 and By-Laws Article 4 ~~9~~ 20, shall be \$360, (\$30.00 per month).

Section 5. The yearly dues for each retired members who have been active members for 20 years or more, as defined in Article 5, Section 3, B. of the Constitution, shall be \$125, to be paid in full each year.

Section 6. The yearly dues for each retired members who have been active members for less than 20 years, as defined in Article 5, Article 5, Section 3, B. of the Constitution, shall be \$250, to be paid in full each year.

Section 5 ~~7~~. Assessments - In the event of an emergency as determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with this Constitution, the Board of Directors shall first determine the amount of assessment required from each member in order to meet the emergency.

A. The Board of Directors shall then notify the membership by notice of its intent to levy an assessment upon the membership, setting forth the reason for the assessment and a detailed account of probable expenditures.

A ~~B~~. The membership would then be provided an opportunity to vote either for the assessment or against the assessment at either a Special meeting or the next regular business meeting. Absentee ballots would be allowed for those members unable to attend because of work, sickness or vacation.

Section 6 ~~8~~. Any member who has withdrawn from membership and wishes to once again become active and a member in good standing may do so by the payment of all past amounts due. In addition, thereto, ~~he~~ they will ~~paid~~ pay the current initiation fee at the time of reapplication.

### Section 9. National and State Administrative Fees and Taxes

A. Each Subordinate Lodge shall pay through their respective State Lodge and, where there is no State Lodge, directly to the National Fraternal Order of Police Grand Lodge, an annual per capita tax of eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50) beginning the second half of Per Capita for the year 2018 for each member thereof.

B. Each Subordinate Lodge shall pay through their respective State Lodge and where there is no State Lodge, directly to the National Fraternal Order of Police Grand Lodge, a Lodge administrative fee in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

B. The Lodge administrative fee shall become due and payable on November 1st of each year. Local Lodges will not receive dues cards for active members until this fee is paid to the Grand Lodge.

**ARTICLE 26 – BY-LAWS**  
**DUES AND ASSESSMENTS (CONTINUED)**

C. The annual Per Capita tax shall be paid in either full year or half year installments. Supplemental Per Capita shall be paid on each new member joining between Per Capita cycles.

1. The first installment shall be paid, in respect to all Members in good standing, on October 1st of each year and shall become due and payable on November 1st of the same year. Said installment shall maintain a lodge's good standing for the six (6) month period commencing on January 1st of the following year.

2. The last half installment shall be paid in respect to members in good standing on April 1st of each year and shall become due and payable on May 1st of the same year. Said installment will maintain a Lodge's good standing for the six (6) month period commencing on July 1st of the same year.

**ARTICLE ~~28~~ 27 – BY-LAWS**  
**BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. In order to amend these By-laws, a member, the Lodge Constitution and By-Laws Committee or a majority of the Board of Directors shall submit the proposed amendment. No proposed amendment shall become part of these By-laws except upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members voting at a regular business meeting or a special meeting, after proper notice has been posted.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to these By-laws shall be submitted to the Secretary at least ~~thirty (30)~~ sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the next regular business meeting. The Secretary shall ~~post~~ distribute\* a copy of such proposed amendments at least ~~twenty (20)~~ forty-five (45) days prior to the next meeting.

Section 3. A proposed amendment shall contain the precise language of the proposed amendment. It shall specifically set forth the language to be added, deleted and/or revised, and shall identify each and every Article and Section of the By-laws affected thereby. Proposed amendments shall not be set forth in resolution form but shall be accompanied by a statement, not to exceed one (1) page in length, setting forth the basis for the proposed amendment.

Section 4. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall receive proposed amendments to these By-laws and shall review same for form, grammar, and placement within the By-laws and shall report to the membership its conclusions and recommendations thereof.

\* See Article 2- DEFINITIONS, Section 1. M. of the Constitution.

**ARTICLE 28 – BY-LAWS**

**(RESERVED)**

**ARTICLE 29 – BY-LAWS**

**(RESERVED)**

**ARTICLE 48 ~~30~~ – BY-LAWS  
FIDELITY BOND**

Section 1. ~~This~~ The lodge shall provide proof of fidelity bond or insurance to the State Lodge.

Section 2. ~~The~~ lodge shall become incorporated with the ~~State-Secretary of~~ State Office and supply a current copy of a letter of incorporation to the State Lodge.

**ARTICLE 24 31 – BY-LAWS**  
**POLITICAL ACTION LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Section 1. The Lodge shall establish a ~~Political Action~~ Legislative Affairs Committee to screen potential candidates for public office.

Section 2. The Committee shall meet as needed to review, examine, and screen the qualifications of the candidates and shall provide an opportunity for the candidates to appear before the committee. The committee shall prepare pertinent questions to better establish the candidate's ability to hold office.

Section 3. The Committee chairman shall deliver to the membership a report with recommendations for endorsements of certain candidates.

~~Section 4. The Committee shall have mailed to each member a ballot with all candidates listed as well as those who are recommended for endorsement. Each member shall mail their completed ballot back within ten (10) days of receipt. The committee shall include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each ballot.~~

~~Section 5. A two third (2/3) majority of those votes cast shall signify endorsement of a candidate by the Lodge.~~

Section 6. 4. The Lodge President shall advise the candidate and affirm the Lodge's intent to support him/her in their candidacy.

**ARTICLE 27 — BY LAWS**  
**BALLOT VOTING**

~~Section 1. Lodge voting at General Membership meetings will be conducted by a written, secret ballot vote voice.~~

~~Section 2. The lodge president will have his/her appointed designee(s) distribute paper ballots to the Membership in attendance.~~

~~Section 3. Upon completion of the vote the ballots will be collected and counted the designee(s). The results will be reported to the President who will announce the results to the Membership.~~

~~Section 4. Written Ballot Voting will pertain to matters arising under New Business and/or Old Business as defined by *Robert's Rules of Order*.~~



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE 43  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND BY-LAWS  
CERTIFICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Current Board  Outgoing Board  Incoming Board

By signing this document, the below named attest to having read the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 43 Constitution and Bylaws and certify that the contents and any revisions herein have been approved and adopted by the Board of Directors for FOP Lodge 43.

**Executive Board**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chaplin

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inner Guard

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Outer Guard