

**BYLAWS
of the South Central Conference
of York Rite Masons**

ARTICLE I

Name

The Name of the Organization is the South Central Conference of York Rite Masons

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of the Conference is to promote York Rite Masonry in the South Central Region Department, and to provide a center for exchange of ideas and discussions on topics affecting York Rite Masonry.

ARTICLE III

Members

The members of the South Central Conference are the Dais Officers of the Grand Chapters, Grand Councils, and Grand Commanderies in the six state region that makes up the South Central Region/Department. These states are: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. All York Rite Masons in the Region/Department are welcome to attend and participate.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Trustees

The Officers of the Conference are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

The President of the Conference shall be elected from the Host Jurisdiction for the next Conference Meeting. He shall be responsible for Accommodations, Meeting Space and Meals. He shall also be responsible for 1 or 2 speakers on topics related to Masonry or York Rite Masonry.

The 1st Vice President shall be elected from the host Jurisdiction of the next following Conference Meeting, and shall be included in all planning and negotiations so that he will be able to plan the next following conference.

The 2nd Vice President shall be elected from the Jurisdiction for the yet following Conference Meeting, and shall be included in all planning and negotiations, so that he will be able to plan his own Conference.

In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of President, 1st Vice-President or 2nd Vice-President, the vacated position shall be filled by a Companion and Sir Knight who resides in the jurisdiction of the vacated office. A majority vote of the Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master and the Grand Commander within the jurisdiction of the vacated office shall be necessary for selection. The Grand Secretary/Recorder of said jurisdiction shall immediately notify the other conference officers and the Secretary/Recorder of the Department Conference in writing of the selection. *(Added September 16, 2022)*

Should a vacancy occur in the offices of Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer, it shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining officers of the Department Conference. The President of the Conference shall notify the Grand Secretary/Recorders of the Conference of the selection in writing. *(Added September 16, 2022)*

The newly selected officers shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Conference. Selection shall not be a bar from re-election. *(Added September 16, 2022)*

The Secretary shall be elected at large from the Region/Department, and shall keep a record of the attendees, and business of the Conference, and collect the dues from each jurisdiction. He shall make a report of the activities of his office at each Conference Meeting. He shall also produce a printed copy of the Proceedings of the Conference.

The Treasurer shall keep track of all deposits of dues for the Conference, and any other deposits made for the Conference, and all accounts paid on behalf of the Conference, and shall present a Treasurer's Report at each Conference Meeting.

In addition to the officers, there shall be elected 3 Trustees to act as advisers to the officers and committees, and perform whatever other duties they are tasked with.

Trustees shall be elected at large and serve staggered terms of office, 3 years, 2 years, and 1 year with one individual elected to a 3 year term at each successive Department Conference. Any vacancy during the term shall be filled by appointment by the jurisdiction in which the Trustee resided. The individual who has completed a 3 year term or completed the term of another shall not be barred from election/re-election.

ARTICLE V

Meetings

The Conference shall meet once a year at a location decided on by the President and the Host Jurisdiction. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Department meeting of the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA. The Conference normally meets on Friday, with the Department Meeting on Saturday. The Conference should

also invite the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Intl. and General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, Intl. to attend and participate. This meeting has generally been in September.

The Conference shall rotate around the Region/Department in alphabetical order. The order shall be as follows, for the first round:

Arkansas
Kansas
Louisiana
Missouri
Oklahoma
Texas

(Amended September 17, 2021 to remove dates)

ARTICLE VI

Committees

The President is authorized to appoint whatever committees he feels are necessary for the planning and running of the Conference. Some examples of Committees are: Housing/Accommodations, Transportation, Hospitality Room. These committees should be chosen from members of the Host Jurisdiction, and serve at the President's will and pleasure.

There shall also be a Program Committee consisting of a member appointed by the President from the Host Jurisdiction, and Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest, the Regional Deputy General Grand Master and the Department Commander. They shall work together to set the program for the Conference. Any speakers should have their talks prepared in advance to be handed out to the audience.

ARTICLE VII

Finance

The Conference shall be financed by a Registration Fee determined by the Host State with \$10.00 per member attending the Conference meeting to be paid to the Conference.
(Amended September 20, 2019 to include, "determined by the Host State with" and "to be paid to the Conference")

Member States hosting the South Central Conference Meeting may be provided a loan from the South Central Conference finances to be utilized as advance money for hotel meals and other costs associated with the Conference Meeting. This loan shall be repaid to the South Central Conference by the Host State upon collection of fees and dues paid by the members attending the Conference Meeting.

(Added September 17, 2021)

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by the Members of the Conference attending the Conference Meeting, by a simple majority of those voting, provided that the amendment is submitted in writing before the vote.

These Bylaws were originally adopted September 14, 2018.

Amended September 20, 2019.

Amended September 17, 2021.

Additional paragraph added to ARTICLE VII September 17, 2021

Additional paragraphs added to ARTICLE IV September 16, 2022

Paragraph 11 added to ARTIVLE IV September 15, 2023