

BY-LAWS

-OF-

Bluefield Lodge,

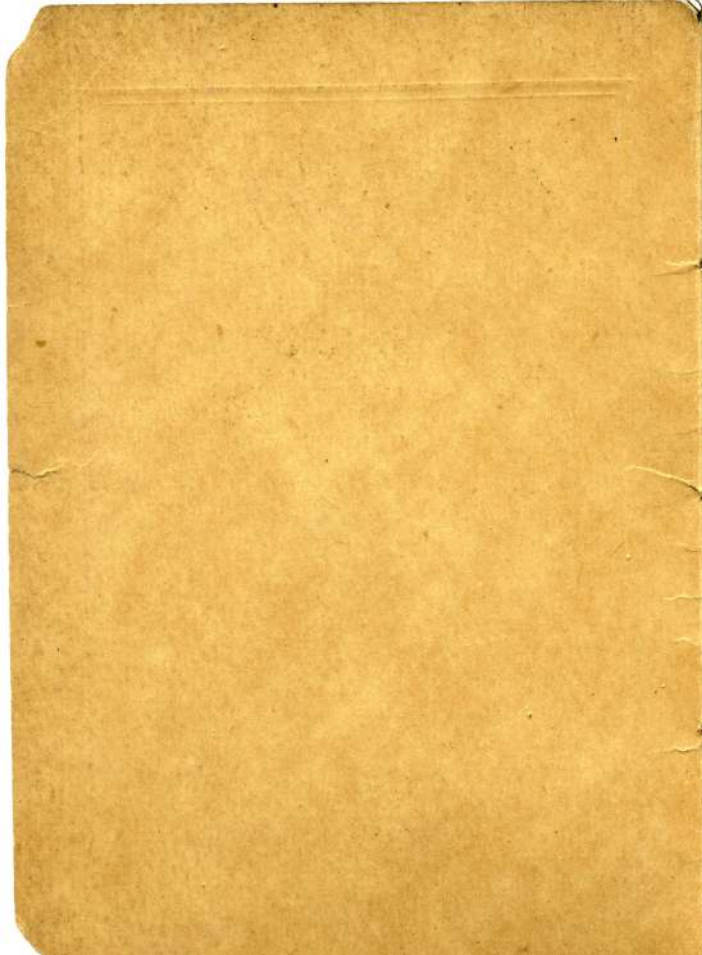


NO. 85

A. F. & A. M.

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BY-LAWS

—FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF—

Bluefield Lodge, No. 85, A. F. & A. M.



ARTICLE 1.

Communications.

SEC. 1.—The stated Communications of this Lodge shall be held on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month, and on the festivals of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist.

ARTICLE 2.

Election of officers.

SEC. 1.—The officers of this Lodge shall be the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Senior Deacon, the Junior Deacon, the Stewards or Masters of Ceremonies and the Tiler.

SEC. 2.—The Senior Deacon and Tiler shall be appointed by the Master, and the Junior Deacon by the Senior Warden. All the other officers shall be elected annually at the stated communication next preceeding the festival of St. John the Baptist.

SEC. 3.—The officers of the Lodge shall be installed on or before the next stated

communication after the annual election, PROVIDED, that officers who may be absent at the time fixed for installation may be installed at any subsequent Communication at which they may be present.

SEC. 4.—Before the election of officers takes place the list of dues shall be called over and no Brother who is in arrears to the Lodge in the amount of three dollars (\$3.00) or more shall be entitled to hold an office, ballot or vote for any officer.

SEC. 5.—No other business shall precede such elections, except as provided in these by laws.

ARTICLE 3.

Duties of Officers.

SEC. 1.—It shall be the duty of the Master, at every meeting, when time admits, to give the brethren the benefit of a lecture in one of the degrees.

SEC. 2.—The Treasurer shall keep a regular account of the receipts and disbursements of the Lodge, and a separate account of the special charity fund in such a manner that he may, whenever called upon, give a correct account of the finances of the Lodge. He shall also keep a list of the membership of the Lodge, with their respective dues annexed, which he shall call over on the last stated communication of each month, in order that they may be collec-

ted.

SEC. 3.—The Secretary shall, in addition to his other duties, keep a roll of the membership of the Lodge, collect all dues, and pay them to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. He shall also write all the summons and citations and keep a correct record of the Lodge.

SEC. 4.—It shall be the duty of the Tiler to see that every brother is properly clothed before he enters the Lodge.

ARTICLE 4.

Particular Duties.

SEC. 1.—No brother shall absent himself from the Lodge after having taken his seat, without permission from the Worshipful Master.

SEC. 2.—A Brother who may wish to speak on any subject, shall rise and address the Worshipful Master and no brother shall consume more than fifteen minutes on any subject at any one time, without permission from the Worshipful Master, nor shall he so speak more than twice without like permission.

ARTICLE 5.

Recommendations and Balloting.

SEC. 1.—Every candidate for initiation must possess the necessary qualifications he must be recommended in writing, signed by himself, and seconded by two

members of this Lodge. Said petition to be presented at a regular meeting.

SEC. 2.—Every member who recommends a candidate for initiation shall deposit with the treasurer the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) said amount to be returned if the candidate be rejected. If he be elected it shall be considered a part of his initiation fee, but should the candidate fail to apply for such initiation within six months, he shall forfeit his right to initiation and the sum as paid above to go to the special charity fund.

SEC. 3.—Every member who shall recommend a brother for membership shall deposit at the same time the fee of two dollars (\$2.00) and a dimit from the Lodge of which he was last a member. If he be rejected the said fee and dimit shall be returned to him.

SEC. 4.—The mode of recommending and balloting for brethren who may wish to become members of this Lodge, shall, in every respect, except the petition and fee be the same as in the case of candidates for initiation.

ARTICLE 6.

Dues and Fees.

SEC. 1.—Every member of this Lodge shall pay to the Lodge three dollars (\$3.00) per annum as dues, in monthly payments of twenty-five cents, PROVIDED however the Lodge may by a major-

ity vote excuse any member from payment of dues in cases of long continued absence, pecuniary inability or meritorious services.

SEC. 2.—The fee for initiation shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00); for passing to the degree of Fellow Craft, five dollars; for raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason, ten dollars (\$10.00); and for membership, two dollars (\$2.00).

SEC. 3.—Should any member of this Lodge be in arrears for dues to the amount of three dollars (\$3.00), he shall be cited by the Secretary to show cause why he should not be suspended therefor.

SEC. 4.—The expenses attending any extraordinary or called meeting shall be defrayed by the person or persons for whose convenience or benefit the same may be called, unless otherwise ordered by the Lodge.

ARTICLE 7.

Committees.

SEC. 1.—The Worshipful Master shall at the communication next before the time of the annual election, appoint a committee on finance, consisting of three, whose duty it shall be to examine the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary and audit all accounts referred to them by Lodge. They shall make a report to the Lodge at the an-

nual communication, and as often as may be required.

SEC. 2.—The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens shall be a committee of Charity, to whom all applications for relief shall be made; and said committee, or a majority of them, may draw at any time from the funds of the Lodge for the purpose of charity a sum not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) and shall report their action to the Lodge at the next stated communication.

ARTICLE 8.

The Special Charity Fund.

SEC. 1.—A fund shall be established by this Lodge to be known as the Special Charity Fund, and set apart for the purposes hereinafter mentioned. To establish said fund, one dollar (\$1.00) out of every fee for initiation, passing and raising, shall be placed to the credit of this fund, and at each meeting of the Lodge the special charity fund box shall be passed around, in order to collect voluntary contributions, and the amount so collected shall be placed to the credit of said fund; The proceeds of this fund shall be appropriated to the relief of such distressed MASTER MASONS, their widows and orphans, whose claims upon our relief are positively known to some member or members of this Lodge to be real and grievous, and not to have resulted from habits of intemperance or

idleness, No more than five dollars (\$5.00) shall be voted out of this fund to any one applicant at any one session of the Lodge.

ARTICLE 9.

Dimits.

SEC. 1.—The payment of all indebtedness to the Lodge shall be a condition precedent to the granting a dimit to any member.

ARTICLE 10.

Trustees.

SEC. 1.—There shall be a Board of Trustees composed of three members of this Lodge, who shall be elected annually, at the same time and in like manner as the officers of the Lodge. The trustees so elected shall choose one of their number as chairman, whose duty it shall be to call said Board together whenever business requires it; to preside over said Board and to sign its name.

SEC 2.—The said Board of trustees shall take and hold in possession in trust for the Lodge, all property real or personal, and have power to rent, if deemed proper, any rooms or property not in use by the Lodge.

ARTICLE 11.

By Laws.

SEC. 1.—Any member wishing to introduce a by law or alter an existing one, shall make the proposition in writ-

ing, at a stated communication, if it then be seconded, it shall be read audibly by the Secretary and lie over till the first stated communication in the following month when it shall again be read audibly by the Secretary, and if two thirds of the members present vote in favor thereof, it shall be adopted, subject, however, to the approval of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia.

SEC. 2.—If any member of this Lodge desires a general revision of its By Laws he shall at a stated communication give written notice thereof, and if two thirds of the members present agree thereto, it shall lie over until the first stated communication in the following month, and then be determined by the Lodge. It shall require two thirds majority in favor thereof, and the sanction of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, before it shall become law.

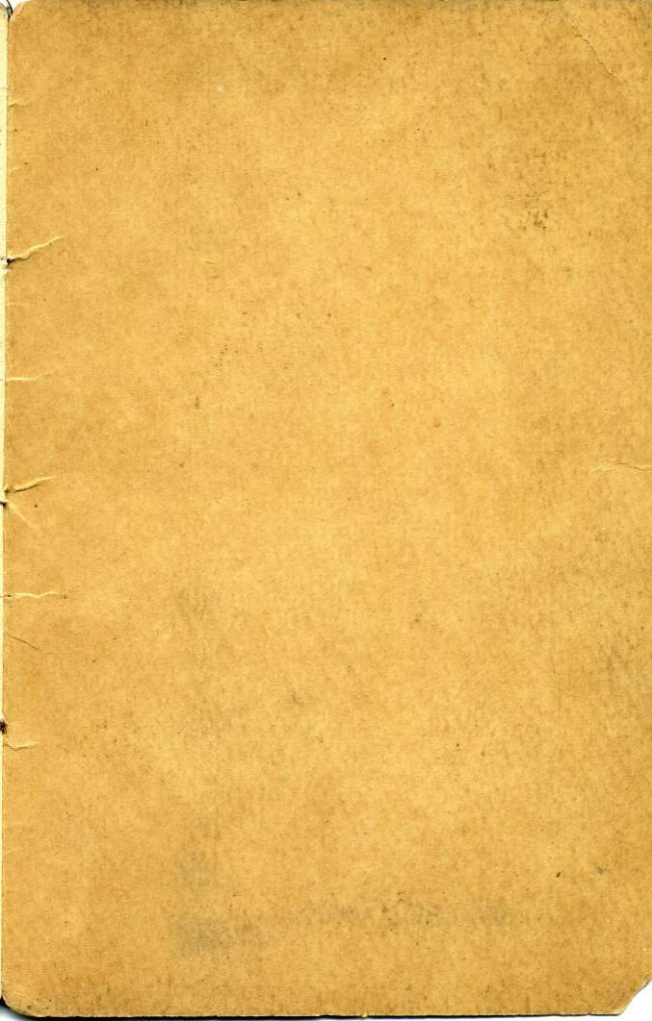
SEC. 3.—These by-laws shall form part of the records of the Lodge proceeding, and each member shall be furnished with a printed copy thereof and shall be in force as soon as approved by the Grand Lodge of West Virginia.

S. A. WORLEY, W. M.

G. WASH. WILLIAMS, Sec.

Adopted, June 12, A. D. 1891, A. L. 5891.

Approved by Grand Lodge of W. Va.
Nov. 11, A. D. 1891, A. L. 5891.



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