

Withlacoochee Lodge By-Laws

Approved: November 8, 2013

These bylaws are being set forth to govern the administration of Withlacoochee Lodge, Order of the Arrow, and its chapters, if any. These bylaws are in no way intended to replace, alter, or abridge the rules, regulations, or policies established by the Boy Scouts of America and the National Order of the Arrow Committee.

Article I – Name, Affiliation, and Purpose

- A. The Name of this Lodge of the Order of the Arrow shall be Withlacoochee Lodge, hereinafter referred to as “the Lodge.” The name “Withlacoochee” refers to the Withlacoochee River, which runs throughout the geographic region encompassed by the South Georgia Council. Withlacoochee translates as “Little Big Water” in the Muscogee Creek language. The word *Withlacoochee* originated from the Muskogean Native American dialect “we (water) thlaks (big) and chee (little) or little big river” which means “little river”.
- B. In order to signify the deep biological significance that it plays with in the South Georgia region, the Lodge Totem of Withlacoochee Lodge shall be the Gopher Tortoise.
- C. The Lodge shall be affiliated with the South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America #98, headquartered in Valdosta, Georgia. The Lodge shall be under the administrative authority of the Scout Executive. The Lodge shall operate under the leadership of the Lodge Chief (youth) and Lodge Adviser (adult); and the administrative authority of the Council Scout Executive (Supreme Chief of the Fire). The Council Scout Executive may delegate administrative authority for the Lodge to the Lodge Staff Adviser (adult). The Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, and Lodge Staff Adviser shall be referred to as the “Key 3”.
- D. The mission of Withlacoochee Lodge, Order of the Arrow, is to achieve the purpose of the Order of the Arrow as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America in the South Georgia Council, through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults.
- E. If any Article of these Bylaws is or becomes in conflict with the National Policies of the Order of the Arrow or the Boy Scouts of America, the National Policies supersede the Articles of these Bylaws.

Article II – Organization

- A. The elected officers of this Lodge shall be: Lodge Chief, Lodge Vice-Chief of Programs, Lodge Vice-Chief of Administration, Lodge Secretary and Lodge Treasurer.

B. Officer Eligibility Requirements:

1. Arrowmen desiring to serve as a Lodge Officer must meet the mandatory eligibility requirements as stated in the current printing of the *Order of the Arrow Guider for Officers and Advisers* as follows:
 - a. Be currently registered in Scouting, in the council that charters the lodge.
 - b. Be a member in good standing in the lodge.
 - c. Be younger than 21 for the entire term of office.
2. All nominees shall have the willingness to fulfill the duties of the position. No experience is necessary.
3. All nominees must agree to attend the next Lodge Leadership Development course near the start of their term of service and consider attending the next available National Leadership Seminar.
4. All candidates must meet individually with the Lodge Adviser and Lodge Staff Adviser prior to nomination to ensure he meets the eligibility requirements and discuss responsibilities and expectations of that office. The candidate must get the approval of the Lodge Adviser in order to run for office.
5. Candidates should have held a conference with their Unit Leader to discuss the duties and obligations of the Arrowman to their unit and the duties and responsibilities of the Lodge Office and review potential conflicts as well as benefits to the unit.

C. Chapters are integral portions of the Lodge program necessary to carry out lodge policies and make progress in achieving the mission of the Order of the Arrow on the District Level.

1. This Lodge, shall have chapters that correspond to the district lines of the South Georgia Council. As district lines change as districts realign, the chapter lines will automatically be realigned with the respective lines.
2. Chapters may change the name of their chapter by a vote of its members. The name preferably would be from a local Native American origination and must be approved by the Lodge Adviser, Staff Adviser and the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC)
3. Unit and District registration shall determine membership of a Chapter. In the event that a member is only registered on the Council level, the Arrowman shall be a member of the Chapter that corresponds with the District of his residence.

4. Each Chapter shall be led by a Chapter Chief (youth) under the guidance of a Chapter Adviser (adult) working with a District Executive serving as the Staff Adviser for that chapter.
 5. Chapters may have a Chapter Executive Committee with an Officer and Committee structure similar to the Lodge Executive Committee. Elections, rules, and procedures shall follow in the same manner as the Lodge and these Bylaws.
- D. The Lodge Operating Year shall be the calendar year. This period shall serve as the term of service for Lodge Officers and voting Lodge Executive Committee Members.

Article III – Membership

- A. Active membership of this Lodge shall constitute all members of the Order of the Arrow registered with the South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America who have kept their annual dues at current status. (Exception is granted for retired Professional Scouters who maintain their BSA registration with the National, Council although lodge dues need to be kept current).
- B. The mandatory requirements for membership in this Lodge are as stated in the current edition of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*.
- C. Election of Youth
1. It is mandatory that units may hold only one election per year and a Scout may run in only one election per year. The primary election period will be determined by the LEC upon the recommendation of the Lodge Inductions Chairman. The Lodge Election period will normally begin in September, and end before October 31st. The Lodge Chief will ensure unit leaders are notified of the election period. Units wanting to hold an election in another time of the year may apply to the Lodge Chief, through the Inductions Chairman, for permission to hold the election during another period.
 2. The Lodge Inductions Chairman, in coordination with the Chapter Chiefs, shall contact unit leadership to schedule Unit elections and offer assistance in conducting the election for all Units in their Chapter. The Chapters will develop the election teams to conduct the elections in their area.

3. National policy mandates that unit elections shall be conducted in accordance with the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*. The procedures and scripts may be found in *Guide to Inductions*. Where a difference in policy is found between *Guide to Inductions* and *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*, the *Guide for Officers and Advisers* is the definitive document.
4. Election teams must review the most recent editions of the above publications, which can be found on the National Order of the Arrow website. <http://www.oa-bsa.org>. The publications can be found by following the links found under the Publications link.

D. Selection of Adults

1. The mandatory criteria for selection of adults in units and at district and council levels can be found in the same section of the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers* where the youth criteria is found.
2. Election teams must review the adult criteria as well, noting the procedures for selecting district and council registered adults.

E. The current Lodge program calendar contains three weekend events in the program year, a fall ordeal, a spring fellowship and a summer fellowship. Ordeals are normally scheduled in the fall and spring events. The fall event is the primary Ordeal induction event and the spring event offers a second opportunity for those unable to make the fall event. As mandated in the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers* candidates who have not taken their Ordeal within one year will be dropped from the candidate list and must go through the election process again to be considered.

F. As mandated in the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*, there are no honorary memberships, no lifetime memberships and no Posthumous selections.

G. Inductions of Ordeal members of the Lodge is mandated to be in accordance of the requirements in the current printing of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers* as amended by any subsequent *Operations Updates*.

H. Completion of the Brotherhood and attainment of the Vigil Honor is mandated to be in accordance with the requirements in the current printing of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers* as amended by any subsequent *Operations Updates*.

- I. As stated in the *Order of the Arrow Handbook*, members may be dues paying (and voting in the case of youth) members of only one lodge, that being the lodge where they reside and have their principal scouting registration. Members may only wear the lodge pocket flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.
- J. As stated in the *Order of the Arrow Handbook*, Arrowmen with extended residence away from their normal home, such as college students living away from home, or members of the military, may maintain their Order of the Arrow membership in either place but not both. The Arrowmen must maintain BSA membership in the council where they desire to maintain lodge membership.
- K. Arrowmen who fail to maintain current dues within the lodge or fail to maintain current BSA registration within the council are not considered active members and may not attend events nor wear lodge insignia. Members who become inactive may resume active membership by resuming BSA registration within the council and/or paying current dues plus any late fees as determined by the LEC. Arrowmen who do not maintain current dues paying status, but do maintain current BSA registration within the council may wear only the Universal Ribbon to indicate Order of the Arrow membership.
- L. An arrowman who attained membership in another Lodge may become a member of this Lodge by registering with the South Georgia Council and paying the current years dues. Membership in any other Lodge must be terminated. Proof of Honor may be provided by a membership card, letter from the former Lodge or discussion with the Lodge Adviser and/or Associate Lodge Advisers.

Article IV - Publications

- A. An official Lodge newsletter, "Tortoise Tales", shall be prepared and distributed at least 4 times a year by the Lodge Executive Committee to the general membership. Special cases for hard copy may be addressed individually by the Lodge Executive Committee.
- B. Special publications may be prepared and published as deemed necessary by the Lodge Executive Committee for purposes of new dissemination, events promotion, or any other purpose.
- C. A Lodge website as well as other social media forums (such as Facebook), if utilized, shall follow all protocols established by BSA and National Order of the Arrow policies.

- D. The Lodge Communications Committee Chair shall be directly responsible for the management of all publications of the Lodge and shall work with the Lodge Secretary in order to submit all official lodge publications in a timely manner.

Article V – Officers, Committees, and Advisors

- A. The regular election of Lodge officers shall follow the procedures set forth in the lodge officer election rules in Article XV.
- B. In accordance with Article II, officers shall be elected during the fall term by the active membership of the Lodge and will assume that office on January 1 and will end their term of office on December 31 of the same year.
 - a. The duties shall be as outlined in the latest edition of the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisors* and the *Withlacoochee Lodge Officer Operating Guide*.
 - b. In case of the long term absence of a Lodge officer, (i.e. resignation, unexcused absence, dismissal from duties, accepting a term of service as a section or national officer, etc.) the Chief will assign his duties to another member, pending approval of a replacement by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Lodge Executive Committee.
 - c. In the event the office of Chief is vacated, the Vice-Chief of Administration will assume the Chief's duties and responsibilities, pending the approval of the Scout Executive, Staff Adviser, and Lodge Adviser (hereinafter referred to as the "Key 3").
 - d. The succession of leadership shall be Chief, Vice-Chief of Administration, Vice-Chief of Program, Lodge Secretary, and Lodge Treasurer. In case of the absence of all these officers, the Lodge Adviser will appoint a Chairman Pro tempore from the youth membership.
- C. The Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) shall be composed the five elected Lodge Officers, the Immediate-Past Chief, Chapter Chiefs and the Lodge's Standing Committee Chairmen. The Lodge Adviser and Associate Advisers, Chapter Advisers, Staff Adviser and Council and District Scout Executives are members of the Lodge Executive Committee, but shall have no vote in the Lodge.
- D. The Standing Operating Committees of this Lodge shall be determined by the LEC to meet functional requirements. The minimum standing committees shall be Finance, Inductions and Communications.
 - a. The positions of Ordeal Master, Brotherhood Master, and Chiefs of Camp will be under the authority of the Inductions Committee.

- b. Events shall be organized by a special committee specific to said event, with a youth chairman and adult adviser who shall report to the Vice-Chief of Programs.
 - c. All training functions carried out by the Lodge (Elangomat Training, LLD, Training the Trainer, etc.) shall fall under the authority of the Vice Chief of Programs or a designated Committee under his authority.
 - d. The Lodge newsletter, website, and other publications will be under the authority of the Publications Committee.
 - e. While direct responsibility for performance of the Communications Committee falls directly upon the Vice-Chief of Administration, the Lodge Secretary will be responsible for ensuring the successes of the Communications Committee and shall serve as a member of said committee.
 - f. Fundraising, financial reports, and budgeting will be under the authority of the Finance Committee and in accordance with the *Order of The Arrow Lodge Finance Manual* is chaired by the Lodge Treasurer.
 - g. Committee Chairmen of special committees may be nominated by either Vice-Chief. Responsibility for the performance of these special committees shall fall under the responsibility of the nominating vice-chief.
 - h. The Vigil Selection committee is a recurring special committee. The committee is mandated to be appointed in accordance with *The Order of The Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*. The committee must be appointed in a timely manner to select the Vigil Nominees, gather the information needed to prepare the Vigil Honor Nomination and forward it to the signers in time to meet the selected date of induction.
- E. Appointments for chair of all committees shall be made by the Lodge Chief in discussion with the Vice Chiefs and Lodge Adviser, and approved by the LEC.
- F. The Vice-Chief of Programs shall oversee all aspects of the program area as well as providing communication with the Chapter Chiefs. In the absence of a representative of a chapter at an LEC, the Vice-Chief of Program shall provide the report for that Chapter. The Vice-Chief of Programs shall set up and supervise committees as necessary with the approval of the LEC to properly administer the program area.
- G. The Vice-Chief of Administration shall oversee the work of the Finance, Communications and Inductions Committees. The Vigil Selection Committees is a special committee under the Induction Committee.
- H. All committee advisers shall be appointed by the Lodge Adviser in consultation with the Lodge Staff Adviser and Supreme Chief of the Fire.

- I. All standing committee chairmen and advisers will have a term of office of one calendar year, with the exception of those that fill in an expired term. Special committee chairmen and advisers terms shall end with the completion of the event or process.
- J. The Lodge Chief shall create special committees he believes are necessary with approval from the Lodge Executive Committee.
 - a. Chairmen of these committees will be appointed by a Lodge Chief at the next regularly scheduled Lodge Executive Committee Meeting.
 - b. All chairmen must be under 21 years of age during time of office.
- K. Any member of the Lodge Executive Committee who fails to discharge his responsibility may be replaced by a recommendation of any member of the LEC and an accompanying two-thirds vote of the LEC.
 - a. The member who is put up for replacement must be mailed a letter and called informing him of the committee's decision one month prior to the vote of the committee to replace him.
 - b. He will be given the chance to explain his actions to the Lodge Executive Committee before the committees' vote.
 - c. All officers must attend at least 70% of all meetings and functions unless excused by chief or vice-chief of administration.
 - d. If any officer fails to attend these meetings, he will be subject to replacement.
- L. The Scout Executive in consultation with the Lodge Staff Adviser shall appoint the Lodge Adviser.
- M. The Lodge Adviser, in consultation with the Scout Executive and Lodge Staff Adviser can appoint Associate Lodge Advisers as needed.
- N. The Lodge Adviser, in consultation with the Scout Executive and Lodge Staff Adviser shall appoint advisers to all Chapters created.
- O. Chapter officers shall be subject to the same responsibilities as Lodge officers, and if they cannot meet their expectations, they may be subject to the same process as outlined in Article V, Section K.
- P. Chapter youth will elect a Chapter Chief and Chapter Vice-Chief to guide Chapter program. These two elected officers will serve as the official representatives of the

Chapter. Other officers may be elected or appointed as the need arises. The requirements for these positions shall be the same as regular Lodge offices.

Article VI – Meetings & Functions

- A. The Lodge may schedule up to four (4) events per year plus a Winter Banquet. The Lodge Executive Committee must approve the calendar.
- B. The Lodge Executive Committee will meet as needed and scheduled.
 - a. Official meetings of the Lodge Executive Committee shall be scheduled at least 14 days in advance of the meeting date and all Committee members shall be notified of the date upon its scheduling.
 - b. Emergency meeting may be scheduled by the Lodge Key 3 in order to fulfill dire need, but do not count towards the 70% attendance total required of Lodge officers.
- C. Dates of events shall be planned well in advance by the Lodge Chief, Vice Chief of Program, Lodge Adviser, Staff Adviser, and Scout Executive. The Lodge calendar must be coordinated with the Council Annual Program Calendar.
- D. All LEC meetings are open to the general Lodge membership; however, only elected Lodge officers or voting representatives are allowed to vote on issues presented in meetings.
- E. All meetings of the general Lodge and the LEC shall be opened with the Obligation and closed with the song of the Order of the Arrow.
- F. Members of the Order over 21 years of age shall have no vote in any decision of the Lodge Executive Committee or in any lodge election.
- G. One half of the voting members of the LEC shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII – Patches and Insignia

- A. In accordance with National Policy, there shall be one honor flap with a single color border. Members will be able to purchase as many honor flaps as they desire; after all other obligations of the Lodge to new and current members are met, subject to availability.
 - a. Restrictions to availability of flaps prior to the ordeal ceremony will be one per dues current member.
 - b. After the ordeal ceremony, the availability will be first come, first serve.

- B. Lodge insignia shall be approved by the LEC prior to production or sale.
- C. The Lodge Executive Committee may from time to time authorize the issuance of new Lodge insignia and other paraphernalia. Only the Lodge, through the Lodge Executive Committee can authorize the issuance of official: Lodge flaps, event patches, neckerchiefs t-shirts or any other Lodge insignia or paraphernalia.
- D. All Lodge flap patches and other Lodge insignia and/or paraphernalia shall be worn in accordance with National Order of the Arrow guidelines and the latest edition of the BSA Insignia Guide.
- E. Orders of the Arrow sashes are to be worn and kept in accordance with National Order of the Arrow guidelines.

Article VIII – Membership, Status, Dues, and Fees

- A. All Order of the Arrow funds shall be handled through the Council Office and go through all normal South Georgia Council accounting procedures.
- B. The Key 3, Lodge Treasurer, and Lodge Treasurer Adviser shall prepare the Lodge annual budget and present it at the first LEC meeting of the calendar year for majority approval.
- C. The majority of the LEC and the Lodge Adviser must approve all non-recurring purchases, expenses, or reimbursements over the amount of \$100. Recurring expenses are expenses related to food and supplies for events, supplies for inductions, Section and National event fee submissions and web-site hosting and support fees. These fees will be reviewed and reported as part of the financial report presented at each LEC.
- D. Neither the Council Scout Executive nor any Council professional has authority to approve the use of Lodge funds without the prior approval of the majority of the LEC and Lodge Adviser.
- E. Annual dues in the Lodge shall be collected by the Lodge treasurer or other authorized members of the Lodge Executive Committee and Council in the amount determined by the LEC to be deposited immediately in the lodge treasury through the council office.
 - a. All dues collected will be receipted either by the Service Center, use of a Field Receipt Book or other acceptable record. Dues can be paid either in person or by mail to the council office. Dues collected at events will be receipted and tracked when submitted to the Service Center.
 - b. Notices shall be sent to delinquent members during the first and second quarter.

- F. If dues are not paid by Dec 31st, the delinquent member will be dropped from the active member list.
- G. Membership cards are to be distributed by the Lodge Secretary, as decided by the Lodge Executive Committee.
- H. Inactive members may be restored to active status by complying with current dues procedure as set forth on page 20 in the *Withlacoochee Lodge Officer Operating Guide*.
 - a. Inactive members are defined as members with dues not paid by Dec 31st.
- I. All people who transfer into the Lodge must register in a unit in the South Georgia Council, pay dues, and fill out a membership record form.
- J. There shall be an induction fee payable at the time of induction. The Lodge Executive Committee shall determine this fee.
- K. All OA funds shall be handled by the council office and go through the accounting procedures used by the council.

Article X – Ordeal Membership

- A. The procedure for the Ordeal shall be in accordance with the requirements in the current printing of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*.
- B. For the Ordeal fee, each Ordeal member will receive:
 - 1. A membership card showing dues paid for remainder of calendar year if inducted during the Spring Ordeal or a card showing dues paid through the following year if inducted during the Fall Ordeal or later.
 - 2. An Ordeal sash.
 - 3. An Order of the Arrow Handbook.
 - 4. Sustenance for the Ordeal period.
 - 5. Membership Guide.
 - 6. Lodge honor flap.

Article XI – Brotherhood Membership

- A. Notices will be sent by the Lodge Secretary to all Ordeal members informing them when they are eligible for Brotherhood membership.
- B. Completion of Brotherhood membership shall be in accordance with the requirements in the current printing of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and the *Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisers*.
- C. Ceremonies for Brotherhood membership shall be conducted at any functions as needed.

Article XII – Vigil Membership

- A. Attainment of the Vigil Honor shall be in accordance with the latest edition of the *Order of the Arrow Handbook* and *Order of the Arrow Guide to Inductions*.
- B. The Vigil Selection date will be a minimum of 30 days before the Vigil date. The Vigil Selection Committee will meet as needed before that date.
- C. The Vigil Selection committee shall be comprised of members of the Lodge of varying degrees of membership, none of whom are eligible for the honor. The chair of the vigil selection committee shall be a senior youth Vigil Honor recipient.

Article XIII – Special Awards

- A. In order to recognize years of above and beyond contributions to the lodge, the Founder's Award will be awarded in accordance with National Order of the Arrow policy. (Number of awards based on membership)
 - a. The committee will be composed of 3 youth and 2 adult members chosen by the Lodge Staff Adviser or other individual appointed by the Scout Executive in consultation with the Lodge Chief.
 - b. The selection committee will need to have all Founder's Award petitions filled out and in the Council Service Center for processing no later than 30 days prior to the date of the Founder's Award presentation.
- B. Special awards created to recognize exemplary service in a specific area can be presented with the approval of the Lodge Key 3 at the lodge's annual banquet.

Article XIV – Parliamentary Authority Amendment to Rules

- A. The rules contained in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the lodge in all cases where they are not inconsistent with these rules and any special rule of order the lodge may adopt.

- B. The rules contained in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all chapters of this lodge in all cases where they are not inconsistent with these rules and any special rule of order the chapter may adopt.
- C. The Lodge Chief may appoint a youth member knowledgeable in parliamentary procedures to act as parliamentarian if deemed necessary. This non-voting appointment is to be for the lodge year.
- D. Minutes of lodge business meetings, prepared by the Lodge Secretary, shall be published in the next available lodge newsletter to inform the Lodge membership.

Article XV – Lodge Officer Elections

- A. The term of elected Office shall be for one (1) year, effective January 1st.
- B. A candidate for office must meet the following requirements:
 - 1. Must have been inducted or transferred into Withlacoochee Lodge at least six months prior to the election date.
 - 2. May not be elected to or hold more than one (1) office at a time.
 - 3. Must have dues paid for the current year.
 - 4. Must not reach his 21st birthday during the scheduled term of office
 - 5. Must be currently registered with a unit that is chartered by The South Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America.
 - 6. Must present himself at the scheduled candidates' meeting unless he makes specific prior arrangements with the Lodge Chief and/or Lodge Adviser. The candidate may have one person of their choosing with him during the interview. The person can be anyone of the candidate's choosing as long as they are not also a candidate.
 - 7. Must be determined eligible by the Lodge Adviser.
 - 8. Must provide a letter from his unit leader indicating that a Scoutmaster's Conference has been held to discuss the Scouts role within the unit and how that responsibility will be met during the term of office. Further, that the Candidate has the approval of the unit leader to run for office.
 - 9. Candidate acknowledges one of the responsibilities of all Officer positions is to meet with the Lodge Executive Committee at all regularly scheduled meetings.

- C. All dues paid members who have not reached their 21st birthday by the day of the election and are registered for the Lodge weekend are entitled to vote. No absentee ballots or proxies are permitted. The Lodge Secretary is responsible to provide the supervisor of elections with an accurate list of eligible voters. The election for each office is to be held separately. The results will be announced before the next election will begin.
- D. A candidate may run for any office. If he is defeated, he may run for another office of his choice.
- E. Campaign promotional material is limited to a single poster board. The poster board itself may be science fair project style (with folding sides) or may be just plain poster board and may contain as much information or pictures as the candidate wishes on one side of the board only. There will be no other campaign material by the candidate or on his behalf. All poster boards will be displayed together in a designated location after weekend registration has begun.
- F. A candidate may be disqualified, upon the approval of the Lodge Key 3, for violations of the election procedure or for conduct that is not keeping with the highest traditions of The Boy Scouts of America; The Scout Oath, Scout Law and Obligation of our order will serve as a standard of judgment. A candidate may be held responsible for actions on his behalf.
- G. The Lodge Chief runs the Lodge Officer nomination and election procedures in conjunction with the Lodge Adviser. In the event that the Lodge Chief is running for re-election, the order of succession (Article VI) takes into effect and the highest Lodge Officer not running for any position runs the nomination and election procedure in conjunction with the Lodge Adviser.
- H. At the time of the Annual Lodge Business Meeting where the Lodge elections occur, the candidates will be expected to be nominated by another youth member of the Lodge. The Nominator will be allowed to speak for two minutes on behalf of The Candidate. Once the floor has been closed for nominations, all candidates may speak for up to two minutes if they so choose.
- I. Neither the current Lodge Chief or Supervisor of the Election, nor any adult may nominate, speak for, or in any way publicly endorse any candidate.
- J. The Candidate that receives greater than 50% plus one vote is elected. Unintelligible ballots are not counted.
- K. If no candidate receives greater than 50% of the votes for an office, a second election will be held immediately between the two candidates who received the highest amount of votes. If the second vote results in a tie, the determination of which of the tied candidates will serve in the office is made by the Lodge Executive Committee, before the new officers are installed, and will require a majority vote of said body.

- L. Unopposed candidates must receive greater than 50% of all votes.
- M. In the event of a tie vote, there will be one additional ballot to break the tie. Before the ballot is given, the tied candidates will each be given an additional two minutes to speak on their behalf, if they so wish. If the second ballot results in a tie, the determination of which of the tied candidates will serve in the office is made by the Lodge Executive Committee, before the new officers are installed, and will require a majority vote of said body.
- N. The Lodge Chief may never be chosen by the Lodge Executive Committee and must be the result of a whole Lodge vote.
- O. If no candidates run for an office, the newly elected Lodge Chief will appoint a lodge member who meets the candidate eligibility requirements to that office. The Lodge Executive Committee must approve appointments of elected officers.
- P. After counting, the ballots will be held by the Staff Adviser for a period of thirty days. Any Lodge member, with the approval of the Lodge Chief, may review the ballots during this period.
- Q. New Lodge Officers shall take office on 1 January of the next calendar year.
- R. Chapter elections, if any, shall take place immediately following the last regularly scheduled chapter meeting of the year.

Article XV – Amendment to Rules

- A. These by-laws shall be subject to amendment at any regular or special meeting of this Lodge provided such an amendment has been submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least one month prior to such meeting and it passes said meeting.
- B. Due notice must be sent to all active members at least ten days prior to the Lodge meeting informing them of the rule amendments to be voted on.
- C. A two-thirds vote of the youth members present shall be required for any change to be enacted.