

**BY-LAWS OF CLEARWATER COUNCIL NUMBER 34  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS**

**ARTICLE I**

The name of this Council shall be Clearwater Council Number 34, Royal and Select Masters (Cryptic) Masons. It exists by virtue of a Charter dated May, 1954, from the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, and is located at **Tarpon Springs, Florida.** Revised 2017

**ARTICLE II ASSEMBLIES**

The Regular Assemblies of this Council shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 p.m. in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November and at 7:30 P.M. in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December in **Tarpon Lodge No. 112, 28 Ring Ave., Tarpon Springs, FL** Except for the months of July and August which may be dark by the vote of the Council. Revised 2017

**Section I.** All general business, including the reception of petitions and balloting for candidates shall be transacted at Regular Assemblies; Provided that Special, or Called Assemblies may be held at any time upon the call of the Illustrious Master. If business of a general nature is to be considered at such Special or Called Assembly and such Assembly is set at a Regular Assembly of the Council and the business to be considered be stated, such business may be considered without further notice to the members of the Council, unless there be objection at such Regular Assembly. Should there be any such objection, all members of the Council shall have written notice at least ten(10) days prior to such Called Assembly, said notice to state fully the nature of the business to be considered; provided further, that this Council may hold Regular or Special Assemblies in any Lodge Room within its Territorial Jurisdiction for the purpose of creating interest in Cryptic Masonry, and at such Assembly may transact such business as is prescribed by its by-laws or the Constitution and Regulation of the Grand Council.

**ARTICLE III OFFICERS**

**Section 1 .** The Officers of this Council shall consist of an Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Chaplain, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, and Sentinel.

**Section 2.** The style (title) of the Illustrious Master shall be "Illustrious", all other Officers is "Companion". Revised 2006

## **ARTICLE IV    ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Annual Election of Officers shall take place at the first Stated Assembly in December. Revised 2009

a. The first five Officers; namely : Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work; Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected by majority written Ballot of all present and voting.

b. The election shall be held without nomination and by secret written ballot except that, by unanimous consent, the rules may be waived, nominations made, and a member designated to cast the unanimous vote of the Council for the nominee. ( Example. A Companion rises and addresses the Illustrious Master and says: Illustrious Master If there be no objection I move that Companion \_\_\_\_\_ cast a unanimous written ballot for Companion \_\_\_\_\_ for the Office of Illustrious Master for the ensuing year. Follow that procedure for the rest of the Elected Officers There being no objection proceed as motion states., If there is an objection a secret written ballot shall be cast.)

Revised 2006

c. The remaining Officers and all Committees shall be appointed by the Illustrious Master elect.

**Section 2.** The Annual Installation of Officers shall take place on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (December 27<sup>th</sup>), or as soon thereafter as expedient, but not later than the 28<sup>th</sup>. day of January

## **ARTICLE V    SEAL**

The Seal of the Council shall be in the custody of the Recorder  
See Seal imprint for description. Revised 2006

## ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

**Section 1.** The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principal Conductor of Work shall be a standing Committee on Charity, shall have the power to draw warrants on the Treasurer for any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the relief of any one applicant, and such action shall be reported to the Council at its next Stated Assembly. In addition to the Charity provided above, at each Assembly a Charity box shall ( may) be passed before the Council closes, and the funds collected turned over to the Committee to disburse at its discretion. No restraint shall be placed upon the discretion of the Committee, and when a contribution is made to an individual, he shall be not informed from whence the charity comes.

**Section 2.** The Illustrious Master, immediately after his installation shall appoint the following standing committees, who shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed.

a. Finance Committee, consisting of three (3) members, whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all accounts presented against the Council. The Deputy Master shall chair this Committee.

b. Committee for the Visitation of the Sick. consisting of three( 3) members, whose duty it shall be to endeavor to obtain information relative to all sick Companions and to visit them and tender such care and attention as their case may require; detailing, if necessary, such members of this Council as to them seem proper, to share with them this fraternal duty.

c. An Entertainment Committee, consisting of three (3) members, to provide suitable programs for social gatherings and to perform such duties enjoined upon it by the Grand Council from time to time, for the entertainment of its members.

d. A Vigilance Committee, consisting of three (3) members, to assure that the integrity of the Masonic Fraternity is maintained.

e. Committee on Delinquency, consisting of five (5) members of which the Illustrious Master and Recorder shall be two. It shall be the duty of this committee to inquire into, consider and report to the Council its recommendation in reference to the members of the Council who are subject to suspension for non-payment of dues. ( Utilizing the Heil Plus Fund if any monies are available , if not from the regular funds if so approved by a majority of the eligible voting members present.)

Revised 2006

**Section 3.** The Illustrious Master shall, at the time of the annual election of officers, appoint an Auditing Committee, consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and the Recorder at the close of the Cryptic years and report conditions found at the time of the Installation or at a following Assembly. The Deputy Master shall chair this Committee.

## ARTICLE VII ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

It shall be the duty of the Illustrious Master to preside at each Assembly and see that the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, and the customs of Cryptic masonry are duly observed and enforced.

## ARTICLE VIII RECORDER

It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep a regular list of the members, and record the transaction of the Council which are proper to be converted to writing, he shall receive all monies paid into the Council and shall promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer. He shall give due notice when directed, by advertising or otherwise, of the time of the holding each Assembly, he shall make an annual report to the Council, at the Regular Annual Assembly, of the state of the funds of the Council, embracing an account of the receipts and expenditures, for the preceding year up to and including the Regular Assembly preceding the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, and oftener if required. He shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council. He shall pursuant to Regulation, be bonded with a Bonding Company listed in the Federal Treasury list in an amount set by Regulation or Order of the Grand Council; such bond to be on file in the Grand Recorders Office.

## ARTICLE IX TREASURER

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys (monies) collected by him on account of the Council. He shall keep a correct account of the same and duly pay all orders drawn on him by authority of the Council. He shall make regular entries both of receipt and disbursements, and have his books and vouchers always ready for examination, when called upon for that purpose. He report to the Council the state of the funds yearly and oftener, if required. He shall pursuant to the Regulations, be bonded with a Bonding Company listed in the Federal Treasury list in an amount set by Regulation or Order of the Grand Council; such bond to be on file in the Grand Recorders Office

Revised 2006

## ARTICLE X PETITIONS

The Degrees of the Council shall not be conferred for a sum less than **\$100 (One Hundred Dollars)**, which must be paid with the petition, and then only upon Royal Arch Masons who are members in good standing of Regular Chapters and Symbolic Lodges, whose petitions have been duly presented in writing at a Regular or Special Assembly and reported upon by a Committee of no less than three (3) Companions. At the discretion of the Council, Petitions may be acted upon at the time of the report.

Revised 2017

## ARTICLE XI DUES

The annual dues of this Council shall be **\$17 Dollars**, plus the annual per capita of the Grand council plus such sums as the Grand Council shall from time to time prescribe, payable in advance at the beginning of each Council Year to wit: December 28th of each year.

Revised 2017

## **ARTICLE XII    FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR DEGREES**

When the ballot has been passed on the petition of any brother for the Degrees conferred in this Council, said Brother shall fail to present himself within one (1) year from the date of the ballot, he shall be deprived of the benefit of said ballot, and said Petition shall be null and voidB provided that said Brother shall have been duly notified of his election by this Council. Provided, however, that for satisfactory reasons shown, the Council may in such case retain the fee accompanying the Petition; provided that said Brother may again Petition and upon his election, will be given credit for the fee previously paid. If the Petitioner is rejected upon re-petition, the fee paid by him shall be returned.

## **ARTICLE X    SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

Whenever any member shall be six (6) months in arrears for dues, the Recorder shall notify such delinquent, by written notice by certified mail to his last known address, state, therein the amount owing for said dues, and that unless the same shall be paid within sixty (60) days after such notification or satisfactory reason given, such delinquent may be suspended at the discretion of the Council. If sixty (60) days after such notice has been given, the dues remain unpaid, the Recorder shall issue a summons or notice to be served at least ten (10) days before the Assembly appointed for the hearing. If the delinquent Companion does not appear after service of the notice, a default shall be entered against him, the Recorder=s account being a sufficient charge, and he( may) be suspended by action of the Council. If a member so suspended, pays all delinquent dues together with the dues for the current year within one(1) year after he has been suspended, he shall stand reinstated instanter. If the member fails to pay the delinquent dues within one (1 ) year, he shall be required to file a Petition for Reinstatement accompanied by the current and delinquent dues. The said Petition may be considered at any Regular assembly and shall require a two-thirds vote of the Members present for reinstatement.

**Section I.** (A member suspended solely for non-payment of dues may be restored to membership on written application therefor and a majority vote at a stated Assembly, and payments of the arrears,, together with the current year dues; provided that the arrears may be remitted in whole or part at the discretion of the Council) Revised 2006

## **ARTICLE XIV    SUPER EXCELLENT MASTERS DEGREE**

Each member shall be encouraged to obtain the degree of Super Excellent Master, and to wear the headdress peculiar to such Degree at all cryptic functions.

## **ARTICLE XV    DEMITS**

A Demit may be granted to a Companion upon his making application in writing, at a Regular Assembly of this Council, without vote, provided the said Companion is not in arrears for dues or under charges. The Demit shall date from the time it is applied for.

## **ARTICLE XVI    MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I. Emeritus Members**

a. BY NECESSITY. This Council may, by two-third vote at a Regular Assembly, create as an Emeritus Member such Companion as from age, infirmity or misfortune have been incapacitated and unable to pay his dues, thereby exempting such members from annual dues to the Council, and the Grand Council. The Recorder shall file with the Grand Recorder each year a certificate setting forth the full name and address of the Member , and a complete statement of the reasons for creating such Emeritus membership.

b. FOR MERIT. The Honorary Title of Emeritus Member may be conferred by a two-thirds vote at a Regular Assembly on a deserving Member for long membership and for Distinguished Service to the Cryptic Rite This Council shall pay to the Grand Council all annual dues and assessments of such member.

c. REMOVAL FROM LIST. This Council may , by majority vote, take any such Member listed pursuant to Subsection a above, off the Emeritus List when he pays his dues. Special notice shall be given immediately to the Grand Council of such action..

**Section 2. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP** This Council may create Perpetual Members, who remain in affiliation in a Symbolic Lodge and Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in accordance with the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Florida. Rules and Regulations. This Council elects to participate in this plan as set forth.

**Section 3. PAST RANK AND HONORS.** At the discretion of the Presiding officer, this Council shall extend such honors and privileges to Past Grand Officers, Distinguished Capitular, and Cryptic Companions, and Sir Knights, Grand Officers of Sister Grand Jurisdictions, Grand Officers of Symbolic Masonry, and other distinguished Masons as custom and circumstances require.

**DUAL MEMBERSHIP** any member of a Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Council of Florida which permits Dual Membership may apply for, and be elected to, membership in this Council.

**PLURAL MEMBERSHIP.** Any member of a Constituent Council in this Grand Jurisdiction may apply for , and be elected to , membership in this Council. Provided, however, that such member may not hold office in more than one Council at the same time.

**TERMINATION.** Involuntary termination of a Dual or Plural Member=s membership in any Constituent Council will automatically terminate his membership in this Council.

## **ARTICLE XVII    VACANCIES IN OFFICE**

Vacancies in elective office can occur only by death, resignation, Demit,, removal after Installation beyond the Jurisdiction of the Grand Council, promotion at an election to fill

vacancies, or by Suspension or Expulsion. The first three offices cannot be vacated by resignation.

### **ARTICLE XVIII VACANCY, HOW FILLED**

This Council may fill vacancies in any of the elective Offices except that of Illustrious Master, by ballot at any Regular Assembly but, in case of a vacancy in the Office of Illustrious Master, an election may be held only at a Regular Assembly, the members being duly summoned for that purpose, and by virtue of authority from the Most Illustrious Master which must be applied for by the Deputy Master and Principal Conductor Of work, with a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Regular Assembly, to be certified by the Recorder under the Seal of the Council. Vacancies in appointed offices shall be filled by the Illustrious Master. After such vacancy is filled the Recorder shall certify the name and address to the Grand Recorder.

### **ARTICLE XIX NO APPEAL**

There can be no appeal to the Council from the decision of the Illustrious Master; however, three (3 )or more members of the Council may appeal to the Grand Council or to the Most Illustrious Grand Master from a decision of the Illustrious Master.

### **ARTICLE XX FUNDS**

The Funds of this Council shall be deposited, by the Treasurer, in a bank **or investment account** to be designated by the Council. The account must always be in the name of Clearwater Council Number 34, and not in the name of the Treasurer, either officially, or individually. ~~Provided that upon mutual agreement among the Chapter, Council, and the Commandery; Chapter, Council and Commandery Funds may be deposited in a joint fund in the name of the York Rite Bodies of Clearwater.~~ **In the case of an investment account, the same shall be handled as follows: the Council, along with the other two bodies of the York Rite, existing as the Clearwater York Rite Bodies, shall appoint a trustee to serve as a Board of Trustees for the designation, determination, and reporting of the Council's investments. This individual shall be elected for a three year term at the time of the Annual Election of Officers, when their term is due. The trustee shall be, with the Recorder and Treasurer, the official signatory of the Council's investment accounts, as managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall be empowered by the Council, and the other York Rite Bodies to direct the Investment Policy Statement and the investments themselves, with approval of the Council and the other bodies. The Recorder and Treasurer shall also serve as ex-officio members of the Clearwater York Rite Board of Trustees. The Board is to meet as frequently as necessary, but not less than twice a year.** Revised 2017

## ARTICLE XXI ANNUAL RETURNS

The Recorder shall make annual returns to the Grand Recorder, upon blanks furnished by the Grand Recorder. Such returns shall be signed by the newly installed Illustrious Master, and shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder on or before the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January of each year; together with the full amount of per-capita tax and fees due the Grand Council.

## ARTICLE XXII AMENDMENTS

**Section 1. BY COUNCIL** Proposed By-Laws or any change or amendment to existing By-Laws shall be submitted in writing at a Regular Assembly, andB if approved by a majority vote shall lie over for one month days) During which time due and timely notice of such proposal shall be given to the members of the Council. If two-thirds of all the members of the Council then present vote in favor thereof, such change or amendment is adopted and will go in effect upon approval by the Most Illustrious Grand Master or by his authority. Proposed By-Laws or amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Most Illustrious Grand Master in triplicate, all three copies signed by the Illustrious Master, and the Recorder and under the Seal of the Council giving the dates when such By-Laws or amendments were first submitted and approved and when adopted by the Council. When approved by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, the Original will be returned to the Council, for its archives.

**Section 2. AMENDMENT TO UNIFORM CODE.** Amendments to these By-Laws because of changes made in the Uniform Code of ByLaws by the Grand Council shall become effective after Notice to the members, entry in the minutes of the Council, and entry in the written By-Laws of the Council; no vote shall be required. The Recorder shall notify the Grand Recorder of such amendment.

## ARTICLE XXIII BOOKS

This Council shall adopt and keep a Code of By-Laws, a Record Book of Proceedings of the Council, and a Ledger of the payments of its members.

## ARTICLE XXIV GIFTS

The Council may present the outgoing Illustrious Master with a Past Illustrious Master's apron. **The cost to the Council for** said apron shall not exceed \$125.00. The outgoing Illustrious Master may not receive cash in lieu of the apron. **However, the outgoing Illustrious Master may select a more costly apron and pay the Council the difference, prior to order.**

Revised 2017

## ARTICLE XXV DEGREES

**For** any legally accepted Companion joining Clearwater Council Number 34 Royal & Select Masters in the months of September through December, the fees shall include the **current and** upcoming year's dues.

Revised 2017



Given first reading and approved September 6, 2017.

Given second reading and approved by two thirds, or more majority of member present at stated Assembly October 4, 2017.

ATTEST

Sig. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rt. Exc. L. Edward Villaume III,  
Grand Recorder

Sig. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ill. Comp. John Wright  
Illustrious Master,  
Clearwater Council No.34

SEAL

Sig. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ill. Comp. Bruce Moir  
Recorder,  
Clearwater Council No.34

Approved this    day of            2017

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Illustrious Robert St. John  
Grand Master