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ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
PENNSYLVANIA
BY-LAWS

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ARTICLE I

PREAMBLE

Section 1. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in the State of Pennsylvania declares its adherence to, and compliance with laws and customs of the Constitution of the Order as adopted by the National Convention, and is subject to the same, and hereby embodies the said NATIONAL CONVENTION, as though it were fully set forth herein, as well as any and all alterations, or amendments thereto, that hereafter be made, by any NATIONAL CONVENTION of the Order. No section of these By-Laws can be in violation of the National Constitution.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications:

A. Be a male residing in the United States, Canada, or the Western Hemisphere.
B. Prove his Irish ancestry.
C. Be a practicing ~~Roman~~ Catholic. *
D. Be of good character.
E. Be not less than sixteen (16) years of age.
F. Adopted by those of Irish ancestry.

Section 2. A member shall not be allowed to become a member of more than one Division at the same time.

Section 3. A person desiring to join the Order may make application to any Division, which he chooses. Such application for membership must be signed by a member in good standing, who shall be responsible for the good character of the candidate at the time of his initiation. A majority vote of those present is necessary for acceptance to the Order and such candidate cannot apply for membership for six (6) months after his rejection as per the National Constitution.

* The term "Roman" Catholic for purposes of AOH membership should be taken in an inclusive rather then exclusive sense. This means that the word "Roman should be given a broad interpretation, meaning any Catholic who belongs to one of the Churches or Rites in communion with the Church of Rome with our Holy Father as the Supreme Roman Pontiff. There are about twenty-four different Rites in the Catholic Church. They are divided into Western and Eastern Rites. In the United States the most common Western Rite would be the Roman Rite or Latin Rite. The most common Eastern Rites in the United States would be the Byzantine Rite, the Ukrainian Rite, the Marionite Rite and Melkite Rite.

ARTICLE III

DIVISIONS

Section 1. Divisions shall meet at least once a month, between October 1 and June 30 of each year. Where, more than one meeting a month is held, the first thereof shall be the regular meeting, at which dues, fines and assessments are due and payable.

Section 2. Special meetings may be held at such times as the business of the Division may require, but they shall be confined to the business, which they were called to consider. The President, or his designee, may call such meetings, and must call them when requested to do so in writing by ten (10) members in good standing in the Division; ten (10) days written notice shall be given each member by first class mail.

Section 3. Not less than seven (7) members shall constitute a quorum for the transactions of business, and if only seven (7) members be present, no disbursement of money shall be made, except such payments as by law are provided.

Section 4. The President, or his designee, of each Division may, and is encouraged, to appoint Committees on Sick, Employment, and Finance.

Section 5. If any officer of a Division, or a member of a Committee absents himself from three (3) consecutive regular meetings, without justifiable excuse, his office or position shall be declared vacant, and an election held to replace an elected officer, or a new appointment made to replace an appointed officer.

Section 6. All fines imposed on any officer for any violation of the laws of the Order, shall in no case, and under no consideration, be paid from, loaned, or advanced from any Division funds, but must be paid personally by the person upon whom they were imposed. Divisions violating this section to be suspended until the same is complied with.

Section 7. Members of a Division which has been suspended, or expelled, or has become extinct for cause, and who were members in good standing at the time of suspension, extinction of dissolution and who were blameless of the cause of such suspension, extinction or expulsion, may, after said suspension, dissolution or extinction of their Division, apply for permission to join another Division, and any Division may admit such person to membership under like conditions as any new members; provided, however, that in no case is any Division compelled to take such persons. No right is conferred, hereby; simply a privilege given that need not be complied with nor enforced.

Section 8. Should a Division wish to merge with another, it shall be allowed to do so only after a summoned meeting has been called. Members concerned shall be given at least (5) days written notice, and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a regular meeting of each Division is required for approval. The Divisions desiring to combine shall each apply, in writing, for approval to the County Officers, giving all the conditions mutually agreed upon, and if the majority of said County officers consent writing, the merger shall be effected.

Section 9.Whenever a Division ceases to affiliate with the County Board or is suspended, all the paraphernalia, money, books, goods and effects shall be handed over to the County Officers and any officer or member failing to make such returns, or who has participated in any disposition otherwise, shall forever be debarred from joining any other Division until he has made restitution in full value for all such goods and effects to said County Board, and may be proceeded against in equity to recover the same by the County Officers. Where no County Board exists, this authority is vested in the State President, or his designee.

Section 10. (a) If a question is before the Division, no motion shall be received unless for that question, to table (which motion shall be decided without debate), or to postpone indefinitely, to postpone for a definite time, to refer to committee, or to amend, which motions shall have precedence in the order herein arranged.

(b) When five (5) members call for yeas and nays; they shall be ordered by the President, or his designee, and recorded in the minutes.

(c) When a member speaks, he shall rise in his place and respectfully address the President, or his designee, confine himself to the question under consideration, and avoid all personalities or unbecoming language. Should two (2) or more members rise to speak at the same time, the President, or his designee, shall decide who has the floor.

(d) Every member shall have the privilege of speaking twice on any subject, three (3) minutes being allowed each time, but no more often unless by unanimous consent. When a member is called to order, he shall take his seat until the point has been decided. When an appeal is made from the decision of the President, or his designee, it shall be put thus: “Shall the decision of the President, or his designee, be sustained?” which shall be decided without debate, when it shall require a two thirds (2/3) vote to overrule the decision of the President, or his designee.

(e) The President, or his designee, shall state the question, and before putting it to a vote, shall ask, “Is the Division ready for the question?” Should no member offer to speak, the President, or his designee, shall rise to put it, and after he has risen, no member shall be allowed to speak on it.

(f) All resolutions of Committees shall be in writing. All reports from Committees should be in writing.

(g) Upon the death of any member in good standing, the Recording and/or Financial Secretaries must notify verbally, or in writing, all Officers of the Division, who, in turn, should endeavor to notify as many members in good standing as possible to attend the funeral service(s).

(h) All Division property shall remain either at the headquarters of the Division or within the custody and control of the officer(s).

(i) No member shall enter or leave the hall during the initiation of members, installation of officers, or the taking of a vote on any question; nor shall members enter or leave the hall during the meeting unless by permission of the President, or his designee.

(j) The President, or his designee, of each Division may appoint a committee of three (3) members, to be known as the Delinquency Committee, whose duty it shall be to keep themselves informed of the standing of each member in the Division, and they shall do all in their power to secure the payment by members of their indebtedness to the Division, and thereby prevent, as much as possible, suspensions and lapse of membership, because of non-payment of dues, fines or assessments.

Section 11. (a) When charges are filed against a member and after they have been submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee, and if it is determined that they are warranted, the following shall be observed:

(b) The Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee shall establish a Trial Committee. This Committee shall consist of five members, one acting as the Chairman and one acting as the Secretary. Two alternates should also be selected. The Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee can preside over the proceedings, but has no influence on the outcome of the Trial Committee. It is advisable that any officer or member of said Division, who is party to or directly interested in any case shall not be permitted to act as a member of the Trial Committee.

(c) Once a Trial Committee is established, they shall determine the date of the hearing. This should be done within thirty (30) days of the charges being filed. The accused and the accuser shall be notified by certified mail as to the date, time and location of the Trial. At time of receipt of this notice the accused and the accuser shall submit a written list of witnesses, if any, to the Trial Committee Secretary. This should be done no less than ten (10) days prior to the Trial.

(d) The accused and the accuser may appear before the Trial Committee, and shall be entitled to be present at all times when the Committee is receiving evidence. All testimony shall be accurately recorded in writing or by tape recorder by the Secretary of the Trial Committee may be called as witnesses by either side.

(e) If the accused fails to appear, The Trial Committee shall proceed with the trial as though the accused were present. If the accuser fails to appear, the charges shall be dismissed by the Chairman of the Trial Committee and a fine may be imposed against the accuser.

The following Trial procedure shall be observed:

1. The Chairman shall read the charges and ask the accused if he is “guilty” or “not guilty”. If the plea is “guilty” the Trial Committee shall so find and shall report its verdict to the Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee, who in turn reports to the Division President, or his designee. If the plea is “not guilty” the trial shall then proceed.
2. The accusers' case shall be presented first.
3. Witnesses shall be called into the trial room one at a time, and will leave upon completing their testimony, subject to recall by either the Trial Committee or any of the parties.
4. The accusers' witnesses shall be called first.
5. Each party shall have the right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the other party.
6. Before the Trial Committee shall begin their deliberations, all other persons shall leave the trial room.
7. The Trial Committee may impose fines, penalties or suspensions as they see fit and proper.

(f) When the Committee has come to a decision in the case, the Chairman of the Trial Committee shall notify the Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee, who then notifies the Division President, or his designee. The Trial Committee shall submit a full report of the case with their verdict in writing to the Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee, who then turns over the report to the Division President, or his designee. The Recording Secretary of the Division then notifies both the accuser and the accused, in writing, of the Committees’ findings.

(g) The finding of the Trial Committee cannot be debated. The accused and the accuser shall be allowed to plead for, or state their side, and it shall then require a majority vote by the membership at the next scheduled meeting, to set the findings and or penalties of the Trial Committee.

(h) Any appeals from the findings of the Trial Committee shall go to the next highest governing body of the Order. Appeals from the Division level or charges made to the County Board shall be heard as per Article VII, Section 4, following the above procedures. Appeals from the County level or charges made to the State Board shall be heard following the same procedure by a Judiciary Committee appointed by the State President, or his designee.

Any part of this procedure found to conflict with the National Constitution or future amendment to the same shall follow the National policy and all procedures defined by the National Constitution shall be followed.

ARTICLE IV

TRANSFERS

Section 1. (a) A member in good standing who desires to transfer to another Division shall (on application to his own Division) be furnished with a transfer card. Admission depends on a majority vote for acceptance by the new Division; otherwise membership reverts to the original Division.

(b) Said transfer card shall show all pertinent information including benefits, if any.

(c) Transfer cards shall be filled in as required and issued in duplicate. Within three (3) months after date of issue, the member affected shall deliver one (1) copy to the President of the new Division. The Financial Secretary originating the transfer shall also mail the second copy to him.

ARTICLE V

DEFUNCT COUNTY BOARD

Whenever any County Board ceases to affiliate with the State Board or is suspended, its property, books, records, and funds shall vest in the State President, or his designee, who shall take possession thereof and turn same over to the State Board.

ARTICLE VI

STATE BOARD OFFICERS

Section 1. (a) The following shall be elected to the State Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six (6) Directors, whose duties shall include organizing activities and other tasks as assigned by the President, or his designee, and authorize the President to designate the six Districts. The following positions shall be appointed by the President: Chaplain, Deputy Chaplain, Marshal(s), Sentinel(s), Organizer, Historian, State Legal Counsel, and Chairmen of the following State Committees: Grievance, Catholic Action, Charities and Missions, Freedom For All Ireland, Pro-Life, Political Education, Anti-Defamation, Notre Dame Fund, Immigration, Public Relations, Constitution and Veteran Affairs. The Immediate Past State President by virtue of his office shall also have a vote on, and be an officer of, the State Board.

(b) Each of the Chairmen should appoint a committee of three (3) to five (5) members to work with him. Each of the Chairmen shall make a biennial report of his activities in writing to the State Convention in the odd calendar years. In addition, each Chairman is expected to attend the quarterly State Board meetings and provide updates and reports at those meetings. Each Chairman is also encouraged to submit articles to the editors of the PA State Newsletter.

(c) The Chairmen of Political Education and Public Relations shall, at the direction of the President, or his designee, undertake the education of Executive Branch members, Legislators, and news media of issues important to the AOH and the Irish American community. The Chairmen, if approved by the President, or his designee, shall act upon their own initiative, when appropriate.

(d) The State elected officers shall meet at least twice a year and give their reports as the appointed Chairmen do.

Section 2. The State elected and appointed officers shall have received the Major Degrees of the Order before their election or appointment.

Section 3. The State Secretary shall issue, or cause to issue, the PA State Board Newsletter four (4) times per year on a quarterly basis and distribute same as follows: one (1) to each Officer, elected or appointed to the State Board; one (1) to each County Board; and one (1) to each Division.

ARTICLE VII

COUNTY BOARDS

Section 1. (a) The County Board shall elect the following Officers: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee, Marshal and Sentinel. Election of County officers shall take place at the biennial County Convention.

(b) The retiring County President, or his designee, shall automatically become a member of the County Board, with the title of Immediate Past County President, or his designee.

(c) Elected and appointed County Officers shall have received the Major Degrees of the Order prior to their election or appointment. However, Officers of a newly formed County Board shall have one (1) calendar year to obtain the Major Degrees.

Section 2. Upon the need to call a special meeting for the election of County Officers, the election of Delegates by the County Board or other matters requiring the attendance of the members of the County Board, notice of such special meetings shall be sent to each member entitled to attend at least ten (10) days prior to the appointed meeting time.

Section 3. Each County President, or his designee, may during the month of December of each year appoint as many Auditing Committees as may be necessary to examine and audit the books of each or any Division in his County. The Auditing Committee shall file a written report (signed by all members) with the County Board, showing the number of Division members in good standing, as well as the financial condition, of the audited Division(s) before the following February 15. The State President, or his designee, may do likewise for a single Division in a County, a County Board, or for any Division in a county without a County Board.

Section 4. The County President, or his designee, shall appoint a committee of seven (7) members from his jurisdiction as the County Board Judiciary Committee, whose duty it shall be to try all cases and determine all appeals, which are made to the County Board. The Committee decision(s) may be ratified, modified, or reversed according to the majority of those members present at the County Board meeting at which the Committee report is received. The Committee is to keep a full and accurate account of all evidence and proceedings, and is to receive such compensation for their services as the County Board may fix and determine.

ARTICLE VIII

POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The State President, or his designee, is empowered, preceding each State Convention, to appoint an Auditing Committee of three (3) members from among the delegates to such Convention, who shall audit the accounts of the State Secretary and State Treasurer on the day preceding the opening of the Convention, after the reception of the reports from those Officers.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the State President, or his designee, to officially visit each County in the State in which there is an AOH unit, at least once every two (2) years.

Section 3. The County President, or his designee, shall visit each Division in his County at least once a year, either in person or by deputizing any Officer of the County Board.

Section 4. The State Secretary and the State Treasurer shall each make a biannual and itemized report of the financial and numerical standing of the Order, through the State President, or his designee, and a sufficient number of copies thereof, together with any recommendation(s) of the State President, or his designee, shall be sent to the County Presidents, for distribution.

Section 5. County and Division Financial Secretaries shall collect all monies, turn same over promptly to the Treasurer, take proper receipt thereof, and draw all warrants upon the Treasury.

ARTICLE IX

EXPENSES

Section 1. The expenses of the State and County Officers and committees in the performance of their duties shall not be in excess of the National Constitution, and shall be at the discretion of their State and County Officers.

Section 2. Legitimate expenses of the elected and appointed State Officers may be submitted for reimbursement, and the State Treasurer may reimburse those expenses following approval by the State Board.

ARTICLE X

CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The biennial State Convention shall be held during the third week in July at the place designated by the preceding Convention. In the event change is required in the date or site chosen for the State Convention, the decision shall rest with the State Board, which is empowered to select a new site or date.

Section 2 (a) The State President is authorized to appoint a five (5) member Convention Oversight Committee. The Committee shall include one member designated by the LAOH State President. It shall be the duty of this Committee to investigate potential convention sites and related fees as appropriate for the convention's purposes and report their findings to the State Board. Only those sites meeting the Committee's published minimum criteria will be placed before the body for a vote. The State Board shall discuss the Committee's findings with the body prior to the vote. The reasonable expenses incurred by the Committee shall be shared by the State Board and the local convention committee as negotiated between the parties on a site-by-site basis.

Section 2 (b) Localities seeking to host the next convention shall submit a written application to the State President not later than March 1st prior to the date of the State Convention at which said site shall be voted upon. The convention site shall be selected by a combined vote of the AOH & LAOH.

Section 2. (c) The local state convention site committee shall be subject to the State Board. Schedules, fees and speakers will be set only after approval from the State Board.

Section 2. (d) Twenty percent (20%) of the profits of the profits of each state convention shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer for deposit in the appropriate state account. The President of the AOH State Board shall appoint an audit committee to ascertain the appropriate dollar amount. The audit committee shall have three (3) members appointed by

the President of the State Board. The audit of the conventions books, in their entirety, shall be conducted within three (3) months of the closing of the immediate past convention, the final report of the audit committee shall be presented to the State Board and General Membership at the next scheduled board meeting following submission of the audit report.

Section 3 (a) Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention shall be elected at least 90 days preceding the Convention. No member is eligible to be a Delegate unless he has been twelve (12) months a member of that Division, except in the case of a Division less than twelve (12) months in existence. However, the Division must have been on record with the National Secretary as of December 31st of the preceding year.

(b) State Officers, elected or appointed, shall be delegates to the State Convention. The County Delegates shall be the Chaplain, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Standing/Grievance Committee, Marshal, Sentinel and the Immediate Past President.

(c) At least twenty days prior to the State Convention, the County and Division Recording Secretaries shall forward to the State Secretary a list of the duly elected Delegates and Alternates from their respective jurisdiction(s) which shall be the official list for the use of the committee on credentials and for proceedings in the Convention.

It shall be the duty of the State Secretary to prepare the official call for the State Convention and forward copies by May 1st of a convention year to all Division and County Presidents and Secretaries. It shall also be the duty of the State Secretary to prepare the proper credentials and ballots.

(d) Any Division sending Delegates to the State Convention with expenses paid, shall have the first portion of the money set aside for the registration fee, and the Delegate must register.

(e) Each Division and County Board shall be required to send at least one (1) Delegate to the biennial State Convention. Failure to comply with this mandate may result in the Division being fined the amount of Twenty-five Dollars ($25). In the case of a County Board, the fine shall be one Hundred Dollars ($100.00). The State Secretary shall be empowered to levy and collect this fine.

Section 4. (a) Each Division shall be entitled to at least one (1) Delegate to the State Convention. When a Division has a membership of over twenty-five (25), it shall be entitled to a Delegate for every additional twenty-five (25) members, or major fraction thereof. At least twenty (20) days prior to the State Convention, the County and Division Secretaries shall forward to the State Secretary a list of the duly elected Delegates and Alternates from their respective jurisdictions. This list will be the official list for the use of the Committee on Credentials and for proceedings in the Convention.

Section 5. All Committee Chairmen as appointed by the State President, or his designee, during a State Convention shall give a daily report of the activities of their respective committee(s).

Section 6. Copies of the minutes of the preceding convention will be made available in their entirety prior to the convening of any business meeting at a State Convention. The names of all committee chairmen and their respective committees shall be posted and available prior to the convening of the State Convention.

Section 7. No Credential Cards will be issued for a State Convention to any member of a Division or County who has not satisfied National and State financial obligations for both years following the previously held State Convention.

Section 8. A separate ballot box shall be used by the Ladies and Men at the State Convention to cast votes for the next Convention site.

Section 9. (a) A quorum of a County Convention shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the duly elected Delegates in the County.

(b) The Delegates to the County Convention shall be the County Officers, elected and appointed and such other Delegates as may be provided for in the County By-Laws; the eight (8) elected Officers of each Division, (the President, or his designee, Vice President, or his designee, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, the Chairman of the Grievance Committee, Marshal and Sentinel), the Immediate Past County President, and National Officers who are residents of said County; and one (1) additional representative for each additional fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

ARTICLE XI

NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND INSTALLATIONS

Section 1. (a) All nominations of State Officers must be made during the afternoon session of the second day of the Convention. In the event of a contested election, the election of the State Officers shall be the last order of business of the Convention.

(b) All offices to be filled shall be voted upon at the same time. It is the duty of the State Secretary, after nominations are made, to prepare and have printed a ballot, containing the names of all nominees for office.

(c) The offices of the State President, or his designee, and Vice President, or his designee, will be nominated and elected biennially at a State Convention and no person elected to the office of President, or his designee, or Vice President, or his designee, shall serve in that office for more than two (2) consecutive terms or four (4) years.

(d) Immediately following the close of nominations for the duly elected State Offices, candidates shall entertain questions from the floor of the assembled Delegates, via an open forum, concerning their platforms and their views of the office being sought. The presiding officer, or his designee, shall recognize questions from the assembled Delegates, limited to five (5) minutes maximum per candidate.

Section 2. Division officers shall be nominated at the first regular meeting in November, and elected at the first regular meeting in December of each year, and must be installed before January 31st of each year. Tenure of office shall be one (1) or two (2) years, or until a successor has been duly elected and installed. All Division Presidents and Vice Presidents shall have received the Major Degrees of the Order prior to their nomination and election. A newly formed Division's President and Vice President shall obtain the Major Degrees of the Order at the earliest opportunity after election but within a maximum of two years. Where a County Board is in existence, the newly elected officers shall be installed by the County President, or his designee, or by his designee, an AOH officer of equal or higher jurisdiction.

Section 3. When there is more than one (1) candidate for an office in any Division, County or State, each candidate shall have the power to appoint one (1) teller to assist in receiving and counting the ballots.

Section 4. (a) No member shall become a candidate for Division Office unless he has been a member in good standing for a continuous period of six (6) months before election or appointment. All nominations for Division Office must be made at least one month prior to election. This shall not apply to vacancies, or the organization of new Divisions.

(b) In new Divisions, regular members, upon the payment of the required initiation fee, shall be entitled to hold all offices in the Order and vote on all matters.

Section 5. All elections for State, County and Division officers shall be decided by a plurality of votes cast under the Australian system of balloting

ARTICLE XII

INITIATIONS AND REINSTATEMENT FEES, DUES

Section 1. (a) An application shall be accompanied by the initiation fee as specified in the National Constitution. If the applicant is denied admission, his initiation fee shall be returned.
(b) Reinstatement Fee: A reinstatement fee is not to be less than Five Dollars ($5.00). The sum of One Dollar ($1.00) shall be forwarded to the National Secretary; One Dollar ($1.00) to the State Secretary and One Dollar ($1.00) to the County Secretary, the balance to be retained by the Division.

Section 2. (a) The State Officers are authorized to levy per capita assessments on each member the first of each year for the legitimate use of the Order throughout the State, the

amount of said assessment to be fixed by the State Convention. All membership forms and payments for the previous calendar year will be filled with the State Secretary, no later than March 31st of the next calendar year. Divisions not submitting their per capita taxes by March 31st will be assessed a late fee of 50-cents (.50) per member. The penalty will be assessed on dues paying members only. Postmarks will be used to ascertain date received. The State per capita assessment shall be Two Dollars ($2.00) and paid to the State Secretary on or before March 31st of each year. Ninety (90) days prior to the State Convention, the State Secretary shall notify the appropriate County Presidents in the State of any indebtedness in their jurisdiction. These assessments must be paid at least thirty (30) days before the date of the State Convention or the representative of a County/Division that is delinquent shall not be admitted.

(b) Newly organized Divisions shall pay to the State an assessment of Fifty (50) percent of the assessment payable to the National Board.

(c) The Dues (Travel) card will be withheld on National, State and County levels from Divisions that are not in good standing.

Section 3. The State Treasurer will create and maintain an Organizers' account for the sole purpose of assisting the State Board and its Organizer in related activities. The 1st fifty cents (.50) of every members' yearly assessment would be transferred to a separate Organizer account, maintained by the State Treasurer and supervised by the State President, or his designee. All monies will be accounted for and are to be used for travel, publication and advertisement for the sole purpose of maintaining and increasing membership.

ARTICLE XIII

REPORTS AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1. If any member of the Division moves from one locality to another, he shall notify the Financial Secretary of his change of address. The Financial Secretary will report to the National Secretary all initiations, resignations, deaths, transfers, expulsions, suspensions, change of address, etc. on Change of Status forms or other approved forms in compliance with the National Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV

BONDS

Section 1. All County and Division Officers handling the funds or securities of the Order shall comply with the provisions of the "ARTICLES on BONDS" in the National Constitution.

ARTICLE XV

IMPROPER CONDUCT AND PENALTIES

Section 1. Any Officer or member having in his custody or control, paraphernalia, money, books, vouchers, receipts, warrants, or other papers or goods that are the property of the Division or Order, and who, after written demand has been made therefore, shall refuse, or neglect to deliver the same to any legally constituted officer or committee or member authorized to examine or take charge of the same, shall upon conviction before the proper tribunal, be expelled from the Order.

Any officer or member guilty of fraud, or aiding and abetting in the same, at the State, County, or Division election, shall upon conviction, before a proper tribunal, be expelled from the Order. He shall only be readmitted by a majority vote of the appropriate officers; Division, County, State or National.

The same punishment shall apply to any officer or member whose duty it is to secure the official ballots for any election and who allows any of said ballots to be distributed to any person prior to the election.

Section 2. (a) Any Division Secretary failing to make returns to the proper officers in the time prescribed in the National Constitution, State or County by-laws shall be fined Ten Dollars ($10.00) for the first offense. For failure to comply within ten (10) days from the date of the second notice, he shall be suspended until the order is complied with and the fine paid.

(b) Any member found guilty, after due trial, of destroying Division property shall be fined Fifty Dollars ($50.00) and shall pay restitution. He shall also be liable for any cost(s), which are incurred by the State, County, or Division.

Section 3. Any Division may be suspended or dissolved after such Division has been notified of the offense, and a proper trial at which the following charges were substantiated:

1. Improper conduct of a grievous nature
2. Neglecting or refusing to conform to the rituals, laws, ceremonies, enactments, or resolutions of the National Constitution, State or County By-Laws.
3. For neglecting or refusing to make returns or for non-payment of dues or assessments to the National, State or County Boards.
4. For neglecting without proper authorization, to hold regular meetings unless due to unforeseen circumstances.

ARTICLE XVI

BY-LAWS

Section 1. (a) The State Secretary shall immediately upon receipt of the completed By-Laws, forward to each Division President, or his designee, a completed copy. A Division may order the number of copies they desire; the price of said By-Laws to be the cost of printing plus postage.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Division President, or his designee, upon the receipt of the by-laws, to see that every member of his Division who desires a copy gets one.

Section 2. All Divisions in Pennsylvania must receive one (1) copy of the State by-laws, at State Board, and also receive updated Rituals. Additional copies of the by-laws shall be at Division expense.

Section 3. Every Division must have a copy of its By-Laws submitted to the County Board (where one exists), with revisions by February 15th. Every Division and County Board must have a copy of their Bylaws, with revisions, submitted to the State Board Secretary by February 15th.

ARTICLE XVII

RITUAL

Section 1. The secret work of the Order governing all initiations, installations, ceremonies and procedure, shall conform to the ritual and rules furnished and prescribed therefore by the National Constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII

HOLIDAYS OF THE ORDER

Section 1. A day in August to honor Our Lady of Knock –Queen of Ireland; St. Patrick's Day; the Fourth of July; Commodore John Barry Day, September 13th, and Founder's Day, May 6th; are the National Holidays of the Order, and they shall be celebrated in the manner the County Board shall direct. Failure or refusal on the part of any Division within the jurisdiction to do so shall be punishable by the infliction of such penalty as the County Board may direct.

ARTICLE XIX

GENERAL RULES

Section 1. All printing done for the State, County and Divisions must have a union label.

Section 2. State, County and Division officers are prohibited from sending out any circulars, letters or advertising matter of any kind and using their official titles as such to advocate, advance or endorse the candidacy of a member who is a candidate or aspirant for any offices within the Order or as a delegate to any Convention. The penalty is loss of office.

ARTICLE XX

AMENDMENTS

APPROVED BY NICHOLAS MURPHY, A.O.H. NATIONAL PRESIDENT, 4/14/88

APPROVED BY EDWARD J. WALLACE, A.O.H NATIONAL PRESIDENT, 4/18/95.

Approved by National President Thomas Gilligan July 22, 2000 at Baltimore, MD.

Approved by National President Thomas Gilligan, July 21, 2001 at Bethlehem, Pa.

Approved by National President Ned McGinley, July 19, 2003 at Mount Pocono, Pa.

Approved by National President John J. Meehan, July 27, 2007 at Harrisburg, Pa.

2009 Constitution Committee

Kevin D. Donohue – Chairman	Allegheny County, Division #23
Rev. Thomas M. O' Donnell	Allegheny County, Division #23
John J. McEvoy	Allegheny County, Division #9
Dennis P. Gaw	Montgomery County, Division #2
Dennis Donnelly	Allegheny County, Division #32
James Green	Allegheny County, Division #1
Thomas M. Coughlin, Jr.	Montgomery County, Division #4
Gerald P. Ennis	Philadelphia County, Division #39
Edward Halligan	Montgomery County, Division #2
Daniel Devinney	Allegheny County, Division #23