CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
AND SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER
OF THE
FLORIDA STATE LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
A NATIONAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

FLORIDA STATE LODGE

242 OFFICE PLAZA

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301

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SHAWN DUNLAP
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FLORIDA STATE LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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PREAMBLE

We, the members of the various law enforcement agencies in the State of Florida and the political subdivisions thereof, as representatives and delegates of the subordinate lodges in this State, do hereby associate the lodges we represent and the members thereof, for the following 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 law and order; to improve the individual and collective proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage fraternal, educational, charitable and social activities among all law enforcement officers; to advocate and strive for uniform application of the civil service merit system for appointment and promotion; to support the improvement of the standard of living and working condition of the law enforcement profession through every legal and ethical means available; to create and maintain 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 members and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession and thus more firmly to establish the confidence of the public in the service that is dedicated to the protection of life and property.

All terms used herein to denominate gender shall be generic and, whenever appropriate, the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular.

August 15, 2013 (amended)
October 19, 2015 (amended)
June 18, 2016 (amended)
October 27, 2016 (amended)
June 16, 2018 (amended)
June 15, 2019 (amended)
June 11, 2022 (amended)
June 16, 2023 (amended)
June 14, 2024 (amended)
June 14, 2025 (amended)
August 6, 2025, updated from National

FLORIDA STATE LODGE

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1
NAME

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police Inc., and shall consist of such subordinate Lodges as are admitted to membership that conforms to its rules and regulations.

Section 2. The Florida National Trustee shall police the trademark of the order.

Section 3. Subordinate Lodges, by virtue of their affiliation with the National Lodge and the State Lodge, shall have the right to use the name, insignia, emblem and mark, trademark or service mark of the Fraternal Order of Police in order to signify or denote their affiliation therewith. In the case of prospective for profit, use of the name, insignia, emblem or mark, trademark, service mark of the Fraternal Order of Police, or such other use that may place such state or subordinate Lodge in competition with the National Lodge, such permission may be withheld by the National Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 2
DEFINITIONS

Section 1. As used herein, the following terms, phrases or words shall be defined as follows:

A. "Elected/Appointed Law Enforcement Officer" shall mean, for purposes hereof, any Law Enforcement Officer who meets the qualifications of the State Lodge Constitution, or who by law is exempted from meeting the minimum training standards.

B. "Full-time" shall mean law enforcement officers that are engaged in such. employment as their full-time occupation as to hours worked and income derived as determined by their lodge. The term may also include law enforcement officers that are employed with multiple law enforcement agencies and are engaged in such employment as their full-time occupation on average of at least thirty (30) hours per week. *(Amended by National Lodge August 2017)*

C. "Good Cause" shall mean nonfeasance, malfeasance, dishonesty, or refusal to carry out the will of the Biennial National Conference, Annual State Conference, State Board of Trustees, Executive Board or the Membership.

D. "Jurisdiction" shall be the territorial range of authority or control, where the Lodge is located. The primary areas of jurisdiction are Municipalities, Counties (unincorporated areas), the State (not to infringe on a Municipal or County Lodge) and Federal (having no REAL area of jurisdiction in the State). Disputes over jurisdiction, because of membership and solicitation, shall be settled by the membership at either a Board meeting or Conference. All decisions are appealable to the National Lodge.

E. "Member in good standing" in respect to the State Lodge, shall mean a member who fulfilled all requirements of membership in good standing in his respective Subordinate Lodge and for whom appropriate per capita tax has been paid two the State and National Lodge. Any member belonging to a Subordinate Lodge that is delinquent or has been suspended shall not be a Member in good standing.

F. "Member/Lodge in good standing" shall mean a Member/Lodge which is not greater than thirty (30) days in arrears in the payment of all dues, delinquency fees and assessments due and payable to or for the National Lodge on behalf of its Member. Any Member/Lodge in arrears of payment of dues or assessments more than thirty (30) days and less than ninety (90) days shall be deemed to be delinquent and not in good standing. Any Member/Lodge in arrears of payment of dues or assessments more than eighty-nine (89) days shall be and is hereby automatically suspended from membership in good standing in the Fraternal Order of Police.

G. "Board of Trustees" shall refer to the collective body, consisting of the State President, each of the Past Presidents, the State 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, the State Secretary, the State Treasurer, the State Conductor, the State Inner and Outer Guards, the State Chaplain, the Parliamentarian, each District Director, each State Trustee, the National Trustee and any National Officer from the State of Florida.

ARTICLE 2
DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

H. "State Executive Board" shall mean and consist of the State President, State Immediate Past President**,** (All ACTIVE* Past State Lodge Presidents,) State 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, the State Secretary, the State Treasurer, the State Conductor, the State Inner and Outer Guards, the State Chaplain, each District Director, Chairman of the State Trustees, the National Trustee and any National Officer from the State of Florida. *(Amended 6/2019)*

I. "State Trustees" shall mean the individual elected State Trustees or the collective body thereof (excluding the State Executive Board) who may meet from time to time as provided in this Constitution and By-Law.

J. "Past State President" shall be defined as any person elected to the office of State President by a State Conference and who served not less than one (1) full term and was not removed from office.

K. "Regularly appointed law enforcement" shall mean for the purposes hereof, any law enforcement officer who meets the minimum standards, has received the training and education required by the United States, the state, the political subdivision or agency by which they are appointed, and who is granted arrest powers.

L. "Local Lodge Territory" shall be as defined in the National Constitution which states "no more than one lodge shall be established and maintained in any city, town, or other political subdivision. Upon application by a State Lodge, the National President may grant an exception for worthy cause shown, mandated by applicable law. This section shall not prohibit the establishment or maintenance of any Subordinate Lodge whose jurisdiction may overlap that of another Subordinate Lodge.

M. "Distribute" shall be defined for the purpose hereof, the sending out of Constitution and By-Laws or any other notices as email, fax, mail or other delivery service if needed. In most cases the method which will be used shall be email, unless for some reason the intended receiver is not able to get such delivery. If in time technology develops a better method of distribution, then that may also be used as a preferred method. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 3
CHARACTER

Section 1. The Florida State Lodge is an organization consisting of Subordinate Lodges of professional law enforcement officers in the State of Florida.

A. The Florida State Lodge is a fraternal organization composed of professional law enforcement personnel who have joined together for their common good.

B. In no event shall the Fraternal Order of Police, Florida State Lodge, join or be controlled by any labor organization, provided, however, that this section shall not prohibit cooperative efforts by the state or subordinate Lodges of the Fraternal Order of Police with labor organizations for their common good. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 2. The Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police shall not strike or by concerted action cause a cessation of the performance of police duties or induce other members or Lodges to do likewise. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. This Constitution shall be the fundamental law of the Order and, with the Rituals adopted and such By-Laws as may be adopted from time to time, shall govern the conduct of the State Lodge and all Subordinate Lodges within the State. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4. There shall be By-Laws which shall govern the day-to-day operation and administration of the State Lodge. The By-Laws of the Order may be promulgated, amended, or revised by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates voting at the State Conference. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 4
OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

Section 1. This organization is formed for bettering existing conditions of Law Enforcement by solidifying their unity and promoting their mutual welfare in this State, and Nationally through our affiliation with the National Lodge.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of this organization to be always on alert, at all sessions of the Florida Legislature, to promote the interest of law enforcement officers and others, and work for the passage of laws that benefit law enforcement.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of this organization to see that all laws protecting law enforcement officers are upheld.

Section 4. The State Officers shall have the power to act in all matters pertaining to the welfare of this organization, subject to the provisions of Article 8, Section 2 of this Constitution.

Section 5. The Fraternal Order of Police of Florida advocates defined benefit pensions for law enforcement officers and will work for the establishment of defined benefit pensions or relief for the law enforcement officers in agencies that do not have them. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 6. The Fraternal Order of Police of Florida is an organization of law enforcement officers, sworn to enforce the law under all circumstances.

ARTICLE 5
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any regularly appointed or elected and full-time employed law enforcement officer of the United States, any State or political subdivision thereof, or any agency thereof, may be eligible for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police, subject to the provisions of this Constitution. No person shall be denied membership because of race, religion, color, creed, gender, age or national origin.

Section 2. Subject only to the provisions of this Constitution, each Subordinate Lodge shall be the judge of its membership. Each Subordinate Lodge shall establish requirements for membership in good standing of its respective membership, which requirements shall not be inconsistent herewith.

Section 3. There shall be two (2) classes of membership: Active, and Honorary.

A. Active Membership -

(1) Shall include regularly appointed or elected full-time law enforcement officers. *(Amended 6/19)*

(2) Shall include retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who have remained in good standing with their state and subordinate lodges after retirement from their law enforcement agency. In good standing shall mean a Member who fulfilled all requirements of membership in good standing in his respective Subordinate and State Lodges and for whom appropriate per capita tax has been paid to the National Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

(3) May include, subject to the approval of the State Lodge Board of Trustees and the Subordinate Lodge, regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who have resigned from their law enforcement duties, and who have remained in good standing with the State and Subordinate Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

(4) Only Active members, as herein defined, shall have voice and vote.

B. Honorary Membership – shall be comprised of individuals recognized by the National Lodge, State Lodge or Subordinate Lodge for exceptional service or contribution to the Nation, The State, or Political Subdivision, the law enforcement community or the Fraternal Order of Police but may not include individuals that qualify for Active Membership. *(Amended 2015) - (Added 06/2024 from National: 8/2023)*

Section 4. No person shall be a Member of more than one (1) state or Subordinate Lodge at the same time, nor shall any member who is delinquent, or who has been suspended by a Subordinate Lodge for any reason, be eligible for membership in any other Subordinate Lodge until such suspension has been lifted.

Section 5. The Fraternal Order of Police may deny membership to anyone who is, or has been, a member of the any organization, regardless of name, which advocated the abolition, destruction or violent overthrow of the government of the United States, or any state or political subdivision thereof.

Section 6. Any Active Member may be granted a transfer from one Subordinate Lodge to another provided that, he or she is in good standing, both Subordinate Lodges agree to the transfer, and the member cannot be active within his or her own law enforcement agency's Lodge because of collective bargaining law restrictions or geographical location.

Section 7. Specifically excluded are private security guards, special police, members of profit-making security and correctional organizations, auxiliary or reserve police.

Section 8. No person at any time shall be a Member of the Auxiliary or Associate Lodge when they are qualified for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police Active Lodge.

Section 9. The Fraternal Order of Police may deny any membership, or continuation of membership, to anyone convicted of a felony crime in any court of the United States, or any State Court, once all appeals have been exhausted. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 10. Membership coherence and jurisdictional integrity of subordinate lodges within the State of Florida while maintaining inclusivity for individuals residing in bordering communities. (Added 6/14/2024)

A. Scope and Purpose

This bylaw pertains to the acceptance of members, by subordinate lodges, from outside the state of Florida.

B. Membership Eligibility

Subordinate lodges within the State of Florida are prohibited from accepting new members who reside outside the state of Florida.

1. To be considered a resident the applicant must meet the Florida homestead requirements.

2. OR: Rent/lease their primary residence in the State of Florida for more than (6) six months of the year.

C. Existing Member Relocation

Existing members who relocate outside the State of Florida are eligible to retain their current membership with their respective lodge, upon approval, as long as their dues remain current.

D. Exemption for Bordering Communities

Individuals who work in the State of Florida and reside in a bordering community outside the state boundary are eligible for membership in their agency's subordinate lodge within the State of Florida.

ARTICLE 6
ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The State Lodge shall be composed of delegates elected by the Subordinate Lodges; these delegates must be in good standing in their Lodges, that they represent. No one, except for the State Lodge Board of Trustees and duly elected delegates, shall have a vote in the State Organization. Further, only members in good standing, actively engaged in law enforcement or retired under pension for length of service or disability, shall be entitled or qualified to hold or retain office with the Florida State Lodge.

Section 2. Each Subordinate Lodge in Florida that is in good standing, shall be entitled to at least three (3) delegates to each State Conference, however, Subordinate Lodges with a membership of more than one hundred and fifty (150) shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate for every fifty (50) members over one hundred and fifty (150) or the major portion thereof.

Section 3. Annual Conference of the Florida State Lodge *(Amended 6/2019)*

A. The State Lodge shall host a conference each year, to be known as the Annual Conference of the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police. The conference shall be held in the month of June. The President shall select the meeting site, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, and shall generally be held in the central portion of the State. *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

B. Arrangements for the meeting rooms, lodging of delegates, and necessary equipment & paraphernalia shall be made by a committee selected by the President. *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

C. Registration fees, if any, shall cover only such affairs or items directly connected to the conduction of Conference business and shall be separate and apart from any fees connected with recreational or entertainment functions for delegates, members or guests.

Section 4. Local Lodges wishing to bid on a State or National Conference shall: (A*mended 6/14/2024)*

A. Bids for a National Conference shall be made to the membership at the June Conference preceding the next National Biennial Conference. A plurality of the voting members present will decide the site to be supported by the State and Local Lodges at the National Biennial Conference.

B. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action as stated in the Florida State Lodge Constitution.

C. States/ Cities desiring to be considered for selection shall follow the requirements as outlined in the National By-laws, Article 5, Section 4.) *(From National: 8/25) National amendment #7 as National Constitution Article 4. B.*

1.) States/Cities desiring to have the Biennial Conference site held in their location shall submit in writing to the National Secretary their intention no later than March 1 of the even year prior to the site selection.) *(From National: 8/25) National amendment #6 as National Constitution Article 5, Section 2. A.1. &2. .*

ARTICLE 7
OFFICERS

Section 1. The "Officers" of the State Lodge shall consist of a State President, Immediate Past President, State First and Second Vice Presidents, State Sectary, State Treasurer, State Conductor, State Inner Guard, State Outer Guard, State Chaplain, State Trustees and District Directors.

Section 2. The "Executive Board" shall consist of a State President, the Immediate Past President, All ACTIVE* Past State Lodge Presidents, State 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Conductor, State Inner Guard, State Outer Guard, State Chaplain, Chairman of the Trustees, District Directors, the National Trustee and any National Officer elected from the Florida State Lodge. *(Amended 6/17)*

Section 3. The "Executive" Board shall have the authority to exercise all administrative powers of the Order during the periods between State Board meeting and the State Conferences. It shall have the power to act in all emergencies pertaining to the welfare of the State Lodge and its members.

Section 4. The "Officers" of the State Lodge and the National Trustee shall be elected at the State Conference for a term of two (2) years and shall serve until their successors are elected, qualified and installed.

Section 5. The State President may call meetings of the Executive Board as necessary to execute the authority outlined in Article 7 of this Constitution. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 6. When deemed necessary a member may be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, to serve in the capacity of State Parliamentarian. If so, appointed the Parliamentarian shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and his role during such meeting shall be advisory and consultative and when so requested shall advise the President, other State Officers, Committees and the State Auxiliary and Associate Lodges on matters of parliamentary procedures and Constitution and By-Laws interpretation.

* *To be ACTIVE a Past Presidents would have to attend four (4) State Lodge meetings in a two (2) year period. An excused absence due to police work or medical will count as an attended meeting if approved by the President and or his representative.* *(Amended 6/2017)*

ARTICLE 8
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the Executive Board of the State Lodge, one (1) State Trustee elected from each Subordinate Lodge, and all past State Lodge Presidents and they shall have a voice and vote at all meetings of the State Lodge.

Section 2. The Board of Trustee shall meet at least twice (2) each year in addition to, the meeting held at the State Conference and shall transact such business as may come before it. The first meeting will generally be held in the month of February and the second meeting will generally be held in the month of October. The Board shall keep minutes and present them to the State Conference for consideration or action thereon. *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

A. The quorum for a Board of Trustees meeting shall be a majority of those board members attending and registered.

B. The meeting site shall be selected by the President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Arrangements for the meeting rooms, lodging of delegates, and necessary equipment and paraphernalia shall be made by a committee selected by the President. *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

C. A Subordinate Lodge may request that the President consider its location as a potential Board meeting site, upon demonstration that there exist adequate facilities to conduct such meetings.

Section 3. Any vacancy in any office of the State Lodge, with the exception of said Trustees, shall be filled by appointment by the State President within thirty (30) days and ratified at the next scheduled Board meeting by a two-third (2\3) vote of the Board of Trustees voting. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4**.** It shall be mandatory for the President of a Subordinate Lodge to notify the President of the State Lodge, in writing, if and when a member of the Subordinate Lodge holding an office in the State Lodge and/or State Trustee resigns or is dismissed from his or her respective law enforcement agency (other than being retired under a paid pension for length of service or disability) or is considered no longer a member in good standing of that subordinate Lodge. Members changing positions from one law enforcement agency to another agency shall not be affected. *(Amended 6/2019)*

A. When the State Lodge has been notified of said vacancy, as prescribed in section 4 of this article. The State President shall instruct the State Secretary to notify, via registered mail, the officer who held the State Office, that the office in question is vacant. In this letter it will state the reasons. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 5. The ultimate responsibility for the physical property of the State Lodge, rest with the Board of Trustees. An itemized inventory and reconciliation of books, records, and physical property must be made prior to October Board meeting. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is required to file a certified copy of said inventory with the Board of Trustees. *(Added June 2017)*

ARTICLE 9
STATE PRESIDENT

Section 1. The State President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police. The State President shall preside at the State Conference, and at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. The State President shall have general management of the business of the Order and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the State Conference and the Board of Trustees are carried into effect. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 2. The State President shall execute any and all contracts that may be authorized by the Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. The State President shall be ex-officio member of all Standing Committees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4. The State President shall have the power, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, to appoint the majority of all Standing and Special Committees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 5. The State President shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Board of Trustees whenever an emergency arises or upon the petition of a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 6. The State President shall submit a written report of the business transacted by him together with such recommendations as he may deem advisable at each meeting of the Board of Trustees and at the State Conference. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 7. The State President, or his duly authorized representative, may convene any subordinate Lodge, in a special meeting and inspect the books, records, etc., of said subordinate Lodge, when necessary, compel said Lodge to comply with all rules and regulations of the State Lodge and the Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 8. The State President may recommend to the Board of Trustees to suspend, expel or dissolve a subordinate Lodge for not complying with the State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws or for not paying Per Capita tax within the prescribed time to the State Secretary. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 9. The State President shall convey to his successor all unfinished business of the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 10. The State President shall attest to all warrants or vouchers drawn on any fund of the State Lodge before payment by the State Treasurer. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 11. It shall be the duty of the State President, upon the approval of the Board of Trustees, to promote the growth of the State Organization, establish new lodges, seek new members, advise members, and officer of local Lodges give lectures about the organization, its aims and objectives. Advise on what it has accomplished, what it can accomplish and what it strives to do for its members and law enforcement in Florida. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 12. The State President shall furnish a fidelity/surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Trustees; such bond to be paid for the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 10
IMMEDIATE PAST STATE PRESIDENT

Section 1. The Immediate Past State President, and All ACTIVE* Past State Lodge Presidents may attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees, and the State Conference. They shall assist and advise the State President and other officers of the State Lodge and shall execute such arrangements or orders as may be issued by the State President or the Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

**To be ACTIVE a Past Presidents would have to attend four (4) State Lodge meetings in a two (2) year period. An excused absence due to police work or medical will count as an attended meeting if approved by the President and or his representative.* *(Amended 6/2017)*

ARTICLE 11
STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

Section 1. The duties of the State 1st Vice President – The State 1st Vice President shall:

A. Assist the State President in the performance of the State President's duties and, in the absence of the State President, shall exercise the powers and duties of that office. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. Have the power, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, to appoint the minority of all Standing and Special Committees.

C. Perform such other duties as may be ordered by the State President or the Board of Trustees.

D. Furnish a fidelity/surety bond for the faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Trustees; such bond to be paid for by the State Lodge. (*Amended 6/2019)*

E. Shall ascend to the Office of President, should a vacancy in that office occur.

Section 2. Duties of the State 2nd Vice President – The State 2nd Vice President shall:

A. Assist the State President in the performance of the 1st Vice President's duties, in the absence of the 1st Vice President, and, in the 1st Vice President's absence, exercise the powers and duties of that office. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. Perform such other duties as may be ordered by the State President.

ARTICLE 12
STATE SECRETARY

Section 1. The State Secretary shall have custody of the books, records, documents, the seal of the State Lodge, office paraphernalia and equipment, under the general orders of the President and the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The State Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the State Conference and Meetings of the Board of Trustees, and shall submit the same for approval, alteration or rejection at the next State Conference or Board of Trustees meeting or to the Executive Board if so ordered by the Conference or Board Meeting, as the case may be. The State Secretary shall make available to each Subordinate Lodge a copy of said minutes as soon as possible after said Conference or Board of Trustees meeting is held. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. The State Secretary shall conduct general correspondence of the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4. The State Secretary shall attest, under the seal of the State Lodge, all duly authorized contracts of the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 5. The State Secretary shall be the official custodian of the Constitution and By-Laws, Special Rules of Order and Standing Rules of the State Lodge, which shall be authenticated by the seal of the State Lodge and the signature of the State President and State Secretary. The State Secretary shall keep a record of the official amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws adopted at the State Conference and shall cause them to be properly inserted therein. The State Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Constitutions and By-Laws Committee and may serve as its Chairman. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 6. The State Secretary shall collect all Per Capita tax and assessments due to the National Lodge and the State Lodge by publishing a list of all delinquent Lodges at each State Lodge Trustees meeting and State Conference. *(Amended 6/2019)*

A. The State Secretary shall turn all National Lodge Per Capita and assessments over to the National Lodge Secretary. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. The State Secretary shall turn all State Lodge Per Capita tax and assessments over to the State Lodge Treasurer. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 7. The State Secretary shall furnish a surety bond for faithful performance of duty in the amount specified by the Board of Trustees; such bond to be paid for by the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 8. The State Secretary shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the office of Secretary. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 9. At the expiration of the State Secretary's term of office, the State Secretary shall deliver to their successor, the seal of the State Lodge and all books, documents, records, funds, supplies, equipment, paraphernalia, etc., and shall require and receive a receipt for the same. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 13
STATE TREASURER

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the State Lodge. The Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond for faithful performance of duty in the amount specified and approved by the Board of Trustees; such bond to be paid for by the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 2. The Treasurer shall sign all checks duly authorized for disbursement of funds. (Amended 6/2019)

Section 3. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized record of all receipts and disbursements. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds collected in a bank approved by the Board of Trustees and shall maintain direct control over all bank accounts involving the State Lodge. The Treasurer shall retain in his office a contingency fund of not more than (two hundred) ($200.00) dollars for the purpose of paying emergency current expenses. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 5. The Treasurer shall set up special accounts for special funds approved by the State Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 6. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the office. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 7. The Treasurer shall give a complete report of all receipts and disbursements of all State Lodge funds at each meeting of the Board of Trustees and shall provide a profit or loss statement and a balance sheet at each State Conference. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 8. The State Treasurer shall collect all revenue derived from contractual terms set forth for the promotion of official publication and shall deposit all funds into the State Lodge General Fund.

Section 9. The State Treasurer shall prepare a report on all credits and disbursements pertaining to State Lodge funds and shall submit a copy of such report a minimum of ten (10) days prior to any State Board of Trustees meeting or State Conference to each State Trustee.

Section 10. At the expiration of the Treasurer's term office the State Treasurer shall deliver to their successor all books, documents, records, funds, supplies, equipment, paraphernalia, etc., and shall require and receive a receipt therefore *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 11. In the event the State Treasurer becomes unable to perform the State Treasurer's functions temporarily, the State Lodge 1st Vice President shall assume these functions until such time as the State Treasurer can resume the State Treasurer's duties or a new State Treasurer is appointed in accordance with these Constitution and By-Laws. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 14
STATE CONDUCTOR

Section 1. The State Conductor shall examine the dues cards of Officers, Delegates and other Members of the Organization, ascertaining that all present at the State Conference or the Board of Trustees meeting are in good standing; also take up the password, and shall make a report to the State President of the same. The State Conductor shall perform such other duties as the State President may require. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 15
STATE GUARDS

Section 1. The State Lodge Inner and Outer Guard shall have charge and control of the conference hall or meeting place. They shall permit only qualified persons to enter or to remain. They shall assist the State Conductor in the execution of such duties as the State President may order. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 16
STATE CHAPLAIN

Section 1. The State Chaplain shall open each State Lodge Board of Trustees meeting and each Conference with a prayer. The State Chaplain shall close each State Lodge Board of Directors meeting and each Conference with a prayer. The State Chaplain shall be responsible for reporting all members in "Sick and in Distress" and shall be the Chairperson of the State Lodge Memorial Committee. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 17
DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Section 1. The State shall be divided into Districts, taking into account, geographical considerations, and number of local Lodges, local needs, and any other factors deemed relevant by the State Board of Trustees. The Districts shall be reviewed annually at the February Board Meeting and any changes in their structure shall be made at the following State Conference.

Section 2. The District Directors will be responsible for initially handling all requests for aid by the local lodges within their jurisdictions. If the Director is unable to satisfactorily assist the local Lodges, the matter shall be presented to the State President for further action.

Section 3. The District Directors shall organize new Lodges in their areas, assist local Lodges with collective bargaining, and shall answer any requests for State aid by the local Lodges. The District Director shall respond to such requests prior to the State President or any other officer entering into this matter.

ARTICLE 18
STATE TRUSTEES

Section 1. During an election year at the State Lodge Convention, the State Trustees shall meet after nominations of State Officers and before the election of State Officers and shall select one of their members as chairman. The Chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the State Trustees present and voting at this meeting. Only Lodge State Trustees shall be eligible to vote for the Chairman.

A. The Chairman of the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees shall be the Chairman of the Audit Committee by virtue of his office.

B. The Audit Committee shall be comprised of a State Lodge Trustee from each District total of seven (7) and shall perform, but not limited to, completing the duties outlined in Article 18, Section 2 through Section 7 of this Constitution. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 2. They shall take charge of all physical property of the State Lodge, make a complete itemized inventory of such property and file a certified copy with the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. They shall recommend to the Board of Trustees the amount of bond to be required of the State President, State 1st Vice President, State Secretary, and the State Treasurer for the faithful performance of their duties.

Section 4. They shall examine and audit the financial books, records, and funds of the State Lodge. This will be accomplished at each meeting of the Board of Trustees and make a report of their findings at the meeting.

Section 5. They shall ascertain that all monies received have been allocated to the credit of the proper funds and so deposited in the name of the State Lodge.

Section 6. They shall make a complete report on the financial conditions of the State Lodge at the State Conference.

Section 7. They shall gather data and information of every kind pertaining to the welfare of the law enforcement officers in the State of Florida, the same to be furnished to Subordinate Lodges upon request.

Section 8. 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 President is unable to attend, it would be at the discretion of the President 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 functions. *(Changed from By-Laws- under Article 5 & amended- 06/2023)*

ARTICLE 19
SUBORDINATE LODGES

Section 1. The Board of Trustees of the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, shall issue a charter for each Subordinate Lodge in the State of Florida. *(Amended 6/2019)*

A. A charter may be issued for a Subordinate Lodge when not less than ten (10) applicants from any Federal, State, political subdivision in the State of Florida, or any combination thereof, not having a Subordinate Lodge, make application for such to the Board of Trustees of the Florida State Lodge. National Lodge and State Lodge Per Capita tax for semi-annual period of the current year must be paid. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. A charter may be issued for a Subordinate Lodge to be composed of law enforcement officers, within the State of Florida, who would constitute an "At Large" Lodge and its members would share the benefits of the Fraternal Order of Police but would not be represented by a Lodge State Trustee, nor have a vote at State Lodge Board of Trustees meetings of the annual State Conference and shall have no right to solicit. As in other Lodges, ten (10) members are required for chartering and retention. If it is determined by the Board of Trustees that a least ten (10) members are from one area, they may require that these individuals form a standard Subordinate Lodge as outlined in this Constitution and By-Laws. The Florida State Lodge Secretary shall be responsible for the administrative activities of this Lodge to include, but not limited to, dues and assessment collections.

Section 2. Each Subordinate Lodge may prescribe the amount of initiation fee that a new member must pay. **This may not exceed fifty ($50.00) dollars.** *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. Each Subordinate Lodge shall receive from the State Lodge, at the time of its organization, one charter kit. Each Subordinate Lodge must furnish its own Lodge Seal, which must be purchased from the National Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4. Each Lodge shall provide, for the establishment of officers, similar in kind and in duty as provided in Article 7, Section 1., of this Constitution. Small Lodges may combine officers when not needed, but the State Lodge shall be immediately notified of each change. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 5. Each Subordinate Lodge shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its government provided; it does not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Lodge and the Florida State Lodge. The Constitution and By-Laws of each subordinate Lodge must be submitted to the State Lodge for review by the State Constitution and By-Laws Committee within thirty (30) day such Constitution and By-Laws are adopted or amended and presented to the State Conference or the Board of Trustees for approval. The deadline for submission to the State Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review shall be no less than thirty (30) days prior to the State Conference or the Board of Trustees meeting for them to be included on the agenda. Subordinate Lodges shall comply with the reasonable request as to the way the submission is made to the Committee. Subordinate Lodge Constitution and By-Laws or amendments to the same, become effective upon adoption by the Subordinate Lodge. Those Constitutions and By-Laws, which are found to be in conflict with National or State Constitutions and By-Laws, shall be null and void when so determined by the Board of Trustees or at the State Conference. *(Amended 6/2019 & 6/14/2024)*

ARTICLE 19
SUBORDINATE LODGES (CONTINUED)

A. Each State and subordinate lodge shall provide to the National Secretary an active email address which shall be used for official communications. The National Fraternal Order of Police shall issue an email address to Lodges upon request. *(Added 6/23 from National 8/21)*

Section 6. Each Subordinate Lodge must hold at least one (1) regular meeting each calendar quarter (¼) and must hold monthly meetings, when required, as prescribed by the National Lodge and State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws. Nothing shall prohibit a Subordinate Lodge from holding regular meetings more frequently than quarterly. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 7. No suspended member of a Subordinate Lodge shall be allowed to affiliate with any other Subordinate Lodge without approval of the State Board of Trustees. If such suspension is due to non-payment of required dues or assessments, such dues and/or assessments shall be remunerated to the State Lodge prior to granting such approval. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 8. Any Subordinate Lodge accepting members into their Lodge and not reporting same to the State Lodge, and not complying with the Constitution and By-Laws, shall be subject to expulsion from the Fraternal Order of Police, Florida State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 9. Each Subordinate Lodge must pay a Per Capita tax to the State Lodge as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Florida State Lodge. It shall include the Per Capita tax of the National Lodge as set forth in the By-Laws of the National Lodge. All State Lodge and National Lodge Per Capita tax shall be sent directly to the (State) Secretary of the Florida State Lodge. The National Lodge and the State Lodge Per Capita tax must be paid semi-annually and shall be due and payable on May 1st and November 1st of each year. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 10. Candidates for offices of Subordinate Lodges.

A. Nominations of qualified candidates for offices of Subordinate Lodges shall be held no later than the regular meeting in November.

B. Election of officers shall be held no later than the month of December.

C. Installation of elected officers of Subordinate Lodges shall be held no later than the month of January. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 11. Solicitation:

A. A local Lodge shall not solicit funds, or anything of value, for any reason whatsoever from persons, firms, or any type of business whatsoever in the territory of another local lodge without notifying the local Lodge in whose territory the solicitation is to be made. Written permission shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the local Lodge granting permission and shall certify that permission was granted for the specific purpose and time period. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. Any money that is accumulated in violation of this section shall be seized by the Florida State Lodge and placed in the general fund of the Florida State Lodge.

C. All monies seized by the State Lodge shall be returned to the prevailing local Lodge after the final decision has been made by the State as to the territorial disputes minus the expenses incurred by the State Lodge investigating committee.

Section 12. Receivership- *(Added 06/2023 from National: 8/21)*

A. The president of the state or subordinate lodge that shall become insolvent shall provide written notice thereof to the National President. In such event, the National Lodge may, but shall not be required to, assume control of such insolvent state or subordinate lodge for a period of six (6) months, during which period the insolvent lodge shall be operated under the supervision of the National President or his designee. Extensions in increments of six (6) months may be granted at the request of the state or subordinate lodge president and with the approval of the National President.

B. Upon written request therefor made by two-thirds (2/3) of the governing board of a state or subordinate lodge to the National President, the National Lodge may, but shall not be required to, assume control of such lodge. In such case, the lodge shall be operated for a period not to exceed six (6) months under the supervision of the National President or his designee.

(C. In the event the National Lodge becomes aware of malfeasance and/or misfeasance in the operation of a State or Subordinate lodge, which is not being appropriately addressed, the National Secretary shall make notification to the National President, the Chairman of Trustees and the National Executive Board. The National President shall authorize the General Counsel, along with an assigned committee, the duty of investigating this malfeasance and/or misfeasance and the General Council may freeze the assets and records in order to preserve evidence and protect membership property from loss. This action shall not extend more than 1 year or until the Lodge function can be made whole. If more time is needed the National Board of Trustees may extend this time limit by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. *(National: 8/25)*

1.) Any discipline imposed by either the State Lodge or National Lodge will be in accordance with Article 23 of the National Lodge Constitution.

Section 13. Any Lodge that surrenders its charter voluntarily or is in arrears for payment of dues or assessments more than 89 days, shall immediately surrender all books, records, and assets to the appropriate chartering lodge. In the case of a subordinate lodge, to the state lodge that issued their charter and in the case of a state lodge or a subordinate lodge chartered by the National Lodge, to the National Board of Trustees in accordance with the applicable state law of the charting lodge. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #1 as National Constitution Article 19 new Section 12*

ARTICLE 20
DISCIPLINE

Section 1. This article shall govern discipline of officers and members of Subordinate Lodges, the Florida State Lodge and shall be interpreted in such manner as to afford equity and fairness to all affected.

A. Any and all charges shall be in writing, utilizing the prescribed Discipline Hearing Forms (D.H.F. # 1-A & 1-B), attested to and signed under oath and served upon the Secretary to the Subordinate Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 2. Discipline shall be initiated by the Florida State Lodge and imposed upon an individual member, or Subordinate Lodge or a State Officer only in extraordinary circumstances where the Member, Lodge or State Officer has acted or failed to act in respect of a matter of direct and significant import that brings dishonor or discredit to the Florida State Lodge or has violated the Constitution, By-Laws, or the Ritual of the Order.

Section 3. Individual Members

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, individual members shall only be disciplined by the subordinate Lodge of which they are members, and each Subordinate Lodge shall develop and promulgate rules that provide for the fair and appropriate discipline of its members that are not inconsistent with the Florida State Lodge Constitution, By-Laws or Ritual of the Order.

B. In the case of discipline imposed upon an individual Member involving suspension, expulsion or removal from office by a Subordinate Lodge, an appeal may be taken by the Member to the Florida State Lodge and an appeal may be taken from the decision of the State Lodge by the non-prevailing party to the National Lodge National Board of Trustees and, ultimately, to the Biennial Conference of the National Lodge

1.) An appeal to the State Lodge may be brought by the filing of a written notice of appeal with the State President no more than thirty (30) days after the Member's receipt of official notification of the member's suspension, expulsion or removal from office. Unless continued or delayed for good cause, such appeal shall be heard by the State Lodge Board of Trustees at the next board meeting following the State Lodge President's receipt of such notice of appeal, and unless waived in writing by both the appealing member and the responding Lodge, a written decision shall be rendered by the Board of Trustees within ten (10) days after such meeting. Both the appealing Member and the Lodge, from whose action the appeal is brought shall have the right to a hearing at which both parties may be heard and may present witnesses and documents. Such hearing shall be conducted in conformity with Article 22 of these By-Laws and open to active members in good standing only. The parties to the appeal shall receive notice of the date of the hearing by registered mail not less than ten (10) days before such hearing. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall be the Presiding Officer, provided the Chairman is not the accused member or an involved party, in which case the Board of Trustees shall nominate and elect a Presiding Officer for this hearing. The approved Document on Demand, Discipline Hearing Form (D.H.F. #2) shall be completed by all parties involved in the appeal. *(Amended 6/2019) (National: 8/25)* National amendment #3 as National Constitution Article 23 Section 3. and 4.

2.) The Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees may sustain, modify or reverse the disciplinary action against the member or subordinate Lodge or State Officer.

C. In any case of discipline involving suspension, expulsion or removal from office of an individual member initiated by the State Lodge, or upon the decision of the State Lodge in respect to an appeal from the action of a Subordinate Lodge, an appeal may be taken to the National Board of Trustees and, ultimately, to the Biennial Conference.

D. Except in the case of discipline initiated thereby, the State Lodge Board of Trustees shall review appeals of disciplinary matters solely to ensure that the parties were afforded due process and that the decision was consistent with this Constitution, the By-Laws, and Ritual of the Order.

1.) Those appeals received by the State Secretary after the Annual Conference but before the next State Lodge Board of Trustees meeting shall be considered by the State Lodge Board of Trustees. The State President shall appoint a special Committee which shall meet, gather and review facts and arguments of the parties, consult with all interested parties in attendance and make a full report, including its recommendation, to the State Lodge Board of Trustees prior to its adjournment.

2.) Following the report of the special Committee, if any interested parties may appear before the entire State Lodge Board of Trustees which shall decide the matter by majority vote.

E. An appeal may be taken by either party to the Annual Conference on the decision of the State Lodge Board of Trustees respecting any appeal of disciplinary action imposed upon an individual member by a subordinate Lodge, or discipline imposed by the State Lodge Board of Trustees.

1.) A party seeking to appeal a decision of the State Board of Trustees to the Annual Conference shall serve notice to the State Secretary and the opposing party. Such a notice of appeal shall consist of a concise statement describing the act or failure to act upon which the appeal is based, the basis for such an appeal, the decision appealed from, and those written materials the appellant deems appropriate and relevant to a fair consideration of the appeal by the State Board of Trustees. The opposing party may respond in writing to such notice of appeal with such materials as it deems necessary and shall submit a copy of such a response to the State Secretary and the appealing party. Said notice of appeal and any responsive submissions shall be forwarded by the State Secretary to the State President who shall deliver said materials to a committee appointed by the President which shall consider the matter and report therein to the Conference prior to a vote thereon by the delegates.

F. Discipline may be initiated by the State Lodge and imposed upon an individual Member thereby only in extraordinary circumstances in which case, such Member shall be afforded a hearing before the State Lodge Board of Trustees. The individual Member shall be given notice of the hearing, at which he will be permitted to present witnesses and documents. He shall be afforded the same protection set forth in Article 20, Section 3B (1) of this Constitution in respect to discipline imposed by individual members Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

G. A party seeking to appeal a decision of the State Lodge shall file the appeal with the National Board of Trustees, in accordance with the National Constitution, Article 23, Section 3, Subsections D through G. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #3 as National Constitution Article 23 Section 3. and 4.*

Section 4. Subordinate Lodges

A. Except as otherwise provided herein, a Subordinate Lodge shall only be disciplined by the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees. Such discipline may be imposed only upon a showing of just cause after a fair hearing by the State Lodge Board of Trustees and may include suspension or revocation of a Lodge's charter. Such hearing shall be conducted in conformity with articles of the Florida State Lodge By-Laws.

B. A Subordinate Lodge may appeal from the imposition of discipline by the State Lodge to the National Board of Trustees and ultimately to the Biennial Conference.

C. Upon final resolution of the matter, the State Board of Trustees shall either return all properties previously impounded to said Lodge, or, if said matter results in the revocation or cancellation of the Charter of said Lodge, disposal of the books, records, and assets of said Lodge shall be in accordance with both the law of the state wherein said Lodge is located and the Constitution of the State Lodge. *(corrected 6/2025)*

D. In the event of any dispute between two (2) or more Subordinate Lodges as to the question of membership or territorial jurisdiction, settlement shall be made by the Board of Trustees of the State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

1.) When such disputes are referred to the State Lodge, the State Lodge President shall appoint an Investigation Committee.

2.) The Members of this Committee shall be chosen from the District Directors and the Past Presidents of the State Lodge. The Chairperson shall be named by the State Lodge President. *(Amended 6/2025)*

3.) The Committee shall conduct an investigation using the procedures set forth in Article 20, Section 3. Subsection 1 of this Constitution.

4.) The committee shall report its recommendations to the State Board of Trustees for action.

E. The charter of any Subordinate Lodge may be canceled, suspended, or revoked after notice and hearing by the State Lodge Board of Trustees as prescribed in Article 22 of the By-Laws of the Florida State Lodge.

F. A subordinate lodge may appeal a State Lodge decision by filing with the National Board of Trustees, in accordance with Article 23, Section 4, Subsection B. 1,2,3,4, & 5. of the National Constitution. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #3 as National Constitution Article 23 Section 3. and 4.*

ARTICLE 20
DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)

Section 5. State Lodge Officers

A. State Officers shall be subject to discipline, including censure, reprimand, and or removal from office or expulsion from the order only upon proof of actions that bring dishonor to himself/herself and or the Florida State Lodge. These actions must be a direct violation of the Florida State Lodge Constitution, By-Laws, National Lodge Constitution, By-Laws and Ritual of the Order. *(Amended 6/2019)*

1.) The State President may suspend a State Officer from their current duties; however, the State Officer will not lose his status as a Member, State Officer, or any benefits thereof. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. Allegation(s) of misconduct against a State Officer in respect to his duties as a State Officer shall only be brought by a Member in good standing or a Member of the State Board of Trustees. Said allegation(s) shall be in writing, utilizing the prescribed Discipline Hearing Forms (D.H.F. # 1-A & 1-B) attested to and signed under oath, and notice thereof shall be served upon the State Secretary, provided however, that if such allegation(s) are made against the State Secretary, said allegation(s) shall be served upon the State President. The State Secretary shall immediately notify the State President of the allegation(s) and supply the State President and the accused state officer with all documentation received. Said allegation(s) and any accompanying documentation shall specifically describe the nature of the alleged misconduct and the Article of the Constitution, By-Laws of Ritual of the Order violated. *(Amended 6/2019)*

C. If the State Lodge President can't resolve the allegation(s), he shall appoint a Committee, comprise of members of the State Board of Trustees to investigate the allegation(s). The Committee shall thoroughly investigate the allegation(s) and report, in writing, back to the President their findings within thirty (30) days of the appointment of the Committee. The Committee may request additional time to complete the investigation only upon showing of good cause in writing and must contain the reason for the extension.

D. Upon receipt of the completed investigation, the State President shall order the State Secretary to serve a copy of the completed investigation to the affected state officer. The State Officer against whom the allegation(s) are made shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the completed investigation, prepare a response thereto and serve said response to the State Secretary (or the State President, as the case may be). The State Secretary or the State President, in the event that the allegations pertain to the State Secretary, shall distribute* to each State Trustee all documentation to include the original allegation, investigation, the response from the affected state officer and anonymous ballot upon which each State Trustee shall indicate, after reviewing the allegation(s), investigation and the response thereto, whether he believes that there exists good cause to proceed with a hearing. Said Ballots shall be returned to the state officer from whom they are received within five (5) day of receipt. The State Secretary shall count the ballots immediately, upon receipt, and certify the results to the Chairman of the Trustees unless he is the State Officer against whom the allegations are made, in which case the results shall be certified to the State President. The ballots shall be retained until resolution of the matter.

** See Article 2- DEFINITIONS, Section 1. M.* *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 20
DISCIPLINE (CONTINUED)

E. Upon receipt by the Chairman of the Florida State Lodge Trustees or the State President, as the case may be of the certified results of the ballot, said state officer shall determine whether good cause to proceed further with the inquiry was found by the State Board of Trustees. A majority vote of all of the members of the State Board of Trustees voting, shall be necessary for a finding that a hearing is needed to resolve the allegations. The Chairman of the State Trustees shall either immediately cause the State Secretary (or shall himself) to notify the State Board of Trustees that a hearing is or is not required. The State President (or State 1st Vice President) shall ensure that a special disciplinary hearing by the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees is called to resolve the allegation(s) at the next scheduled Florida State Lodge board of Trustees Meeting.

F. The hearing by the State Board of Trustees shall be held for the purpose of resolving the charges against the state officer and there shall occur a disciplinary hearing thereon before the State Board of Trustees at which the charged State Officer shall be entitled to representation, and shall be afforded due process to the same extent afforded members and lodges herein. The Chairman of the State Trustees or his designee or the State President, if the charges have been brought against the Chairman, shall preside over such disciplinary hearing and shall resolve all questions of procedure and evidence.

G. No disciplinary action shall be taken upon a State Officer except upon three-fourth (3/4) vote of the State Board of Trustees of the ballots cast.

H. A State Officer against whom discipline is imposed in accordance herewith shall be entitled to appeal the decision of the State Board of Trustees to the next Annual State Lodge Conference. By taking the oath of office, each State Officer acknowledges and agrees that until and unless reversed by the State Lodge Conference, however, the decision of the State Board of Trustees shall be final.

1.) An appeal by a State Officer shall be made by filing notice thereof with the State Secretary within thirty (30) days of the decision of the State Board of Trustees.

2.) The State Officer making the appeal shall be permitted to address the State Lodge Conference for such time as the Chair shall deem appropriate and the Chairman of the State Trustee or his designee (or the State President, as the case may be) shall be permitted to equal amount of time to respond thereto.

I. Any member of the State Board of Trustees who brings an allegation against another State Officer which allegation is found to be brought frivolously or for personal gain shall, himself, be subject to discipline by the State Board of Trustees.

J. A State Officer may appeal a decision of the State Lodge by filing with the National Board of Trustees, in accordance with the National Constitution, Article 23, Section 3, Subsections D through G. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #3 as National Constitution Article 23 Section 3. and 4.*

ARTICLE 21
ASSOCIATES

Section 1. Associate members shall be voted and balloted for by all Subordinate Lodges having such membership. These associate members shall not have voice or be eligible to any of the secret works of the parent organization.

A. Subordinate Lodges may organize Associate Lodges of public-spirited citizens who are interested in law enforcement officers, their welfare and the Fraternal Order of Police. In the organization of such Lodge, it should not be forgotten that the Fraternal Order of Police is the parent organization and should be treated as such at all times.

B. Prospective members shall be strictly investigated, and upon favorable report of investigating committee from Subordinate Lodge shall be balloted on and elected in the same manner as regular members by said Subordinate Lodge.

C. They shall have the right to organize and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, not in conflict with the Constitution of the parent lodge, or the State Lodge, or the National Lodge.

Section 2. Any member or members of an Associate Lodge who have a complaint regarding the actions of the Associate Lodge, its officers or other members, shall have the right to present such complaint of charges to the Associate Lodge for investigation and adjudication. A member or members may appeal from the imposition of discipline by its respective Associate Lodge to the Parent Lodge whose decision shall be final.

Section 3. There shall be established a State Associate Labor Lodge.

A. The State Associate Labor Lodge shall be subordinate to the Florida State Lodge and be governed by the Florid State Lodge and the National Lodge Constitution and By-Laws.

B. Members of the State Associate Labor Lodge shall have no voice, vote or be eligible to any of the secret works of the parent organization.

C. There shall be no collective bargaining on behalf of the civilian public employees without the consent of the Florida State Lodge and the consent of the subordinate FOP Lodge chartered in the political subdivision/jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 22
AUXILIARIES

Section 1. The Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police recognizes, acknowledges and validates the Auxiliaries of the National Lodge, State Lodge, and Subordinate Lodges. An Auxiliary may be formed by individuals eligible for membership in the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary as defined by their Constitution, who are related to the active members of any Subordinate Lodge in the state of Florida, provided that the Subordinate Lodge has given permission for same. Such auxiliaries shall be subject to the control and the supervision of the Subordinate Lodge with which they are affiliated. They shall conform to and be governed by this Constitution and the By-Laws as they shall adopt and which shall, at all times, be subject to approval of the governing body of the lodge with which they are affiliated and, ultimately, the National Fraternal Order of Police, and may not be in conflict with the National Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary Constitution and By-laws. Each State and Subordinate Auxiliary shall be chartered by the Board of Trustees of the National Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #5 as National Constitution Article 21 Section 1.*

Section 2. Any member or members of an Auxiliary Lodge who have a complaint regarding the actions of the Auxiliary Lodge, its officers or members shall have the right to present such complaint or charges to the Auxiliary Lodge for investigation or adjudication. A member or members may appeal from the imposition of discipline by its respective Auxiliary Lodge to the Parent Lodge whose decision shall be final. The State Auxiliary Lodge shall not be involved in any such actions.

ARTICLE 23
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. Except as provided in the National Lodge and State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws, the latest edition of “Roberts Rules of Order” shall govern the conduct and deliberation of State Conference and meetings of the Board of Trustees and committees of the State Lodge.

ARTICLE 24
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Section 1. There shall be an official publication of the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, to be titled either “Florida’s Fraternal Order of Police Journal” or “Florida on Patrol”. Said publication to be under the management, supervision, and control of the State Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 25
Official Membership Card of the National Lodge

The official membership card of the National Lodge shall be printed or electronic and may interface with other functions of the Order. No state lodge, subordinate lodge or member thereof shall print or cause to be printed or create electronically a replica of the official membership card of the National Lodge nor shall any member use any other membership card for Active Members. *(Added 06/2023-from National 8/2021)*

ARTICLE 26
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Only a Subordinate Lodge, the Florida State Lodge Executive Board, the State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws Committee or a majority of the Board of Trustees may propose an amendment to this Constitution. No proposed amendment shall become part of this Constitution except upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting at the State Conference.
(Amended 6/2019)

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to the State Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the next Conference. The State Secretary shall distribute* to each member of the State Board of Trustees, and each Subordinate Lodge (President and Secretary) a copy of such proposed amendments at least forty-five (45) days prior to the next (State Lodge) Conference.
* See Article 2- DEFINITIONS, Section 1. M. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. A proposed amendment shall contain the precise language of the proposed amendment, shall specifically set forth the language to be added, deleted and /or revised, and shall identify each and every Article and section of this Constitution affected thereby. Proposed amendments shall not be set forth in resolution form but shall be accompanied by a statement, not to exceed one (1) page in length, setting forth the basis for the proposed amendment.

Section 4. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall receive proposed amendments to this Constitution and shall review same for form, grammar, and placement within this Constitution and shall report to the State Lodge Conference its conclusions and recommendations thereof.

Section 5. Any amendments that have been adopted by the delegates at the National Biennial Conference which apply to each state and subordinate lodges and their membership thereof, shall automatically become part of the state and subordinate lodge's Constitution and/or By-laws, and are not subject to the provisions requiring notice and adoption as it pertains to proposed amendments. State and local lodges failing to make the necessary adjustments to their Constitution and / or By-Laws will default to the National Constitution and By-Laws. All state and subordinate lodges will be notified of any such changes from the National Secretary's Office. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #1 National Constitution Article 19 Section 6 E.*

ARTICLE 27
RESOLUTIONS

Section 1. Resolutions may be submitted for vote to the Board of Trustees and Delegates at the Annual Conference. Such proposed resolutions may be submitted at any time between or during the Annual Conference, provided however, that each resolution shall be submitted not later than the recess of the next to last business session of the Conference. All proposed resolutions shall be in writing, shall state the basis for the resolution, and shall be submitted to the State Secretary who shall review the same for grammar, clarity and meaning.

ARTICLE 28
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. Revisions of the Fraternal Order of Police Ritual shall be made in the same manner as amendments to the Constitution.

ARTICLE 29
STATE LODGE PER CAPITA TAX AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Each Subordinate Lodge shall pay to the State Lodge a Per Capita tax as stated in (Article 26, Section 1, of the Florida State) By-Laws. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 2. If two-thirds (2/3) of the State Lodge Board of Trustees should deem it necessary that a special assessment is needed to meet an emergency, they shall follow the same procedure as set forth in the National Lodge By-Laws.

ARTICLE 30
LEGAL AID

Section 1. Upon such terms and in accordance with the procedures established in the By-Laws, a member, or Subordinate Lodge may request and be granted legal assistance or financial aid.

FLORIDA STATE LODGE

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1
USE AND DISPLAY OF EMBLEM (NAME)

Section 1. No person, other than a Member in good standing of the Fraternal Order of Police, its Associate Lodge, or its Auxiliary, their spouse or child living in the same residence, shall use or display the official emblem of the organization on any automobile or other motor vehicle.

Section 2. The unauthorized use or the abuse of the name or insignia of the Fraternal Order of Police or the infringement of a trademark thereof by a Member or local Lodge shall be grounds for discipline, including suspension, expulsion, removal from office, or revocation of Lodge Charter.

ARTICLE 2
STATE LODGE ACTION CONCERNING STATE AND/OR LOCAL MATTERS

Section 1. The State Lodge shall take cognizance of all matters, statewide, concerning and affecting the welfare and interests of law enforcement officers and their dependents. The Board of Trustees shall take such immediate action as shall be necessary to safeguard their welfare or interests by providing aid or such other services as may be required.

Section 2. In matters of purely local scope or concern, the Board of Trustees shall provide such legal or technical advisory service as may be appropriate.

ARTICLE 3
ORGANIZATION

Section 1. There shall be established such Special Committee of the State Lodge that the Annual Conference, State Board of Trustees, or the State President shall prescribe. Standing Committees shall be provided for in these By-Laws.

Section 2. The State President and State 1st Vice President shall appoint members to committees in accordance with the Constitution.

Section 3. Committees

A. These Committees shall consist of a Chairperson and members appointed in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Florida State Lodge.

B. These Committees shall submit a written report of all activities to the State 2nd Vice President prior to each meeting of the Florida State Lodge.

C. All expenditures of these Committees shall be reported in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Florida State Lodge.

D. These Committees shall, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws, submit a written budget for approval by the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees at the State Lodge Meeting immediately following the Board Meeting approving the appointment of these Committees.

E. 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 Florida State Lodge. These funds shall be utilized for the efficient operation of the Florida State Lodge.

F. Duties:

1. It shall be the duty of these Committees to perform the stated responsibilities of their respective committee in an effective and efficient manner.

2. It shall be the duty of these Committees to perform their responsibilities in a manner not to bring discredit or financial hardship upon the Florida State Lodge.

Section 4. Legislative Committee

A. There shall be a Committee established to be known as the Florida State Lodge Legislative Committee.

B. This committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, National Legislative Liaison and one member of each District of the Florida State Lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 3
ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

C. Duties:

1. It shall be the duty of the Committee to recommend a written legislative program for each session of the Florida Legislature to the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees.

2. The Legislative Committee Chairman shall assign members to represent the Florida State Lodge's legislative agenda during all sessions of the Florida Legislature.

D. In the event that any Subordinate Lodge or the State Board of Trustees shall seek the enactment of certain legislation through the State Legislature, said Lodge or Board of Trustees shall prepare and submit a copy of said proposed legislation to the State Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to any regular or special Board of Trustees meetings of the convening of the next State Conference. The State Secretary shall mail a copy of said proposed legislation to each subordinate lodge at least fifteen (15) days Prior to the regular or special Board of Trustees meetings, or at the convening of the next State Conference. Such proposed legislation shall then be submitted to the next Board of Trustees meeting or State Conference, under the order of "New Business". Upon approval by a majority of the voting members present, the State Legislative Committee shall be instructed to seek the enactment of this legislation at the following session of the State Legislature.

E. The Legislative Committee with the consent of the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees may establish a political action committee and \or committee of continuing existence.

F. The Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees shall adopt written rules that govern how all political and legislative endorsements shall occur where the endorsements cross over into local lodge and or district boundaries. Local Lodges, Districts and State FOP shall only endorse political candidates and legislation in accordance with the adopted procedures established and or amended by the Board of Trustees. *(Amended 2016)*

1. A motion to withdraw a prior approved Florida State Lodge legislative endorsement shall be submitted to the State Secretary in writing and shall be introduced by no less than 3 members in good standing. The motion shall state the reason(s) for the said action to be taken. The State Secretary shall immediately notify the State President of the motion and supply the State President and the Chairperson of the State Lodge Legislative Committee with all documentation received.

2. In the event an approved State Lodge legislative endorsement is to be withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances and/or just cause, the Legislative Committee may take a vote within that committee to withdraw the endorsement. The withdrawal vote must be affirmed by 75% or greater and the committee decision shall then be forwarded to the State Executive Board for further consideration.

3. For the purposes of this section, just cause shall mean but not be limited to any discovery of past or present illegal and/or unethical behavior as well as any past or present conduct or acts that have been deemed to be against the rules of our society or in conflict with the overall mission of the Fraternal Order of Police Florida State Lodge.

4. The Florida State Executive Board shall then vote to accept or reject the Legislative Committee's decision to withdraw the legislative endorsement. The withdrawal vote must be affirmed by 75% or greater of the Executive Board. The State Lodge President shall then take the necessary steps for the endorsement to be withdrawn.

5. The vote may be done via phone or through email if needed, by the Chairperson of each Committee/Board. *(Amended 6/2019)*

G. Enactment of Legislation

1. Any Subordinate Lodge seeking the enactment of certain legislation or requesting the assistance of the Florida State Lodge Legislative Committee shall appear before the Legislative Committee at the October Board Meeting through their State Trustee. The Subordinate Lodge must reduce to written form, the request of proposal.

2. If the Subordinate Lodge is unable to attend the October Board Meeting, it may send the request or proposal to the State Lodge Secretary who shall forward same to the Legislative Chairman. The Legislative Chairperson shall entertain the request or proposal before the Legislative Committee who shall make a recommendation to the State Board of Trustees.

3. In the event that an emergency arises, either prior to or during the sessions of the Florida Legislature concerning proposed legislation that could impact law enforcement in general and\or the members of the Fraternal Order of Police in particular, the President may authorize the Legislative Committee to take the necessary position to combat or support the proposed legislation.

Section 5. LABOR COUNCIL COMMITTEE

A. There shall be a standing committee within the Florida State Lodge to be known as the Florida State Lodge Labor Council Committee, or the LCC.

B. The Labor Council Committee, also known as the Labor Council Executive Board, shall consist of 7 members.

1. The Florida State Lodge President, by virtue of his office is an ex-officio member of the committee.

2. The Florida State Lodge President shall appoint four (4) members, who are active members of any FOP Labor Council Lodge, to serve on the Executive Board. *(Amended 6/2019)*

3. The remaining three (3) members of the Executive Board shall be elected from labor dues paying members of the Labor Council, who meet the requirements of Section C.

4. The members of the Executive Board shall elect, from among the Board members, a chairperson who shall preside at all meetings of the Labor Council.

5. All Executive Board members and the Chairperson shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected or appointed.

C. Elected Board Member Qualifications- In order to qualify to be elected to the Board, the candidate must be:

1. A member in good standing of the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., and,

2. An active law enforcement or correctional officer with at least five (5) years of full-time active service employment and currently a member in good standing in a FOP PERC certified bargaining unit represented by the Labor Council; and, (Amended 6/2019)

3. The candidate must have at least five (5) years of labor experience such as CBA negotiations, labor staff representative, shop steward, local representative, local labor committee, grievance representation, etc.…, or previous service on the State Lodge Labor Committee or Executive Board of the Florida FOP Labor Council.

4. Current Labor Council employees are disqualified from holding Board seats. However, employees may run for election to a Board seat and shall not be required to resign. If an employee is elected and chooses to hold the seat, the employee shall resign from the employee's position prior to being sworn in. *(Amended 6/2019)*

D. Nominations

(1.) The Labor Council shall notify all Labor Council Members of the election no later than April 1st of each election year. The notification shall be made by email to those members who have provided the State Lodge with their email address. Any interested candidates, who meets the qualifications, shall submit their names no later than May 21st of each election year. This will allow a ballot to be printed containing a list of the candidates. The official ballot shall list all candidates in alphabetical order by last name and shall have blank spaces for write in candidates. Additional nominations will be accepted during the Labor Council meeting at the June Conference, just prior to the election. Any dues paying member who meets the requirements of Article 3, Section 5. C. of these By-Laws) may announce their candidacy until the chair closes nominations; however, their name might not be printed on the official ballot unless the candidate submitted their name prior to the (May 21st deadline of each election year. *(Amended 6/2019)*

(2.) The Labor Dues paying member shall be entitled to nominate as many candidates for the election to the Executive Board as they wish.

ARTICLE 3
ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

E. Election Procedures

1. Election of the three Executive Board members shall be conducted at the Labor Council meeting at the June Conference in even number years.

2. All delegates of the June Conference who: (1) are from a FOP Labor Council Lodge; or (2) are a Legal Defense Plan Member shall be eligible to vote in the election. (Amended 6/2019)

3. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot, by a plurality vote of the Delegates present and voting. Proxy voting shall not be permitted. A printed ballot listing the names of the candidates shall be furnished to each delegate present to vote. After indicating their choice thereon, the delegate shall deposit the ballot in the receptacle provided for that purpose.

4. In the event that the number of candidates is equal to or less than the available positions, no election shall be necessary, and the nominated candidates shall be declared elected by the chair at the close of the nominations conducted at the LCC meeting during the State Conference.

5. An Election Committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the State Lodge President to conduct the election. Each Candidate will be permitted a Poll Watcher during the election and the counting of the ballots. Poll Watchers may not handle the ballots but should be permitted to observe the counting of the ballots.

6. The ballots shall be tabulated by the Elections Committee and shall not be destroyed until the election results are announced and the period for challenging or contesting the results has passed.

7. The ballots will be counted at the close of voting and all elected Board Members shall be seated immediately and sworn in.

F. Vacancies in Office

1. A vacancy in the designated position for the President of the Florida State Lodge shall be filled by their successor to that office.

2. A vacancy among the appointed or elected member shall be filled by an active member of any FOP Labor Council Lodge appointed by the State Lodge President. **(Amended 6/2019)**

G. The Labor Council Committee shall enact rules for its efficient and effective operation, but in no way shall any rule be in conflict with the Florida State Lodge.

H. The Labor Council Committee shall not have solicitation rights of any type.

I. The Labor Council Committee shall not obligate or cause a financial hardship on the Florida State Lodge. The Labor Council Committee shall authorize all expenditures from the general account earmarked for the Labor Council by rule or by motion. All expenditures shall be reviewed by the Committee.

J. At each State Lodge Conference and Board Meetings, the Chairperson of the LCC, in conjunction with the Florida State Lodge Office Staff will submit a status report and financial report covering the period since the last report. At each State Lodge Conference, the Council shall submit its estimated budget for the forthcoming year.

K. The duties of the Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Expansion of collective bargaining units by contacting potential local bargaining units to explain the services provided by the Florida State Lodge in the area of labor relations.

2. Assist new bargaining units in the distribution and collection of signature cards required for the certification of the Florida State Lodge as their exclusive bargaining agent.

3. Gather and submit signature cards and necessary information, on the behalf of those lodges that have contracted with the Florida State Lodge for collective bargaining representations to the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission.

4. Aid collective bargaining units that are represented by the Florida State Lodge formulation and administration of their labor agreements.

5. Assist any unit which has contracted with the Florida State Lodge for representation against any attempt to decertify the Florida State Lodge as their exclusive bargaining representative.

6. Ensure that Labor Council Bargaining Units are in compliance with ALL applicable laws and rules of the State of Florida and provisions of the service agreements between those Lodges and the Florida State Lodge.

7. Perform any other related duties as requested by the State Lodge President.

Section 6. Ways and Means Committee

A. There shall be a Committee established to be known as the Ways and Means Committee.

B. All revenue generated by the activities of this Committee shall be placed in the General fund of the Florida State Lodge. These funds shall be utilized for the efficient operation of the Florida State Lodge.

C. Duties:

1. It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for the operations of the official publications.

2. It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide for all fund-raising activities of the Florida State Lodge.

3. It shall be the duty of this Committee to ensure that none of the activities, for which it is responsible, brings discredit or financial hardship to the Florida State Lodge.

ARTICLE 3
ORGANIZATION (CONTINUED)

Section 7. Constitution and By-law Committee

A. There shall be established a Committee to be known as the Florida State Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

B. This Committee shall consist of a member of each of the State Lodge Districts, the State Lodge Secretary and, if appointed, the State Lodge Parliamentarian. The State Lodge President may appoint one (1) additional individual to serve on the committee and he shall appoint the Chairperson, which may be the State Lodge Secretary but shall not be the State Lodge Parliamentarian. *(Amended 6/2019)*

C. Duties:

(1.) The Committee shall review all amendments for the State Constitution and By-Laws presented by a Subordinate Lodge, the Florida State Lodge Executive Board, or the Board of Trustees and shall present such amendments to the Annual Conference with their recommendations as to adopt or reject. Amendments prepared by the committee to such referred amendments shall be reported by the Committee for consideration at the time the Committee recommendation is being reported to the assembly.

(2.) The Committee shall consolidate similar amendments for joint proposal, subject to the acceptance by the proposer(s).

(3.) The Committee shall have the right to originate amendments to the State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws.

(4.) When amendments or a revision of the State Constitution and By-Laws are adopted, the Committee shall be authorized to correct article and section designation, punctuation, and cross reference and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Annual Conference in connection with such amendments or revision.

(5.) When a “Revision”, as defined by the adopted Parliamentary Authority, is authorized by the Board of Trustees at the Annual Conference, the Committee shall prepare and present such a revision for approval at the Annual Conference.

(6.) The Committee shall review and present recommendations on the Constitution and By-Laws for the Auxiliary and Associate Lodges for whom the State Lodge serves as parent lodge.

(7.) The Committee shall be responsible for the review of all original Constitutions and By-Laws of Subordinate Lodges and all amendments to these Constitutions and By-Laws and for recommending to the Annual Conference or State Board of Trustees Meeting their approval or rejection.

(8.) With regard to the State Constitution, By-Laws, Special Rules of Order and Standing Rules, the committee shall have the right to correct article, section designations, punctuation, and cross reference to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Order.

ARTICLE 4
NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Section 1. Delegates from Subordinate Lodges to the National Conference shall be elected as prescribed in Article 17 of the National Lodge Constitution. *(Corrected 6/2025)*

Section 2. Each Subordinate Lodge of the State Lodge shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) active members or major portion thereof, provided, however, that every Lodge shall be entitled to not less than one (1) delegate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the number of delegates to the Biennial Conference to which each Subordinate Lodge shall be entitled, by reference to the number of active members on the first of April for whom all indebtedness, then owing, has been fully paid or postmarked to the National Lodge by the first day of July of the year in which the Biennial Conference is held. New Lodges forming after April 1st and before July 1st, shall be entitled to delegates in number as stated above. Number of credentials issued to new Lodge will be based on the total member count on the date of charter. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. Delegates and Alternate Delegates, for the Subordinate Lodges to the State Conference shall be selected no later than the meeting held by the Subordinate Lodges in the month of April preceding the Conference. Qualified candidate (of the number of which each lodge is entitled by the provisions of Article 6, of the State Lodge Constitution) receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

A. Subordinate Lodges may designate members of their elected Board as delegates to the Biennial Conference, by virtue of election to their respective office, however the number of delegates a Subordinate Lodge is entitled is defined in Article 17, section 2 of the National Constitution. - ***(Added 06/2024 from National: 8/23)***

Section 4. The term of office of the delegates shall commence with the assembling of the State Conference and shall terminate upon the election of their successor.

Section 5. Credentials. The State Secretary shall prescribe such rules, forms and/or procedures as are necessary to enable verifiable credentials to be issued to all attendees. Each attendee shall always have available for inspection a verifiable image of their conference credential, and government issued photo identification, at all times while within or when seeking admission to the Conference Hall. *(Amended 6/2022)- (Added 06/2024 from **National: 8/23**)*

Section 6. No delegates representing any Subordinate Lodge that is delinquent in the payment of Per Capita tax assessment or other indebtedness due the National Lodge or State Lodge shall be admitted or seated at any Conference of the Florida State Lodge.

Section 7. Under extenuating circumstance local Lodges that are denied National Conference credentials can appeal, in writing, to the National Secretary, who will forward the appeal and recommendation to the Executive Board for a decision. The local Lodge can appeal the decision of the Executive Board to the Board of Trustees at the Pre-Conference Board Meeting. The local Lodge can appeal the Board of Trustees' decision to the floor of the National Conference in question. The decision of the delegates will be final. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 5
NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS

(Amended 6/2019)

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 time.

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, declare elected by the State President and shall take office immediately.

b. 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 President.

c. The Election Committee shall oversee these elections.

Section 2. The State Lodge Officers, except Trustees and District Directors, shall be elected by a plurality vote of the delegates and the Officers present at the Conference. The election shall be held at the first business session on the day following the nominations. A printed ballot listing the names of the candidates shall be furnished to each voting delegate and they shall deposit same in a receptacle provided for that purpose. The ballot box shall not be taken from the Conference floor until the votes have been counted and the election returns certified by the Election Committee. *(Corrected 8/2024)*

Section 3. Whenever voting machines are available, they may be used in place of printed ballots specified in Article 5 Section 2 of these By-Laws. Any expense involved shall be borne by the host lodge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 4. An Election Committee of seven (7) shall be appointed to distribute the ballots and to canvass the vote. They shall report the results to the Conference and declare elected those candidates receiving a plurality of votes cast for each office.

Section 5. No more than two (2) of the following Officers shall be elected from anyone (1) Subordinate Lodge: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductor, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, and Chaplin. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 6. Board of Trustees-elect shall be installed by the State President, a Past State President, or a National Officer, prior to the adjournment of the Conference, and shall take office forthwith.

ARTICLE 6
STATE PRESIDENT

Section 1. The State President shall submit a written report to the State Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference.

Section 2. At each meeting of the State Board of Trustees, the State President shall submit a full and complete written report in respect to the business transacted by the State President since the last meeting of the State Board of Trustees together with such recommendations as he may deem advisable.

(Amended 6/2023)

ARTICLE 7
PAST STATE PRESIDENTS

Section 1. The Past State Presidents shall be the Standing Committee for the Member of the Year Award.

A. During the Annual Conference, the Past State Presidents shall elect from their number a Chairman.

B. They shall establish a form for receiving nominations for the Member of the Year Award.

C. They shall consider all nominations and chose the recipient for the Member of the Year Award, and honor the member as deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE 8
STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

Section 1. The Vice Presidents shall submit a report in writing to the State Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference, and each meeting of the State Board of Trustees.
(Amended 6/2019)

ARTICLE 9
STATE SECRETARY

Section 1. The State Secretary shall prepare reports of State Officers and Committees in printed form and furnish one (1) copy to each subordinate lodge who may not be represented at the Conference.

Section 2. A petty cash fund in the amount of two hundred dollars ($200.00) shall be allowed to the Secretary for the purpose of paying emergency expenses. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. The State Secretary shall be responsible for the compilation, printing, and distribution of the State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE 10
STATE TREASURER

Section 1. The State Treasurer shall submit a report in writing to the State Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference, and each meeting of the State Board of Trustees.
(Amended 6/2019)

Section 2. The State Treasurer shall cause an annual audit of the accounts, books and records of the State Lodge, to be conducted by a certified public accountant.

ARTICLE 11
STATE CONDUCTOR

Section 1. The State Conductor shall submit a report in writing to the State Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference, and each meeting of the State Board of Trustees.

(Amended 6/2019)

ARTICLE 12
STATE GUARDS

Section 1. The State Lodge Inner and Outer Guard shall submit a report in writing to the State Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference, and each meeting of the State Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 13
STATE CHAPLAIN

Section 1. The State Lodge Chaplain shall submit a report in writing to the State Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference, and each meeting of the State Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

ARTICLE 14
DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Section 1. Duties:

A. Expansion of the Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge.

1) Organization of new Lodges within respective District.

2) Contact non-active Lodges to promote interest.

B. Collective bargaining activities for the State and local Lodges.

1) Insure registration of all local Lodges within the District.

(a) State umbrella

(b) Local actions

2) Obtain certification with PERC of all local Lodges within the District.

(a) State umbrella

(b) Local actions

3) Assist local Lodges with activities concerning contract negotiations when requested.

(a) Preparation

(b) Negotiation

C. Grievance handling activities for the State and local Lodges.

1) Review grievances between local Lodges, between local Lodges and State Lodge or between local lodges and member(s) concerning Lodges outside respective district and report to State Board.

2) Assist local Lodges in pursuing grievances within the provisions provided for 0the by contractual agreement or otherwise, representing the local Lodge when requested.

D. Requests for State aid, review and resolution or referral to the State President.

1) Review all requests for State Aid from local Lodges within the District.

2) Make efforts to resolve such requests in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

3) Refer unresolved requests to the State President.

ARTICLE 14
DISTRICT DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

E. Make initial contact with local Lodge within District prior to the State President or any other State Officer becoming involved in any matter.

1. Make a full report, in writing to the State Board at each Board Meeting as to all activities.

2. Remain available to the State President to provide input concerning issues within the district to ensure that local needs are given priority consideration.

Section 2. Qualifications:

A. Be a member in good standing as provided in the State Constitution and By-Laws.

B. Be a member of local lodge that is fully paid in Per Capita and currently in good standing as provided in the State Constitution and By-Laws.

C. Be a member of a local lodge within the respective district.

Section 3. Organization

A. Each District shall provide for the establishment of Officers. Those Officers shall be elected by the Districts from members of the District. Those members of the District seeking election to a District Office must be a Fraternal Order of Police member in good standing. The District Director shall notify, in writing, to the Florida State Lodge the names and contract information on any Member of their District elected to a District office.

B. Each District shall incorporate with the (Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations) and provide copies of their corporate documentation to the Florida State Lodge. *(Amended 06/2023)*

C. Each District shall carry liability insurance on the District Corporation and its Officers and supply a copy to the Florida State Lodge.

D. Each District shall adopt standing rules. These standing rules shall not be in conflict with the State or National Constitution and By-Laws. A copy of those standing rules must be submitted to the Florida State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review.

E. The Florida State Lodge shall not assume any liability for the Districts or any of its Officers.

1. No District Officer other than the District Director shall be considered a member of the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees.

F. Each District Director shall submit a report in writing to the State Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the State Conference, and each meeting of the State Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

CTS - FORIDA STATE LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE DISTRICTS
ESTABLISHED 1980

DISTRICT 1 – 15 COUNTIES
- BAY
- CALHOUN
- ESCAMBIA
- FRANKLIN
- GASDEN
- GULF
- HOLMES
- JACKSON
- LEON
- LIBERTY
- OKALOOSA
- SANTA ROSA
- WAKULLA
- WALTON
- WASHINGTON

DISTRICT 2 – 20 COUNTIES
- ALACHUA
- BAKER
- BRADFORD
- CLAY
- COLUMBIA
- DIXIE
- DUVAL
- FLAGLER
- GILCHRIST
- HAMILTON
- JEFFERSON
- LAFEYETTE
- LEVY
- MADISON
- NASSAU
- PUTNAM
- ST. JOHNS
- SUWANNEE
- TAYLOR
- UNION

DISTRICT 3 – 12 COUNTIES
- CHARLOTTE
- DESOTO
- GLADES
- HARDEE
- HIGHLANDS
- HILLSBOROUGH
- LEE
- MANATEE
- PASCO
- PINELLAS
- POLK
- SARASOTA

DISTRICT 4 – 5 COUNTIES
- INDIAN RIVER
- OKEECHOBEE
- MARTIN
- PALM BEACH
- ST. LUCIE

DISTRICT 5 – 3 COUNTIES
- BROWARD
- COLLIER
- HENDRY

DISTRICT 6 – 2 COUNTIES
- DADE
- MONROE

DISTRICT 7 – 10 COUNTIES
- BREVARD
- CITRUS
- HERNANDO
- LAKE
- MARION
- ORANGE
- OSCEOLA
- SEMINOLE
- SUMTER
- VOLUSIA

ARTICLE 15
STATE TRUSTEES

Section 1. The State Trustees shall meet as a whole twice a year to discuss any business they deem necessary. *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

ARTICLE 16
GENERAL COUNSEL

Section 1. There may be a General Counsel and when necessary, Associate Counsel, designated by the Florida State Lodge President.

Section 2. The General Counsel and/or the Associate Counsel may be employed full time by the Florida State Lodge if so, determined by the Florida State Lodge Board of Trustees.

Section 3. The General Counsel and Associate Counsel shall serve as legal representative to the Florida State Lodge in all legal matters so ordered by the Florida State Lodge President or Board of Trustees.

Section 4. The General Counsel or Associate Counsel shall report to the State President any legal matter of significance to the Florida State Lodge.

ARTICLE 17
EXPENSES OF STATE LODGE OFFICERS

Section 1. State Executive Board members, when attending a State Board Meeting or State Conference, shall receive expenses as prescribed in Subsection A, B, C, and D of this Section. *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

A. Travel – Shall be paid at tourist rate air transportation. When traveling in areas not covered by air transportation shall receive mileage at the current IRS rate.

B. Hotel or Motel accommodations

C. A reasonable rate for meals to be set by the Executive Board at the October Board Meeting and ratified by the Board of Trustees.

D. Registration fees

Section 2. The President, Immediate Past President, and Secretary when attending a National Conference, shall receive expenses as provided in Article 17, Section 1 of the Florida State By-Laws, subsection a, b, c, and d. In addition, the State President shall be allowed up to three hundred dollars ($300.00) for hospitality and entertainment purposes for State Board Meetings and up to six hundred dollars ($600.00) for State and National Conferences. (Amended 6/2019)

Section 3. Any Lodge Officer or Member performing duties and services for the State Lodge, upon order of the State President, shall be compensated for such expenses pursuant to Article 17 Section 1 of this Constitution. *(Amended 6/2019*)

Section 4. The annual compensation of the State Lodge President, State Lodge Secretary, and State Lodge Treasurer shall be determined by a two-thirds (2\3) majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 18
SUBORDINATE LODGES

Section 1. Each Subordinate Lodge shall provide proof of fidelity bond or insurance to the State Lodge. No Subordinate Lodge shall be eligible for financial aid or assistance from another Lodge or the State Lodge except upon proof of maintenance of such fidelity bond or insurance.

Section 2. Each Subordinate Lodge shall become incorporated with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations and supply a current copy of a letter of incorporation to the State Lodge. Lodges failing to comply with this section shall be subject to discipline by the Florida State Lodge as prescribed in these Constitution and By-Laws *(Amended 06/2023)*

ARTICLE 19
IN CASE OF SUSPENSION, CANCELLATION OR REVOCATION OF A SUBORDINATE LODGE CHAPTER

Section 1. The charter of a Subordinate Lodge may be suspended, canceled, or revoked for a good and sufficient reason, after a hearing and trial by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. In the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or trial of the complaint against any subordinate Lodge, the Board of Trustees shall follow the same procedures as prescribed in Article 23, of the National Lodge Constitution.

Section 3. Upon the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any subordinate Lodge, the Board of Trustees shall take control and possession of all books, records, funds and other property of said Lodge, and shall provide for the supervision and protection of same until a final decision or disposition has been made. Upon final decision or disposition such property shall be returned to the persons entitled to receive same.

Section 4. In the event of any dispute between two or more subordinate lodges as to the question of membership or territorial jurisdiction, settlement shall be made by the Board of Trustees of the State Lodge.

Section 5. In the matter of discipline of a Subordinate Lodge or any of its membership, the decisions of the Board of Trustees of the State Lodge shall be final provided, however, that such a decision may be appealed to the State Conference and further to the National Lodge Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 20
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of the State Associate Labor Lodge is comprised of those civilian persons being represented by bargaining units certified by the Public Employees Relations Commission and or legal defense by the Florida State Labor Council Committee.

ARTICLE 21
AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP
(RESERVED)

ARTICLE 22
DISCIPLINE AND HEARINGS

Section 1. In respect to any disciplinary hearing conducted by any lodge within this State, due process shall be afforded the parties thereto.

Section 2. In all disciplinary hearing conducted by any Lodge within the State, the body conducting all disciplinary hearings such shall: (Amended 6/2019)

A. Require the complaint, charge or allegation be made under oath and in writing, utilizing the Discipline Hearing Forms (D.H.F. # 1-A & 1-B), attested to and signed under oath and served upon the Secretary to the Subordinate Lodge, and prove such facts as may enable the charged party to be fairly apprised of the nature of the charge. *(Amended 6/2019)*

B. Ensure that the party charged is provided with a copy of each complaint, charge or allegation and given sufficient time, which in any event shall be not less than thirty (30) days, to prepare a defense, if any, thereto.

C. Conduct a hearing upon the matter during which the Trier of fact shall limit to the scope of the inquiry to the specific complaint(s), charge(s) or allegation(s) set forth in the written notice thereof.

D. Adhere to an order of procedure which places the burden of proof upon the party charging the member, lodge or state/national officer.

E. Permit the parties thereto to introduce documents and exhibits and the testimony of witnesses in accordance with such rules of evidence as may be determined and applied uniformly by such body.

Section 3. Discipline may be imposed upon a member or Lodge for any violation of the good of the order, including, but not limited to, the following:

A. Violation of the Constitution, these By-Laws, Ritual of Order, oath or obligation of the Order.

B. Acts of disloyalty to the Fraternal Order of Police, including, but not limited to, overt attempts to decertify the Fraternal Order of Police, where such lodge is the certified bargaining representative of its members. Holding office in an organization which encourages members of the Fraternal Order of Police to leave the Order or, where applicable, attempts to decertify the FOP or such other acts as being discredit, disrepute, disgrace or dishonor upon the FOP.

C. Distribution or use of the Membership list for any reason without the express permission of the State Lodge Board of Trustees.

D. The unauthorized use or the abuse of the name or insignia of the Fraternal Order of Police or the infringement of a trademark thereof.

ARTICLE 23
LEGAL AID

Section 1. Requests for legal assistance or financial aid shall be made in the following manner:

A. A written request for aid or assistance setting forth the specific aid or assistance requested, and the reason therefore shall first be made to the appropriate subordinate lodge.

B. In the event that the Subordinate Lodge is unable to provide all or part of the requested aid or assistance, the Subordinate Lodge may request such aid or assistance from the appropriate District. The request of the Subordinate Lodge shall include the original request and a statement of the action taken thereon by the Subordinate Lodge.

C. In the event that the District is unable to provide all or part of the requested aid or assistance, the subordinate lodge and the District may request such aid or assistance from the Florida State Lodge. The request of the Subordinate Lodge and District shall include the original request and a statement of the action taken thereon by the Subordinate Lodge.

D. Requests for legal assistance or financial aid shall be made to the State Lodge in writing, shall include all appropriate and relevant documentation and materials, and forwarded to the State Secretary (State Office) who shall forward copies of same to the Chairperson of the Legal Aid Committee and the State President.

E. All requests for financial assistance submitted to the State Lodge Legal Assistance Committee must include a statement (of good faith effort on the part of the member requesting such assistance) of participation or some remedy designed to provide Legal Aid or Assistance benefits for the member making the request.

Section 2. The Legal Aid Committee shall meet and confer (in person or telephonically) in respect to each request and shall determine whether the requesting member or lodge has complied with the provisions of this Article. In the event that the request has followed the procedure set forth herein, the committee shall further review the request, conduct such investigation as it deems necessary or appropriate, and make its recommendation to the State Board of Trustees.

Section 3. All requests for legal assistance or financial aid shall be heard at the next meeting of the State Board of Trustees. In the case of an extreme emergency, where time is of the essence and the delay, caused by waiting for the next meeting of the State Board of Trustees, could cause irreparable injury, a direct request may be made to the State President, which request shall be in the same form as otherwise provided herein for request made to the State Board of Trustees. The State President and Executive Board shall consider the matter, and upon majority vote thereof, may grant the legal aid requested.

Section 4. No Member or Subordinate Lodge shall allege, represent or promise, that the State Lodge will assume any payment or provide any assistance or aid. Nor shall the State Lodge, or any officer, employee, agent or representative provide or promise to provide any legal assistance or financial aid except in conformity herewith. Any provision of such legal assistance or financial aid shall be specifically authorized by the State Lodge, memorialized in writing, signed by the State President and State Secretary under the State Lodge Seal.

ARTICLE 23
LEGAL AID (CONTINUED)

Section 5. No request for legal assistance or financial aid shall be heard if the Member has not taken steps, prior to the request to the State Lodge, to obtain financial assistance. In the case of financial aid, such assistance should be solicited from the local Lodge or its District. In the case of legal aid, it can include but not be limited to participation by the individual in either a civilian legal protection plan or a Subordinate Lodge or District's Lodge to the Legal Aid Committee for review and this committee may recommend to the State Board of Trustees that standing approval be given for such a plan. Such approval shall constitute compliance for the provisions of this section that require prior action by the Member.

ARTICLE 24
SOLICITATION

Section 1. Each Subordinate Lodge (FOP, FOPA, and FOP Auxiliary) shall comply with all Florida State laws in reference to solicitation.

Section 2. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action as stated in the Constitution, Article 20 and By-Laws, Article 22.

Section 3. The Florida State Lodge exonerates itself and shall be held blameless where a local Lodge (FOP, FOPA, and FOP Auxiliary) fails to comply.

Section 4. The Florida State Lodge Legislative Committee shall be allowed to conduct solicitation for its Legislative goals. It shall comply with all Federal and Florida State laws in reference to solicitation.
(Amended 6/2019)

ARTICLE 25
ANNUAL BUDGET

Section 1. The Annual Budget of the Florida State Lodge shall include an estimate of anticipated revenue, anticipated expenditures, and line-item estimates, of the needs, of the administrative and operational functions of the State Lodge. Line items shall include, but not be limited to the following:

A. State Conference and Board Meeting Expenses

B. State Office Expenditures

C. Committee Expenditures

D. Legal Expenses

Section 2. Any other provision of these By-Laws notwithstanding, the State President shall not approve any warrant or voucher in excess of the budgeted amount for any particular line item, or sub-line-item account. Each State Officer, Committee Chairman and Employee will cooperate in the institution of and compliance with the annual budget of the Florida State Lodge and will, upon request thereof, submit an itemized budget with respect to anticipated revenues and expenses in their area of control or interest for the next fiscal year.

Section 3. The Annual Budget shall be presented to the State Board of Trustees at the Fall Board Meeting for approval and adoption. After adoption all expenditures exceeding line-item budgeted amounts must be approved by the Board of Trustees as an amendment to the adopted budget.

Section 4. A “deficit budget” shall not be adopted.

ARTICLE 26
DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. The Annual Per Capita Tax for the Florida State Lodge is sixteen dollars ($16.00) per member, per year, commencing on October 1, 2019, and eighteen dollars ($18.00) per year commencing on October 1, 2020.

A. The state lodge shall collect and transmit to the National Secretary per capita taxes and assessments, as established in the National C&BL's together with all member roster changes, electronically. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #2 as National Constitution Article 31 Section 1. B.*

B. Each Subordinate Lodge shall pay through their respective State Lodge and, where there is no State Lodge directly to the National Fraternal Order of Police, an annual per capita tax of eleven dollars and fifty cents ($11.50) beginning the first half of Per Capita for the year 2018, for each member thereof with $1.00 of that amount going to the NFOP Foundation. Then *fourteen dollars and fifty cents ($14.50)* beginning the first half of per capita for the year *2027* for each member thereof with $1.00 of that amount going to the NFOP Foundation. *The annual per capita tax for the year 2030 shall be seventeen dollars and fifty cents ($17.50) for each member thereof with $1.00 of that amount going to the NFOP Foundation. (National: 8/25) National amendment #4 as National Constitution Article 31 Section 1.*

Section 2. The State Secretary (State Office) shall transmit all funds collected in respect to Per Capita Taxes and assessments to the State Treasurer for deposit in the proper accounts.

Section 3. Assessments – In the event of an emergency, as determined by the Board of Trustees, in accordance with Article 29 of this Constitution, the Board of Trustees shall first determine the amount of assessment required from each member in order to meet the emergency. *(Amended 6/2019)*

A. The Board of Trustees shall then notify each subordinate lodge, by certified mail, which shall be mailed to the address that is on file with the State Lodge Office, of its intent to levy an assessment upon the membership. The letter shall set forth the reason for the assessment and detailed account of probable expenditures.

B. Each Subordinate Lodge shall notify the Board of Trustees (State Office) within forty-five (45) days of the date of mailing of the notification, by certified mail, of its approval or disapproval of the proposed assessment. Each subordinate lodge shall be entitled to cast votes equal in number to the number of delegates to which it was entitled at the immediately preceding the Conference. In the event that the vote of any subordinate lodge fails to arrive at the office of the State Lodge within the prescribed thirty (30) days, the date of the postmark shall be considered as prima facie evidence that the vote was filed in accordance with the provisions of this section.

C. If approved, the State Secretary (State Office) shall notify each Subordinate Lodge by Registered Mail of the total votes cast and how each subordinate lodge cast it votes.

Section 4. Any member is arrears of payment of dues, Per Capita Tax or assessment of more than thirty (30) days, and less than ninety (90) days shall be deemed to be a delinquent member and not in good standing and shall not be eligible to any of the benefits of the Order.

Section 5. Any member in arrears of payment of dues, Per Capita tax or assessments more the eighty-nine (89) days shall be and is hereby automatically suspended form the Order.

ARTICLE 26
DUES AND ASSESSMENTS (CONTINUED)

Section 6. Reinstatement of Membership- Any Member, delinquent or suspended, as provided in (Article 26) Sections 3 and 4 of (the state's By-Laws), may be reinstated upon reapplication for membership. The following conditions must be met for reinstatement:

A. Initiation Fee: A new initiation fee not to exceed fifty (50) dollars may be required, at the discretion of the subordinate Lodge.

B. Per Capita Tax: The member must pay the full Per Capita Tax for the entire current year in which the reapplication is made.

C. Reinstatement is contingent upon compliance with these requirements. *(Amended 2025) State Amendment #4-2025*

Section 7. There shall be assessed, by the State Lodge Secretary, a delinquency fee of ten percent (10%) of the outstanding delinquency upon any lodge failing to pay the Florida State Lodge Per Capita taxes within thirty (30) days of the due date. Reinstatement of any lodge suspended by reason of failure to pay Per Capita taxes shall be conditioned upon, full payment of outstanding Per Capita taxes, plus any delinquency fee, along with the yearly administrative fee required under National Lodge By-Laws, Article 31 *(Amended per National Lodge, August 2017)*

Section 8. Dues

A. Each Subordinate Lodge shall pay through the State Lodge an annual per capita tax of eleven dollars and fifty cents ($11.50) beginning the first half of Per Capita for the year 2018, for each member thereof, with $1.00 of that amount going to the NFOP Foundation. Then fourteen dollars and fifty cents ($14.50) beginning the first half of per capita for the year 2027 for each member thereof with $1.00 of that amount going to the NFOP Foundation. The annual per capita tax for the year 2030 shall be seventeen dollars and fifty cents ($17.50) for each member thereof with $1.00 of that amount going to the NFOP Foundation. for each member thereof. (*Amended 2013) (National: 8/25) National amendment #4 as National Constitution Article 31 Section 1.*

B. Each State Lodge, and, in states having no State Lodge, each subordinate lodge, shall collect and transmit to the National Secretary Per Capita taxes and assessments as established herein together with all member roster changes electronically or in paper form. *(Amended 2015)*

C. The annual Per Capita tax shall be paid in either full year or half year installments. Supplemental Per Capita shall be paid for each new member joining between Per Capita cycles. *(Amended 2015)*

(1) The first installment shall be paid, in respect to all Members in good standing, on October 1st of each year and shall become due and payable on November 1st of the same year. Said installment shall maintain a lodge's good standing for the six (6) month period commencing on January 1st of the following year.

(2) The last half installment shall be paid in respect to members in good standing on April 1st of each year and shall become due and payable on May 1st of the same year. Said installment will maintain a Lodge's good standing for the six (6) month period commencing on July 1st of the same year. *(Amended 2015)*

D. Reinstatement of any lodge suspended by reason of failure to pay Per Capita shall be conditioned upon full payment of outstanding Per Capita plus any delinquency fee.
(Amended per ~~National~~ Lodge, 08/ 2017)

E. In the event of a natural disaster or a catastrophic event, the National Secretary, in coordination with the State Lodge, may waive the delinquency fee for any affected lodges. *(Amended 2015)*

Section 9. Assessments – In the event that the National Board of Trustees determines by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of its members that an emergency exists and only in accordance with the procedure set in the By-Laws, there may be assessed upon each subordinate lodge an assessment in such amount as is determined to be required by the National Board of Trustees. No assessment shall become effective except upon a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Subordinate Lodges voting in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.

Section 10. Administrative Fees

A. Each Subordinate Lodge shall pay through their respective State Lodge and where there is no State Lodge, directly to the National Lodge, a Lodge administrative fee in the amount of twenty-five dollars ($25.00).

B. The Lodge administrative fee shall become due and payable on November 1st of each year. Local Lodges will not receive dues cards for active members until this fee is paid to the National Lodge. *(Amended 2015)*

ARTICLE 27
BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Section 1. In order to amend these By-Laws, a subordinate Lodge, the Florida State Lodge Executive Board, the State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws Committee or a majority of the Board of Trustees shall submit the proposed amendment. No proposed amendment shall become part of the By-Laws except upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting at the State Conference.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the State Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the next Conference. The State Secretary shall distribute* to each member of the State Board of Trustees, and each Subordinate Lodge President and Secretary a copy of such proposed amendments at least forty-five (45) days prior to the next Conference. *(Amended 6/2019)*

Section 3. A proposed amendment shall contain the precise language of the proposed amendment. It shall specifically set forth the language to be added, deleted and/or revised, and shall identify each and every Article and Section of the By-Laws affected thereby. Proposed amendments shall not be set forth in resolution form but shall be accompanied by a statement, not to exceed one (1) page in length, setting forth the basis for the proposed amendment.

Section 4. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall receive proposed amendments to these By-Laws and shall review same for form, grammar, and placement within the By-Laws and shall report to the State Lodge Conference its conclusions and recommendations thereof.

Section 5. Any amendments that have been adopted by the delegates at the National Biennial Conference which apply to each state and subordinate lodges and their membership thereof, shall automatically become part of the state and subordinate lodge's Constitution and/or By-laws, and are not subject to the provisions requiring notice and adoption as it pertains to proposed amendments. State and local lodges failing to make the necessary adjustments to their Constitution and / or By-Laws will default to the National Constitution and By-Laws. All state and subordinate lodges will be notified of any such changes from the National Secretary's Office. *(National: 8/25) National amendment #1 National Constitution Article 19 Section 6 E.*

** See Article 2- DEFINITIONS, Section 1. M. of this Constitution.*

ARTICLE 28
EMPLOYEES OF THE FLORIDA STATE LODGE

Section 1. The President of the Florida State Lodge, with the approval of the State Board of Trustees, may hire full and/or part time employees as necessary to ensure proper staffing of the State Lodge Office and State Lodge field operations. The President may also employ temporary employees as needed for the purpose of fulfilling a specific task.

(A). A Qualified lobbyist(s) may be employed by the State President, subject to the advice and consent of the Florida Board of Trustees. Remuneration of such lobbyist(s) shall be determined by the Florida Board of Trustees. The lobbyist(s) shall perform such duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Florida Board of Trustees. Said lobbyist(s) shall report on the status of legislation to the State President and the Legislative Committee in such frequency as they shall prescribe. A report of the lobbyist(s) shall be distributed by the State Secretary to the Subordinate Lodges. The lobbyist(s) shall submit a written report of expenses and activities not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Conference and any meeting of the Florida State Board of Trustees. *(Amended 6/2019)*

(B.) The Labor Council Committee may select the Executive Director of the Labor Council Committee with the advice and consent of the President of the Florida State Lodge. Amended 6/2019)

(C.) Rights of Contract Employees shall be governed by their respective contracts and shall not be additionally entitled to member remedies as outlined in Article 20 of this Constitution. (Amended 6/2019)

(D.) In no way are member rights infringed upon in member issues. (Amended 6/2019)

Section 2. Job tasks, positions and titles shall be designated by the President and approved by the State Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Part time, temporary and probationary employees may be terminated at any time without cause by the President or the State Board of Trustees.

Section 4. The President shall establish an office operations manual/Employee Handbook which shall be approved and modified as necessary by the Florida State Lodge Executive Board. Said manual shall be approved and modified as necessary by the Florida State Lodge Executive Board. Said manual shall be reviewed at least biannually to ensure it remains current. The manual shall include procedures for the office operations, employee's benefits, employed discipline, employee leave policy, definitions for cause, and any other policy or procedures deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the Florida State Lodge Office.

Section 5. The Florida State Lodge shall not employ any member of the State Executive Board in any capacity.

ARTICLE 29
NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL TRUSTEE

Section 1. The election for the National Trustee representing the State of Florida shall be held at the State Lodge Conference in the odd numbered years. The term of office shall be for two (2) years.

Section 2. Nominations for National Trustee shall take place immediately after New Business.

A. Candidates for National Trustee must be a member of a Subordinate Lodge within the State of Florida and be in good standing.

B. Once nominations for National Trustee are closed, they shall not be reopened.

Section 3. The National Trustees shall be elected by plurality vote of the delegates and the State Lodge Officers present at the Conference.

A. Printed ballots listing the name of the candidates shall be furnished to each person authorized to vote.

B. An Election Committee of seven (7) shall be appointed to distribute the ballots and oversee this election.

C. The Election Committee shall count the ballots after the Florida State Lodge President announces the election closed. The Election Committee shall certify the result of the election returns to the Delegates and members present at the Conference, immediately upon completion of the count of the ballots.

Section 4. The newly elected National Trustee will be declared elected by the National President prior to the nomination of the other National Offices. The newly elected National Trustee will take office at the installation of officers at the close of the National Biennial Conference.

Article 30

Virtual/Electronic Meetings

(Added 06/2023)

Section 1. In certain unusual circumstances it may be necessary to conduct meetings by means of a virtual meeting platform.

Section 2. The Annual Conference of the Florida State Lodge, the Board of Trustee meetings, Districts, and meetings of Subordinate Lodges may be held by means of a virtual platform in the following circumstances: During a natural or man-made disaster, a state of emergency has been declared, large scale civil unrest, or when deemed necessary by the President, with the approval of either the State or Subordinate Lodge Executive Board, as applicable. Additionally, the State President with the State Board of Directors may approve the use of virtual meetings when geographical needs arise. The decision to hold a virtual meeting will not be made for the sake of convenience, or in the case of Subordinate Lodges, to avoid the requirement of meetings listed in Article 19, Section 6 of the Constitution.

A. Subordinate Lodges and State Districts may hold meetings using a virtual hybrid platform, which includes both in-person and virtual attendees, at their discretion when necessary. To qualify for such a meeting, the Subordinate Lodge and State Districts must ensure that at least 50% plus one (1) of the active members required for a quorum are physically present. The remaining members needed to meet the quorum requirement can attend through the virtual/electronic meeting platform.

1. The following are the minimum-security standards that must be met:
    a.) Only platforms approved by the Florida State Lodge shall be used when conducting a virtual/electronic meeting. (ZOOM & MICROSOFT TEAMS)
    b.) The Virtual/Electronic Meetings shall be password protected. Furthermore, it is the duty of the lodge president or State District Director to designate a security person to identify all members logging on to the meeting. This means the Video feature of the platform must be always turned on. Any member who refuses to use the feature will be ejected from the Virtual/Electronic Meetings.
    c.) Any breach of security at any Virtual/Electronic Meeting shall be reported to the Florida State Lodge.) ***(Amended 06/2025)***

Section 3. Various Committees of the Florida State Lodge, the Districts, as well as those of Subordinate Lodges may hold meetings by means of a virtual platform at their discretion when the need arises.

A. Safeguards will be placed to ensure members rights to attend the virtual meeting, make motions, speak, and to vote, are in place and preserved.

B. The provisions within the latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will be followed in the crafting and adoption of by-laws concerning virtual meetings.

C. Security will be in place by the meeting Chair to ensure only members are invited and attend virtual meetings. No virtual meeting shall be held without proper notice to affected members, and the meeting Chair is responsible for ensuring members have access to the chosen virtual platform. All other requirements for recording attendance, meeting minutes, and voting on motions are to be applied.

SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER
REVISED JUNE 2019

1. Members shall be allowed three speeches of three (3) minutes length per day, on each debatable question.

2. Standing and Special Committee reports presented under "Committee Reports" in the Order of Business shall be for information only, and all recommendations contained in such reports that require action by the assembly shall either be considered under "New Business", or by being presented and considered individually.

3. All motions adopted by the Conference and State Board of Trustees, that relate to the details of the administration of the State Lodge, shall be designated as Standing Rules and as such shall be printed under separate cover heading in the booklet containing the State Lodge Constitution and By-Laws.
A motion to amend Special Rules of Order shall require a 2/3 vote of voting members at the meeting the motion is made. (Amended 6/2019)

4. All resolutions shall expire at the beginning of business session of each Conference unless another time and date are provided for in the resolution.

5. A Consent Agenda" shall be used for presentation of Standing, Special Committee, and Executive Board, recommendations under "new Business", if deemed appropriate by the Florida State Lodge President.

A. A consent agenda shall be defined as a consolidation of the recommendations of Committees and the Executive Board into one motion, and the individual recommendations contained there-in will be considered in gross, and without debate or amendment.

B. One majority vote is required for adoption. If any portion of the agenda is objected to, it will be withdrawn and considered under the ordinary process in "New Business".

6. The Presidential Station (microphone on the dais, at the State Conferences) shall be reserved for use of the State Lodge President, and any other person designated by the President. All other members of the Conference shall utilize such other microphones as are provided for presentation of reports and debate.

(7. This rule number is intentionally being left blank at this time.) *(Amended 6/14/2024)*

8. At the State Lodge Conferences and Board of Trustees Meetings the order in which the Subordinate Lodges will be polled during lodge roll call votes, shall be at the discretion of the State Lodge President.

9. Cell phones are prohibited at all State Lodge meetings unless; they are equipped with a non-audible signaling device. Cell phones conversations are specifically prohibited.

Endorsement Policy for The Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police

The State President

Responsible for the following endorsements: Governor, Cabinet, All Congressional Races, requested endorsements by District Directors

Procedure:
1) The President of the State Lodge appoints a screening committee.
2) The screening committee interviews all interested candidates.
3) Screening committee votes on candidates.
4) Screening committee gives report of suggested endorsements to the President.
5) The President presents the endorsement list to the general body.
6) The general body votes on candidate report.
7) Endorsement of the Candidates is made by the President.
8) President informs candidate and press of the endorsement.

Exception/Intervention:

1) When Districts or Lodges are not participating in endorsement or involvement of the candidates, the President will notify the District Director that non-participation will cause the duties and decision to be handled by another District Director.
2) In races that there is no lodge the President will assign the research and interviews and then make the decision on the endorsement of that candidate. The research will be based upon the interview and opinions of officers in that area.
3) The President will give the state endorsement of local candidates at the request of the District Directors.
4) A motion to withdraw a prior approved Florida State Lodge legislative endorsement shall be submitted to the State Secretary in writing and shall be introduced by no less than 3 members in good standing. The motion shall state the reason(s) for the said action to be taken. The State Secretary shall immediately notify the State President of the motion and supply the State President and the Chairperson of the State Lodge Legislative Committee with all documentation received.
5) In the event an approved State Lodge legislative endorsement is to be withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances and/or just cause, the Legislative Committee may take a vote within that committee to withdraw the endorsement. The withdrawal vote must be affirmed by 75% or greater and the committee decision shall then be forwarded to the State Executive Board for further consideration.
6) For the purposes of this section, just cause shall mean but not be limited to any discovery of past or present illegal and/or unethical behavior as well as any past or present conduct or acts that have been deemed to be against the rules of our society or in conflict with the overall mission of the Fraternal Order of Police Florida State Lodge.
7) The Florida State Executive Board shall then vote to accept or reject the Legislative Committee's decision to withdraw the legislative endorsement. The withdrawal vote must be affirmed by 75% or greater of the Executive Board. The State Lodge President shall then take the necessary steps for the endorsement to be withdrawn.

8) The vote may be done via phone or through email if needed, by the Chairperson of each Committee/Board. (Amended 6/2019)

The District Directors

Responsible for the following endorsements: All State House and Senate Seats, Sheriffs and all requested local election endorsements per the Lodge Presidents.

It is the job of the District Director to endorse all local elections thru the following procedures: they are responsible for contacting and co-coordinating these local election endorsements with the Lodge Presidents.

Procedure for House and Senate Elections:

1) The District Director appoints a screening committee.
2) The screening committee and District Director decide if a screening or interview is needed and then the screening committee interviews all interested candidates or informs the state lodge of endorsement. (See policy for endorsement without screening)
3) Screening committee votes on candidates.
4) Screening committee gives report of suggested endorsements to the District Director, who then endorses the candidate.
5) The District Director presents the endorsement list to the President.
6) Endorsement of the Candidates is made by the President.
7) President informs candidate and press of the endorsement.

Procedure for Endorsement of Sheriff:

The District Director will determine if there is a lodge comprised with the majority of its membership that is employed by the effected Sheriff's Office. If there is a lodge that contains those employed members working for the Sheriff's Office, then that lodge shall have the authority to endorse. If there is no lodge that meets these criteria or the local lodge chooses not to endorse, then the following procedure will be followed: **(Amended 6/2016)**

1) The District Director will check for any lodge cross over and decide to either assign it to the largest effected lodge or to appoint a screening committee comprised of members from all affected lodges.
2) The District Director will hold a screening or interview with the candidates and compile information from the Lodge Presidents that are in that county jurisdiction. (See policy for areas choosing to not be involved)
3) After consideration of lodge preference and the interview, the District Director will make the endorsement.
4) The District Director will notify the President and seek the State Endorsement.
5) The President will endorse and notify the media of endorsement.

Procedure for Local Endorsements:

1) The District Director will be responsible for coordinating the endorsements made by local lodges. (This is to ensure that all elections are considered and no cross over endorsements are made)
2) Upon notification that a Lodge President has decided on the local endorsement the district director will send an endorsement letter to the candidate and a request to the President for the State endorsement.
3) The President will send a letter of state endorsement.

Policy:

1) It is the policy that if a candidate is an incumbent with an A+ ranking and proven record of support of the Fraternal Order of Police, that the candidate can be endorsed without a screening.
2) It is the policy that if a District or Lodge does not participate in the political process that the job of screening and endorsing will be assigned to a group specified by either the District Director or the President.
3) The District Director is to act as the coordinator of all local elections; this in no way means that the lodges do not make the decision on who will be endorsed. The District Director will be responsible for making certain that endorsements are made/handled according to policy and that no endorsements counter one another.

Local Lodge Presidents

Lodge President Endorsements: City Council, Water Districts, and Mayors races.

Procedure for Local Endorsements:

1) The Lodge President will confer with the District Director on what local races will be handled by their lodge or in conjunction with another lodge.
2) After getting the list of races that the Lodge President is responsible for, he will decide to either hold individual informal interviews of candidates or will form a screening committee to interview the candidates and to then make a recommendation of endorsement to the Lodge President.
3) The Lodge President can choose to accept this as the endorsement or have the general body of the lodge vote on the acceptance of the list. (This decision should be based upon the involvement/interest that the membership has shown in the local elections)
4) The Lodge President will notify the District Director of the choice of candidate for the endorsement.
5) The District Director will make the endorsement of the candidate and request a letter from the President of the State Lodge.
6) The State Lodge President will make an endorsement of the candidate and notify the appropriate press of the endorsement.
7) Notwithstanding with state Lodge directives regarding political endorsements, no lodge domiciled in one state, can make an endorsement for a candidate for political office or referendum in another state without written approval by their State Lodge and the State Lodge of which the endorsement occurs. *(Added 06/14/2024 from National: 8/23)*