

First State York Rite College #45

By-Laws

Article I – Name and Number

- A. This College shall be known as First State York Rite College No. 45
- B. The City of Dover, Delaware shall be the home, or the usual Assembly place, of this College.
- C. This York Rite College hereby declares its fealty to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Delaware, and the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

Article II – Fiscal or College Year

- A. The fiscal year of this College shall begin on June 1 and end on May 31 of the following year.

Article III – Purposes

- A. The purposes of this York Rite College shall be:
 - 1. To foster a spirit of cooperation and coordination among each of the Bodies of York Rite Masonry.
 - 2. To assist in worth efforts to improve the ritualistic and dramatic presentation of York Rite work.
 - 3. To conduct an educational program in order to inculcate greater appreciation of the principles, ideals and programs of York Rite Masonry.
 - 4. To strengthen York Rite Masonry in every way possible.
 - 5. To build up a love of country and to aid and support genuine Patriotism.
 - 6. To reward outstanding service to York Rite Masonry by awards, honors and other methods of proper recognition.
 - 7. To support Charitable and Benevolent endeavors of Freemasonry.

Article IV – Membership

- A. Membership shall be limited to Regular Masons who are in good standing in a Symbolic Lodge of Master Masons, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Cryptic Masons and a Commandery or Preceptory of Knights Templar, and who are actively engaged in working for the York Rite.
- B. Membership in this College shall be by invitation only, and such invitation shall be extended only after the presentation of the name of the Sir Knight to be honored and his election by unanimous ballot.
- C. Acceptance of the invitation shall be in the form of a petition for the Order Knight of York, accompanied by the full initiation fee, and shall be forwarded to the College Secretary.
- D. Any member in good standing may recommend an eligible York Rite Mason for membership on the proposal form provided for that purpose.
- E. Membership in this College shall be as follows:
 - 1. Primal – Regular Member
 - 2. Dual – Membership in this College plus Primal membership in a different Grand Jurisdiction
- F. An unanimous vote of those members present at a Regular Assembly, or a Special Assembly called for that purpose, shall be necessary for election to membership. In lieu of a ballot at the Assembly, the entire membership may be polled through a mailed notice.
- G. Life Membership (Pre-paid)
 - 1. A Life Membership is available. The cost is 20 times the current annual dues. All funds received for Life Membership will be place in a Prepaid Dues Plan.
 - 2. The Prepaid Dues Fund shall be the property of the College.
 - 3. A member's dues must be current at the time of becoming a prepaid member.
 - 4. The College shall not co-mingle any of its assets with the Prepaid Dues Fund.
 - 5. The College shall in no case borrow from the Prepaid Dues Fund, pledge its assets as security, or loan any part of such Prepaid Dues Fund to any individual or Corporation.
 - 6. The current year's interest from the fund may be used to defray College Expenses or by majority vote of the College be used for other purposes.

Article V – College Officers

- A. The officers of this York Rite College by Title and Rank are:
 - 1. Preeminent Governor
 - 2. Eminent Deputy Governor
 - 3. Eminent Chancellor
 - 4. Eminent Secretary-Treasurer
 - 5. Noble Primate
 - 6. Noble Preceptor
 - 7. Noble Seneschal
 - 8. Noble Marshal
 - 9. Noble Sentinel
- B. The first four (4) shall be elected at or before the Annual Assembly.
- C. The Governor shall make all appointments.
- D. The term of office shall be one year, or until a successor is duly installed.
- E. The four (4) Elected Officers shall constitute the Council of this College.
- F. It shall be the duty and privilege of the Governor to preside at all Assemblies of the College. In his absence, the Deputy Governor, Chancellor or the Junior Past Governor present, in that order, will open the College and preside.
- G. Should the Office of Governor become vacant, the Deputy Governor or Chancellor, in that order, shall succeed to the Office of Governor until the next Annual Assembly. Should a special election become necessary, the Governor General may grant his dispensation upon application.
- H. The election and installation of Officers must comply fully with applicable Sovereign College Regulations.
- I. The Secretary will be responsible for all of the minutes, correspondence and such reports as necessary. He shall receive an honorarium of \$100 per College year.

Article VI – Assemblies

- A. The Annual Assembly of this York Rite College shall be held on the first Saturday of May.
- B. There shall be one other regular assembly held in the fall of each year at a time established by motion being made and passed at a regular assembly.
- C. Special assemblies of the College may be called for the good of the Order, at such time and place as the Governor of the College shall direct, but no business shall be transacted other than such as shall be stated in the notice of the call for the meeting, which notice must be forwarded to each member at least ten days prior to the date of the special meeting.
- D. Nine (9) Companion Knights shall constitute a quorum.
- E. Due notice shall be given of all Assemblies.

Article VII – Fees and Dues

- A. The fee for Membership in this College shall be \$25 plus any Per Capita or special assessment levied by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.
- B. The Annual Dues for membership in this College shall be \$10 plus any Per Capita or special assessment levied by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

Article VIII – Committees

- A. The Council shall serve as a Standing Committee on Charity and may authorize an amount not to exceed \$100 to relieve a worthy distressed Companion Knight.
- B. Immediately after his election, the Governor shall appoint a Committee on:

York Rite Cooperation
Membership
Budget and Finance
Degree Teams
Entertainment

Article IX – Defunct Colleges

- A. If this College shall cease to exist, except for the purpose of consolidation, the Governor and Secretary shall within thirty (30) days thereafter; transmit to the Secretary General of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, all books, papers, rituals, jewels, seals, robes, all paraphernalia and all other property or Funds, or evidence thereof, together with the Charter unless the same has been arrested or removed by order of the Governor General.

Article X – Vacant Offices

- A. An Office may be vacated in the following way:
 - 1. Death
 - 2. Inability or refusal to serve
 - 3. Temporary or permanent suspension
 - 4. Expulsion from the Order
 - 5. Loss of pre-requisite membership
- B. Appointed Officers serve at the pleasure of the Governor
- C. The Grand Governor may suspend an Elected Officer failing to properly fulfill the duties of his office.

Article XI – Conflict Disclaimer

- A. Anything contained herein that is in conflict with the spirit and intent of the Sovereign College Constitution and By-Laws, together with the guidelines of the Governor General and the Board of Directors, is hereby declared to be null and void.

Article XII – Amendments

A. These By-Laws may be amended as follows:

1. The written proposal to amend shall identify the Article, Section, Page and line(s) to be deleted, amended or replaced.
2. It shall identify the New Amendment by Article, Section and Page.
3. It shall quote the new language exactly.
4. It must be received by a majority vote at a Regular Assembly or a Special Assembly called for that purpose.
5. It must then lay over, and due and proper notice, both as to content of the amendment and time where it will be voted on, be given to the membership. It must be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote at said Assembly.
6. It must be properly signed and submitted in triplicate to the Secretary General for the Governor Generals signature.

APPROVED:

_____ **Date:** _____
Governor

_____ **Date:** _____
Grand Governor

_____ **Date:** _____
Governor General

_____ **Date:** _____
Secretary General