



Tampa Lodge No. 27
6912 N. Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33604
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CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
TAMPA LODGE NO. 27

Revised: September 2006

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

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CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

"EQUAL RIGHTS" NOTE

Wherever, in these Constitution and By-Laws, a "man", "men" or related pronouns appear, either as words or as parts of words (other than with obvious reference to named male individuals), they have been used for literary proposes and are meant in their generic sense (i.e., to include all humankind - both female and male sexes).

TAMPA LODGE NO. 27, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We the police officers of the United States and of the several states and political subdivisions thereof, and all in particular as representatives of Tampa Lodge No. 27 of Tampa, Florida, and vicinity, do hereby associate our efforts with the State and National Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police in the furtherance of its aims and purposes:

To support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Florida; to inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the United States of America; to promote and foster the impartial enforcement of law and order; to improve the individual proficiency of our members in the performance of our duties; to encourage social and educational activities among all law enforcement officers; to create a tradition of esprit de corps insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our membership and the people we serve to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession and thus more firmly establish the confidence of the public in the service that is dedicated to the protection of life and property.

The Fraternal Order of Police of Tampa Florida is an organization for law enforcement officers actively engaged in law enforcement, or retired there from, for state, city, county, town or municipality (or any federal agency within the boundaries of the State of Florida and working within the State.)

ARTICLE I - Name

This organization shall be known as "Tampa Lodge No. 27", a subordinate Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, and was constituted May 7, 1955, under charter granted by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. When the word "Lodge" is used in the Constitution and By-Laws it is meant to be Tampa Lodge No. 27.

ARTICLE II - Objects and Purposes

- Section 1. This organization is formed for the purpose of bettering existing conditions of police by solidifying their strength and promoting their mutual welfare in this City and nationally through our affiliation with the District, State and National Order.
- Section 2. It shall be the duty of this organization to see that all laws protecting law enforcement officers are upheld.

Section 3. The Lodge Officers shall have the power to act in all matters pertaining to the welfare of this organization.

Section 4. The Fraternal Order of Police of Tampa is an organization of law enforcement officers sworn to enforce the law under all circumstances.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section 1. Any regularly appointed and full time employed law enforcement officer, shall be eligible for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police subject to the provisions of this constitution and by-laws of the order. No person shall be denied membership on account of race, creed, or sex.

The Fraternal Order of Police shall deny membership to anyone who is or has been a member of the Communist Party, or of any party known (regardless of what name) which advocates the abolition or destruction of our government either by force or by subversive means.

Section 2. The term "regularly appointed" law enforcement officer shall include regular law enforcement officers of the United States, the state or any political subdivision thereof having power to arrest and is responsible for the preservation of the peace, prevention of crime in the United States or any political subdivision thereof, heretofore and hereafter retired from active duty in their service of the United States or any of the states or political subdivisions thereof, members of profit making security organizations, auxiliary or reserve police or military police¹.

The term "full time employed" shall mean law enforcement officers that are engaged in such employment as their principal source of livelihood.

Section 3. There shall be three classes of membership: Active, Retired, and Honorary.

(A) Active Membership

1. Shall include regularly appointed or elected full-time law enforcement officers.
2. May include retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers.
3. May include, subject to the approval of Lodge 27, and the State Lodge Board of Trustees, regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who have resigned from their law enforcement duties and who have remained in good standings with Lodge # 27.
4. Only active Members, as herein defined, shall have voice or vote.

¹ As amended and submitted on Jan 26, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2000 Board Meeting.

(B) Retired Membership

Shall be comprised of retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who withdraw from active membership upon or after retirement from their law enforcement agency.

(C) Honorary Membership

Shall be comprised of retired regularly appointed law enforcement officers, who withdraw from active membership after retirement. Honorary Membership shall be granted or removed on an annual basis by the Board of Directors¹.

- Section 4. Any member of the Fraternal Order of Police, in good standing at the time of retirement from law enforcement may retain his or her membership in the Lodge.
- Section 5. Any member who may resign from active law enforcement may retain his or her membership as long as he or she remains in good standing, and submits a written request to remain a member within thirty (30) days of resigning from active law enforcement. The local and State Lodge, must then approve the request.
- Section 6. Any member who has not paid his dues to this Lodge with three (3) months after the installment becomes due and payable shall be in arrears for dues.
- Section 7. Any member of this Lodge who is in arrears for dues Ipso-Facto suspends themselves from membership in this order; no action of the Lodge is necessary and his membership in this Lodge shall be discontinued. The Secretary shall notify such member (in writing) of this fact; however, the said person may be reinstated if delinquent for less than one (1) year by payment of all delinquent dues and other obligations due this Lodge.
- If such member is delinquent for a period of over one (1) year, they may again obtain membership in this Lodge by the same process and paying the same amount that they would have to pay as though they had never been a member, providing, however, that no charges by the Lodge are pending against said applicant.
- Section 9. An applicant who has petitioned this Lodge for membership by initiation and was rejected, cannot again petition the Lodge until the expiration of twelve (12) months from the date of such rejection; this penalty shall also apply to persons who have been suspended or expelled from the Lodge.
- Section 10. No member of this Lodge shall be entitled to vote on any business of the Lodge if charges have been preferred against such member; nor shall any member be entitled to vote who is under suspension of the Lodge.
- Section 11. An application fee in the sum of five (\$5.00) dollars shall accompany all petitions for membership, if said petition is rejected, the Lodge shall retain the initiation fee for application expenses².

¹ As amended and submitted on Jan 26, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2000 Board Meeting.

² As amended and submitted on Dec 18, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2001 Board Meeting.

Section 12. Dues shall be one hundred-eighty (\$180.00) dollars per year for each member, payable in advance or through authorized credit union account deductions. For members not having credit union account deductions and who elect to pay on an annual basis, dues are to be paid before January 1, for the ensuing year¹. For members who elect to pay on a semi-annual basis, dues are to be paid before January 1st and July 1st in the amount of ninety (\$90.00) dollars each payment. For members reaching the age of 70-years, dues will be reduced to ninety (\$90.00) dollars per year payable on an annual or semi-annual basis.

Members repeatedly in arrears will lose the privilege of semi-annual dues payments and have to pay full membership dues on an annual basis. When a new member is initiated, dues for the remainder of the year will be prorated accordingly. The Board of Directors may reset the amount of dues during the fourth quarter of the year, with the approval of the membership².

ARTICLE III - Organization

Section 1. This organization shall be composed of officers elected by the membership of the Lodge.

Section 2. Regular meetings shall be held monthly, on the second (2nd) Monday of each. The President may call special sessions anytime important business may necessitate them, or when no less than five (5) members in good standing make written request to the president. All members shall be notified of all special meetings.

Section 3. Regular board meetings shall be held monthly, on the last Monday of each month, or as designated by the Lodge president. A quorum is necessary for conducting business and shall consist of (6) six active board member³.

ARTICLE V- Officers

Section 1. The Officers of Lodge 27 shall consist of & President, First and Second Vice-President, Secretary, Under Secretary, Treasurer, Conductor, Sergeant At Arms, , Chaplain, Trustees I, II, & III, State Trustee and all past Presidents³.

Section 2. Officers of Lodge 27 shall be elected during the regular December meeting. They shall be installed during the January meeting or at a time prior to the January meeting designated by the President, and they shall serve for a period of a one (1) year term.

¹ As amended and submitted on Jan 26, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2000 Board Meeting.

² As amended and submitted on Dec 18, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2001 Board Meeting.

³ As amended and submitted on Sept 11, 2006 and approved by the State during the Oct 2006 Board Meeting

Section 3. The Lodge State Trustee shall be elected according to State By-Laws Article 5 (nomination and election of State Officers.), which states:

ARTICLE 5 - NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS

Section 1. Candidates for election as Officers, except Trustees and District Directors, of the State Lodge shall be nominated on the day preceding the election for such Offices. Nominations shall be made from the floor of the Conference. After being declared closed, nominations shall not be reopened. No member shall be nominated or be a candidate for election to more than one (1) office at the same time³.

(a) Trustees shall be elected at a meeting of each subordinate lodge prior to the state convention and announced at the opening of the convention. They shall be sworn, declared elected by the State President and shall take office immediately³.

(b) When a duly elected State Trustee is unable to attend any meeting or function called by the State Lodge President, the subordinate lodge President of which the State Trustee has been elected will be permitted to attend the called meeting or function. If the subordinate lodge President is unable to attend, it would be at the discretion of the State Trustee to appoint from within the elected Officers of the subordinate lodge a member to attend in his place. The subordinate lodge President or representative shall have voice and vote at such meetings and functions³.

(c) After the announcement of newly elected Trustees, each district will immediately caucus for the purpose of electing directors. The delegates present from the respective districts will elect a District Director from within their district and be announced prior to nominations of other State Officers. They shall be declared elected by the State President³.

(d) The Election Committee shall oversee these elections.³

ARTICLE VI - Board of Directors

Section 1. The elected Officers of this Lodge, State trustee and all past presidents shall constitute a Board of Directors, and shall have a voice and vote at all meetings of this Lodge.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to exercise all administrative powers of the order. It shall have the power to act in all emergencies pertaining to the welfare of the order in the Lodge.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet on the last Monday of each month. They shall transact such business as may come before it. The minutes shall be recorded and be presented at the next regular Lodge meeting.

³ As amended and submitted on Sept 11, 2006 and approved by the State during the Oct 2006 Board Meeting

Section 4. Any vacancy in any office of this Lodge shall be filled by appointment by the president within thirty (30) days and ratified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII - Lodge President

Section 1. The Lodge President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police. He shall preside at the Lodge meetings of the Board of Directors, and general meetings. He shall have general management of the business of the Order and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried into effect.

Section 2. He shall execute any and all contracts that may be authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. He shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees.

Section 4. He shall have the power, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, to appoint the majority of all standing and special committees.

Section 5. He shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors whenever an emergency arises or upon the petition of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. He shall convey to his successor all unfinished business of the Lodge.

Section 7. The Lodge shall furnish a fidelity/surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII - Lodge Vice-Presidents

Section 1. Duties of the First Vice President. The First Vice President Shall:

(A). Assist the President in the performance of his duties and, in the absence of the President, shall exercise the powers and the duties of that office.

(B). Perform such other duties as may be ordered by the President or the Board of Directors.

(C). The Lodge shall furnish a fidelity / surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Duties of the Second Vice President. The Second Vice President Shall:

(A). Assist the President in the performance of his duties, in the absence of the First Vice President, exercise the powers and the duties of that office.

(B). Perform such duties as may be ordered by the President.

ARTICLE IX - Other Lodge Officers

The Lodge Secretary, Under-Secretary, Treasurer, Conductor, Sergeant-At-Arms, Chaplain, and Trustees, shall perform the duties prescribed by their respective offices and by the By-Laws hereof.

ARTICLE X – Parliamentary Procedure

Except as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws, the latest edition of "Roberts Rules of Order" shall govern the conduct and deliberation of the Lodge and meetings of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI – Discipline

- Section 1. Any member whose personal conduct is such that it reflects discredit upon the Lodge can be suspended or expelled from membership; but before his name is removed from membership in the Lodge, charges must be preferred in writing and submitted to the Lodge at a regular session. Only upon a three-fourths (3/4th) vote of the membership present and voting on the resolution to suspend or expel such member can the member be suspended or expelled; conditioned that the member charged shall be given an opportunity to be heard on the charges preferred at a regular session of the Lodge.
- Section 2. A person who has lost his membership in the Lodge by reason of conduct unbecoming a member shall not be privileged to again petition the Lodge until the expiration of twelve (12) months from the date that said member's membership was discontinued.

ARTICLE XII – Associate Membership

- Section 1. Associate members [Deleted]¹

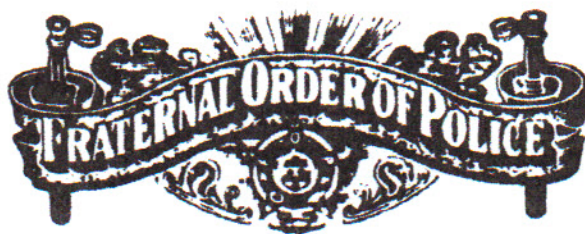
ARTICLE XIII – Auxiliaries

- Section 1. Auxiliaries [Deleted]¹

ARTICLE XIV – Official Ritual

- Section 1. There shall be an official ritual of the Order, which shall be known as the Fraternal Order of Police Ritual.
- Section 2. The Ritual of the Fraternal Order of Police as revised at the forty-seventh (47th) Biennial Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, August 6-9, 1985, shall be the official Fraternal Order of Police Ritual.
- Section 3. Revisions of the Fraternal Order of Police Ritual shall be made in the same manner as amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.

¹ As amended and submitted on Jan 26, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2000 Board Meeting.



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TAMPA LODGE NO. 27, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE By-Laws

ARTICLE I – Secretary

- Section 1. The secretary shall have custody of the books, records, documents, the Seal of the Lodge and office paraphernalia and equipment, under the general authority and orders of the President and the Board of Directors. He shall make an audio record and transcribe minutes of all regular and special meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors and shall submit the same at the next regular meeting.
- Section 2. He shall conduct the general correspondence of the Lodge.
- Section 3. Together with the President, he shall attest, under the seal of the Order, all duly authorized contracts of the Order.
- Section 4. He shall be the official custodian of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order, which shall be authenticated by the Seal of the Order and signature of the President and Secretary. He shall keep a record of the official amendments adopted at the Biennial Conferences amending the Constitution of By-Laws, dual authenticated by the Seal of the Order and the signature of the President and Secretary, in a book to be known as the Book of Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.
- Section 5. The Lodge shall furnish a surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in such amount as shall be specified by the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. The Secretary shall collect all incoming monies for the Lodge, recording same, and deliver to the Treasurer for deposit in the approved accounts of the Lodge.
- Section 7. He shall direct the actions of the Under-Secretary in assisting with the duties of the Secretary as prescribed herein³.
- Section 8. At the expiration of his term of office and within ten (10) days thereafter, the Secretary shall deliver to his successor the Official Seal of the Order and all books, documents, records, paraphernalia and equipment in his possession, and shall require and receive a receipt therefore.

³ As amended and submitted on Sept 11, 2006 and approved by the State during the Oct 2006 Board Meeting

ARTICLE II – Under-Secretary

- Section 1. The Under-Secretary shall assist the Lodge Secretary with the day-to-day business of the lodge, help collect monies owed, and perform other lawful duties as directed by the Secretary³.

ARTICLE III – Treasurer

- Section 1. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Lodge. The Lodge shall furnish a surety bond in the amount specified by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. He shall sign all checks, duly authorized by the President and Secretary, for disbursement of funds. He shall keep itemized records of all receipts and disbursements.
- Section 3. He shall deposit all funds collected in a bank approved by the Board of Directors except that he shall retain in his office a contingency fund of not more than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars for the purpose of paying emergency current expenses.
- Section 4. He shall set up special accounts for special funds and allocate to each, respectively, the amounts allocated or collected therefore.
- Section 5. He shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the office. He shall make monthly reports to the Board of Directors of the condition of the funds.
- Section 6. At the expiration of his term of office the Treasurer shall deliver to his successor all books, documents, records, funds, supplies, equipment, paraphernalia, etc., and shall require and receive a receipt therefore.

ARTICLE IV – Conductor

- Section 1. The Conductor shall perform such duties as are prescribed in the "Ritualistic" work of the Lodge. When the Lodge is in session, he shall, at the order of the President, take up the password from each member present and perform such other duties as the President may require. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, it shall be his duty to open the Lodge and preside at the session, assuming the same power and prerogative as the President. It shall be his duty to welcome and attend visitors.
- Section 2. The Conductor shall conduct candidates through the initiation ceremony and introduce them to other lodge members³.
- Section 3. The Conductor shall insure a new members folder is initiated for the Lodge Secretary, provide the new member with all paperwork necessary for insurance and dues deduction / payment, issue a key to the new member upon acceptance, and answer any initial questions the new member may have³.

³ *As amended and submitted on Sept 11, 2006 and approved by the State during the Oct 2006 Board Meeting*

ARTICLE V – Sergeant-At-Arms

- Section 1. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall monitor electronic signing-in of members and direct members who receive electronic messages to the appropriate Board Member when such electronic messages are received during sign-in³.
- Section 2. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall provide a hard-copy written ledger of members present when the electronic data-base is inaccessible during lodge events³.
- Section 3. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall have charge and control of the Lodge meeting place. He is responsible for setting-up chairs, tables, flags, and audio equipment. This maybe accomplished through direct action and/or the scheduling of other board members (or volunteer lodge members) in the completion of same³.
- Section 4. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, and Conductor it shall be his duty to open the Lodge and preside at the session, assuming the same power and prerogative as the President³.

ARTICLE VI – State Trustee

- Section 1. The State Trustee shall attend all State and District meetings to conduct business on behalf of Lodge 27, and shall report on business transacted at said meeting to the Lodge membership.
- (A). In the absence of the State Trustee, the Lodge President shall appoint another member to represent the Lodge.
- Section 2. The State Trustee shall perform other duties as may be directed by the President.

ARTICLE VII - Trustees

- Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to manage the property and permanent funds of the Lodge and all bonds of officers required by the Lodge.
- Section 2. All invested funds of the Lodge shall be placed under the management of said Board of Trustees, whose duties it shall be to take the best measures for their security and increase of such funds and to invest from time to time such other funds as directed by the Lodge.
- Section 3. The Trustees shall immediately deposit in the hands of the Treasurer the securities and vouchers of the said invested funds, and shall not have the power to appropriate any part of the invested funds without a vote of the Lodge.
- Section 4. A majority of Trustees shall constitute a quorum to transact the Lodge's business entrusted to their management.
- Section 5. All questions, insofar as the Trustees are concerned, shall be decided by a majority vote of the Trustees present.

³ *As amended and submitted on Sept 11, 2006 and approved by the State during the Oct 2006 Board Meeting*

Section 6. The Board of Trustees shall make reports, in writing, of their official business to the Lodge, whenever requested by the President, or the Lodge, telling how the funds are invested and the evidence of where such investments are kept.

Section 7. At the close of each member's official term, he shall make a full report in writing to the President, who in turn shall present said report to the Lodge. All official books and records shall be subject to audit before the incoming Trustees shall enter upon his duty as such Trustee, conditioned that each Trustee give bond (Premium to be paid by the Lodge) in such sums as the Lodge may deem necessary. The Trustees shall be the custodians of all bonds of such officers as required by the Lodge.

ARTICLE VIII – Candidates for Office

Section 1. Candidates nominated for any office in this Lodge shall have been a member in good standing for the current year in which the election is held. Officers may succeed themselves if so nominated and elected.

Section 2. Any member in order to be nominated as a candidate for any office shall have attended five (5) regular meetings from January of the nominating year. Any officer seeking reelection shall have attended five (5) regular and five (5) board meetings from January of the nominating year²

Section 3. Nominations for office shall be accepted in October and November before the elections the following December.

ARTICLE IX - Committees

Section 1. There shall be established certain Standing and Special Committees as called for in the Constitution and By-Laws or as deemed to be needed by the Lodge Board of Directors.

Section 2. These committees shall consist of a Chairperson and members appointed in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Lodge

Section 3. All expenditures of these committees shall be reported in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Lodge.

Section 4. All revenue generated by the activities of these committees shall, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws, be placed in the general fund of the Lodge. These funds shall be utilized for the efficient operation of the Lodge.

² *As amended and submitted on Dec 18, 2000 and approved by the State during the Feb 2001 Board Meeting.*

Section 5. Duties:

- (A) It shall be the duty of these committees to perform the stated responsibilities of their respective committee in an effective and efficient manner.
- (B) It shall be the duty of these committees to perform their responsibilities in a manner so as not to bring discredit or financial hardship upon the Lodge.

AUTHENTICATED AND ADOPTED:

President: _____ Secretary: _____
Daniel D. Lyons Charles S. Courtoy

Signed this: 11th day of September, in the year of 2006.

Lodge Seal: