

REVISED BY-LAWS  
THE SCOTTISH RITE GUARD OF  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA BODIES OF THE  
ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE  
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

**PREAMBLE**

THIS GUARD SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, FIRST, THE CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND THE EDICTS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHERN JURISDICTION OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY; SECOND, THE CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS OF THE BODIES OF THE VALLEY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA; THIRD, THE FOLLOWING BY-LAWS.

**NAME**

THE NAME OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE "THE RICHMOND SCOTTISH RITE GUARD"

**PURPOSE**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE TO ASSIST THE OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND BODIES OF THE SCOTTISH RITE IN CONFERRING THE DEGREES AND RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS IN A CAPACITY WHERE NEEDED AND, GENERALLY, TO PROMOTE GOOD FELLOWSHIP AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE RITE.

**MEMBERSHIP**

MEMBERSHIP IN THE GUARD SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE (3) CLASSES, AS FOLLOWS: ACTIVE, RESERVE AND SENIOR.

**ACTIVE**

THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP SHALL CONSIST OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE (35) MEN, INCLUDING THE OFFICERS. ONLY ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE.

MEMBERS WHO ARE ELECTED TO ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE RESERVE LIST. THE SENIOR, ELIGIBLE RESERVE MEMBER'S NAME SHALL BE PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ELECTION TO THE ACTIVE LIST, IF OR WHEN A VACANCY EXISTS, PROVIDED THE RESERVE MEMBER HAS COMPLIED WITH THE 75 PERCENT REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THE ARTICLE PERTAINING TO ATTENDANCE. A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT SHALL BE NECESSARY FOR THIS ELECTION TO ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

**RESERVE**

MEMBERS ON THE RESERVE LIST SHALL SERVE A MINIMUM OF ONE (1) YEAR APPRENTICESHIP BEFORE BECOMING ELIGIBLE FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. THE NUMBER ON THE RESERVE LIST SHALL NOT EXCEED FIVE (5).

THE NAME OF A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER FOR THE RESERVE SHALL BE PROPOSED BY AN ACTIVE MEMBER AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GUARD. PROPOSAL SHALL LIE OVER UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AT WHICH TIME A SECRET BALLOT SHALL BE TAKEN AND IF TWO (2) OR MORE NEGATIVE BALLOTS APPEAR, THE PROPOSED CANDIDATE SHALL BE REJECTED. BALLOTING SHALL BE DONE IN THE CUSTOMARY MASONIC MANNER USING A MASONIC BALLOT BOX. A REJECTED CANDIDATE MAY NOT BE RESUBMITTED FOR ONE (1) YEAR.

IF ELECTED, THE CANDIDATE SHALL BE CONTACTED BY THE SECRETARY OR HIS DESIGNEE WHO WILL EXPLAIN THE RULES OF THE GUARD TO THE CANDIDATE AND DETERMINE THAT THE CANDIDATE AGREES TO SAID RULES. IF HE ACCEPTS, THE CANDIDATE WILL THEN BECOME A RESERVE MEMBER. NO ONE SHALL BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP UNLESS HE SHALL HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH RITE FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE (1) YEAR. AT NO TIME SHALL ANY PROSPECTIVE MEMBER BE TOLD THAT HE IS BEING, WILL BE, OR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP UNLESS AND UNTILL HE HAS BEEN ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP.

### **SENIOR**

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED FIFTEEN (15) YEARS ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE SCOTTISH RITE GUARD OR WHO HAVE INCURRED ANY PHYSICAL DISABILITY WHICH PROHIBITS HIS PARTICIPATION AS AN ACTIVE GUARDSMAN AND WHO DESIRES TO MAINTAIN HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE GUARD IN AN INACTIVE STATUS. THIS TRANSFER MUST BE AT THE GUARDSMAN'S REQUEST AND IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMANDER.

### **OFFICERS**

THE OFFICERS OF THE GUARD SHALL BE A COMMANDER, WHO SHALL HAVE RECEIVED THE KCCH OR 33 DEGREE, CAPTAIN, FIRST LIEUTENANT, SECOND LIEUTENANT WHICH SHALL BE THE CHAPLAIN AND SECRETARY-TREASURER WHO SHALL BE A SECOND LIEUTENANT, ALL OF WHICH SHALL BE ELECTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GUARD AND SAID OFFICERS SHALL BE ELECTED TO HOLD OFFICE FOR ONE (1) YEAR.

### **DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

THE COMMANDER SHALL HAVE FULL CHARGE OF THE GUARD AT ALL MEETINGS OF THE RITE OR THE GUARD. HE SHALL BE EMPOWERED TO APPOINT SUCH COMMITTEES AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ANY BUSINESS OR WORK OF THE GUARD; ALSO TO CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS WHENEVER, IN HIS JUDGEMENT, SUCH ARE NECESSARY.

THE CAPTAIN, SUBJECT TO THE ORDERS OF THE COMMANDER, SHALL HAVE CHARGE OF THE DRILLING OF THE GUARD, INSTRUCT THEM IN THE NECESSARY MILITARY KNOWLEDGE, AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE COMMANDER, BE IN FULL CHARGE OF THE GUARD. THE CAPTAIN WILL BE RESPONSILBE FOR ASCERTAINING THOSE MEMBERS WHO WILL SERVE ON THE "FLAG DETAIL" AND MAINTAINING A LIST OF SUCH.

THE FIRST LIEUTENANT SHALL PERFORM SUCH DUTIES AS THE COMMANDER OR CAPTAIN SHALL PRESCRIBE AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF HIS SUPERIOR OFFICERS, BE IN COMMAND OF THE GUARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS RANK. THE FIRST LIEUTENANT WILL ASSIST THE CAPTAIN WITH THE DRILLING OF THE GUARD.

THE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHALL KEEP A CORRECT RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GUARD AND SHALL PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS THE COMMANDER MAY ORDER. HE SHALL CONTACT EACH NEW RESERVE MEMBER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP AND REVIEW WITH HIM THE FUNCTION OF THE

GUARD AND WHAT DUTIES ARE EXPECTED OF HIM. INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ARE WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS HAVING RECEIVED A LEGIBLE COPY OF THE BY-LAWS AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH SAME OR TO ANY PENALTY AS PRESCRIBED. THE SECRETARY-TREASURER SHALL RECEIVE AND DISBURSE ALL FUNDS OF THE GUARD AND KEEP PROPER AND ACCURATE RECORDS OF THE SAME. HE SHALL DEPOSIT ALL FUNDS IN A REPUTABLE BANK AND REPORT TO THE GUARD, WHEN REQUESTED, ALL FUNDS RECEIVED OR DISBURSED, SUCH REPORT TO BE GIVEN AT A REGULAR MEETING.

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE COMMANDER MAY APPOINT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THREE (3) GUARDSMEN WHO WILL REPORT TO THE COMMANDER ANY SUGGESTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO GUARD OPERATIONS.

#### **EQUIPMENT: UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

ALL UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT ISSUED TO GUARDSMEN SHALL REMAIN PROPERTY OF THE GUARD AND SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE GUARD. ISSUED EQUIPMENT SHALL CONSIST OF ONE SWORD AND TWO SHOULDER PATCHES FOR USE ON THE UNIFORM SHIRT PURCHASED BY THE MEMBER.

#### **MEETINGS**

BUSINESS MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD WHENEVER THE LODGE OF PERFECTION HAS A DINNER BUSINESS MEETING UNLESS SUCH MEETING WOULD CONFLICT WITH A PROGRAM OF THE LODGE OF PERFECTION. THIS MEETING SHALL BE HELD PRIOR TO THE LODGE OF PERFECTION AND ALL BUSINESS OF THE GUARD WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THIS MEETING.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS SHALL BE HELD DURING THE JANUARY MEETING OR AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMANDER.

ALL REUNIONS, AND OTHER SPECIAL FUNCTIONS, AS DESIGNATED BY THE COMMANDER, SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS OBLIGATORY MEETINGS, THE SAME AS ALL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

EACH MEMBER OF THE GUARD, ACTIVE AND RESERVE, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A MINIMUM OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%) OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS AND REUNIONS. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT, UNLESS PROPERLY EXCUSED WILL BE DEEMED CAUSE FOR REMOVAL FROM THE ROLL OF THE GUARD.

MEMBERS OF THE GUARD ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND SUCH SPECIAL MEETINGS AS MAY BE NECESSARY. ONLY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS AND REUNIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN CALCULATING THE ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

AMENDMENTS TO THESE BY-LAWS SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AT A REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE GUARD, LIE OVER UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, AND, AT THAT TIME, AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THREE-QUARTERS ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ADOPTION.

ALL BY-LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS HERETOFORE ADOPTED, WHICH IN ANY WAY  
CONFLICT WITH THE ABOVE, ARE HEREBY REPEALED.  
THESE BY-LAWS SHALL BE IN FORCE FROM THEIR ADOPTION,

ADOPTED: JUNE 27, 1988

EDWARD MILTON SKELTON, 33<sup>0</sup>  
GEORGE IRA JOHNSON, 33<sup>0</sup>  
LEWIS AUBREY STRATTON, 33<sup>0</sup>

AMENDED: MARCH 14, 1997

SAMUEL MEYER, 33<sup>0</sup>  
EDWARD MILTON SKELTON, 33<sup>0</sup>  
GEORGE IRA JOHNSON, 33<sup>0</sup>  
MACK MORRIS, 33<sup>0</sup>  
JULIAN U. PUGH, KCCH

AMENDED: OCTOBER 23, 2011

JOHNNIE LARRY DIXON, 33<sup>0</sup>  
RUSSELL ALTON WRIGHT, 33<sup>0</sup>  
VERNON STUART COOK, KCCH

AMENDED: MARCH 27, 2023

RICHARD C. KIDD, 32<sup>0</sup>, KCCH, COMMANDER  
MW AND ILL. V. STUART COOK, 33<sup>0</sup>, IGH  
ILL. J. THOMAS WADKINS, III, 33<sup>0</sup>, IGH, SECRETARY/TREASURER