

BY-LAWS

Form approved for 7 Lodge, January 10, 2020

BY-LAWS OF BROTHERS OF LIGHT No. 7

ARTICLE I

Name and Location

This lodge shall be known and designated as Brothers of Light,
No. 7, located in Corozal District, Belize C.A.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BY-LAWS.
THERE WILL BE TWO TERMS, THE LODGE AND THE TEMPLE.
THE LODGE IS THE WHOLE BUILDING AND THE TEMPLE IS THE
MEETING ROOM SO ANYTHING NOT RELATED TO THE TEMPLE
WOULD BE THE LODGE. THE TEMPLE IS ALSO CONSIDERED
PART OF THE LODGE.**

Where applicable a By-Law will say

**** Private rules discussed with candidates or brotheren only****

ARTICLE II

Communications

Section 1. The states Communications shall be held on (meeting dates vary)
minimum 2 meetings a month will be scheduled at different days and times.

Section 2. During any month by order of WM Meetings may be suspended.

Section 3. Extra Communications may be held at any time by order of the
WM, at which nothing shall be done other than the business for which the
Communication was called.

Section 4. To have an official meeting, B.O.L. must have at least 6 brotheren
present. No voting of any kind can happen without minimum 6 brotheren
present.

ARTICLE III.

Order of Business

The following shall be the order of business at stated Communications:

1. Pledge to the flag of Belize
2. Recognition of visitors
3. WM Statement
4. Secretary reading of previous minutes
5. Reports of Committees
6. Unfinished business
7. New business, open discussion
8. Voting on pending matters
9. Conferring Degrees
10. Closing Anything Final
11. Adjournment with next meeting passwords

ARTICLE IV.

Gran Officers - Titles

N/A

ARTICLE V.

Officers of B.O.L.

Worshipful Master

The senior officer of a Masonic Lodge is the Master, referred to as the "Worshipful Master". The WM sits in the East of the temple room, chairs all of the business of his temple, and is vested with considerable powers without further reference to the brothers. He also presides over ritual and ceremonies.

The office of WM is the highest honour to which a temple may appoint any of its brothers (term of WM is defined in private rules section). W.M. of B.O.L. is the only brother to wear a hat.

At the conclusion of his term of office, a WM is termed a **Past Master**.

Senior Warden

The Senior Warden is the second of the three principal officers of a temple, and is the Master's principal deputy. If WM is absent then the Senior Warden presides at meetings as "acting Master", and may act for the Master in all matters of temple business.

Junior Warden

The third of the principal officers is the Junior Warden (or Second Warden). The Junior Warden is charged with the supervision of the temple while it is "at refreshment" (in recess for meals or other social purposes). The Junior Warden has a particular responsibility for ensuring that visiting Masons are in possession of the necessary credentials.

The Wardens are "regular officers" of the temple, meaning that the positions must be filled.

Treasurer

The role of the Treasurer is to keep the accounts, collect annual dues from the members, pay bills, and forward annual dues to the Grand Lodge.

The annual presentation of accounts is an important measure of the temple's continuing viability, whilst the efficient collection of annual subscriptions is vitally important, as any lapse in payment (deliberate or unintentional) can lead to a member losing voting rights, being denied the opportunity to visit other temples, and finally even being debarred or excluded from his own temple.

Secretary

The Secretary's official duties include issuing the summons (a formal notice of an impending meeting, with time, date and agenda), recording meeting minutes, completing statistical returns to the Grand Lodge, and advising the WM on matters of procedure. In B.O.L. the secretary while also holding treasurer post pays no monthly dues to B.O.L., but might be expected to pay to Grand Lodge, if applicable.

The Secretary/Treasurer wears the jewel for the Secretary if held by one person.

Deacons

A Deacon is a junior officer in the temple.

The principal duties of the Senior Deacon are to conduct candidates around the temple and speak for them during certain ceremonies, to attend the WM as needed and to carry his orders to the Senior Warden.

The office and duties of Junior Deacon are similar in many respects to that of Senior Deacon, to attend the Senior Warden, and carry messages to the Junior Warden.

Tyler

The Tyler is on the inside of the door armed with a sword. His job is to guard the door and verify correct passwords.

Stewards

Some of their common duties could include the following:

- Stewards are tasked with an understudy role to fill the position of the Senior Deacon or Junior Deacon, in their absence.
- When a degree ceremony is performed, one or more Steward(s) may be required to assist the two Deacons in conducting the candidates around the temple.

ARTICLE VI.

CANDIDATES.

Section 1. Every candidate for initiation in the jurisdiction must be without maim or defect that may render him incapable of learning and demonstrating the moral teachings and the secret work and practices of masonry. In the demonstration of secret work, artificial limbs may be used. Except for sight, speech and hearing, the foregoing listed qualifications may be waived on a specific case basis by the WM upon written request of the temple. Such request must describe the physical disabilities of the applicant. Must be able to speak and understand English and must state on his petition whether or not he has been rejected by any lodge of freemasons; and must sign his name in full on his petition. Candidates must be willing to have an interview with members of B.O.L. and meet with him and his wife or girlfriend. Must be male, must believe in a supreme being, must understand and speak English, must be employed or financially stable, must be in good standing with one letter of such, must be voted in unanimously, must be able to pay dues and prove financial stability, must attend 80% yearly of scheduled meetings, must not lie on his application and must be willing to follow orders.

Section 2. All petitions for membership must be made in writing, an appointment for an application to be filled out in person, followed by an interview. Candidate is balloted at the next meeting by the members.

Section 3. If approved each new candidate will receive his regalia, 2 B.O.L. T-shirts, certificate from B.O.L., dues card (red), travel I.D. (black), B.O.L. member I.D. (blue) all 3 I.D.'s are for lifetime or expulsion.

Entered Apprentice	\$200 USD
Fellowcraft	\$100 USD
Master Mason	\$150 USD

Section 4. Should the report of the committee be favorable, he may be balloted for, and, if unanimously elected, is immediately installed at the next meeting. Should one and only one black ball appear, the ballot shall be repeated, and if one black ball shall then appear, the candidate shall be declared rejected on that second vote. On the first vote if more than one black ball appears candidate is rejected with no second vote. Before second

vote commences a member can call for a discussion on the candidate. Discussion must be approved by the W.M. and a member can make a case of yay for a 3 minute discussion. If another member wants to say nay, he can speak for up to 3 minutes. He or they will have 3 minutes only to make a case. Last vote will commence. That vote will be final decision. If rejected, candidate can reapply in 3 months, if rejected at that time in 3 months no more chances to apply.

Section 5. Should a candidate neglect to attend for initiation, he will have to be voted again at the following meeting.

Section 6. No candidate can receive a higher degree unless he has exhibited suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees to the satisfaction of the B.O.L. master masons brotheren.

Section 7. This lodge shall not receive as a member any brother who has been a member of another lodge in this or any other jurisdiction unless he produces a letter of good standing from the WM of such lodge, countersigned by the secretary, and showing that he has paid up his dues and is in good standing, or otherwise fully satisfy the lodge that he has done so; or a certificate which is equivalent for this purpose.

Section 8. If any brother shall disclose the rejection of a candidate in this lodge to any person other than a master mason he shall be deemed guilty of unmasonic conduct, and liable to be dealt with accordingly; and if a visiting brother shall presume to make such disclosure, he shall thereafter be excluded from this lodge, and his own lodge shall be notified of the fact.

Section 9. Brothers must wait minimum of 3 months between degrees, and must demonstrate proper knowledge before rising.

Section 10. Brothers will vote (master masons) on rising of a degree. Vote must be unanimous.

ENTERED APPRENTICE.

ENTERED APPRENTICE RAISE TO FELLOWCRAFT.

FELLOWCRAFT RAISE TO MASTER MASON.

There will be no more raising after obtaining the master mason degree in B.O.L.

Section 11. Once initiated you are classified as an entered apprentice. In order to advance in B.O.L. required reading is in order as well as an oral and written test you must pass on the books you read to advance to fellowcraft.

The following books are mandatory reading for advancement to fellowcraft.

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Freemasonry; An Introduction | Koltko Rivera |
| 2. Freemasonry and Its Etiquette | William Preston |
| 3. The Power of Positive Thinking | Norman Peele |

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| 4. Famous Freemasons | Paul Jeffers |
| 5. 7 Habits of Highly Effective People | Stephen Covey |

Section 12. Once you obtain the degree of fellowcraft you must continue looking for light and further your education and knowledge. In order to advance to the highest level in B.O.L., the master mason degree, you must read and demonstrate the knowledge of 5 books. You will again have an oral and written test to advance.

The following books are the mandatory reading for advancement to master mason.

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Principles of Masonic Law | Albert Mackey |
| 2. Facts on the Masonic Lodge | John Ankerberg |
| 3. Lost Keys of Freemasonry | Manly P. Hall |
| 4. The Art of War (Cliff notebooks available) | Sun-tzu |
| 5. Morals and Dogma (Cliff notebooks available) | Albert Pike |

All books are available in the B.O.L. library and can be checked out by following By-Law section 53 and section 54

ARTICLE VII

FEES AND DUES

There must be a \$25 BZD dues per month per brother paid for maintenance and cleaning of temple/lodge.

BROTHEREN REGAL

Brotheren wear their normal regal but must wear the necklace of their position.

BROTHERS REGALIA

Brothers regal are their degree regal at the moment

Proper wearing of regalia in B.O.L.

- Only WM wears a hat (stetson or top hat).
- Only officers will wear a collar.
- No cuffs on wrists.
- Everyone wears white gloves.
- All master masons wear the same apron, except for WM

ARTICLE VIII

Any brother desiring to withdraw from B.O.L. shall give written notice through the secretary, which shall be read at a stated communication, when,

if all arrears are paid, and there are no charges against him, he shall be eligible for a demit from this lodge.

ARTICLE IX

RULES

Section 1. When the WM takes the chair, every officer and brother shall immediately take his place, and observe strict order and decorum.

Section 2. No brother shall speak until he first rise and respectfully address WM.

Section 3. All questions of order shall be decided by the WM, without appeal to the temple.

Section 4. No motion shall be entertained until seconded by another brother if not seconded, motion dead.

Section 5. All brothers will read and sign that he understands and obeys these By-Laws (after approved but before initiation).

Section 6. Each committee will have (3) persons, (2) members and (1) chairman.

Section 7. No person shall be permitted to leave the room during the session of the temple but by permission of the WM.

Section 8. No officer shall leave his seat, except it be in the discharge of his official duties.

Section 9. No brother shall move his place, nor shall any member or visitor be permitted to enter, at any time during the opening or closing of the temple, the reading of the minutes, unless with the permission of the WM.

Section 10. If any brother or visitor shall be guilty of indecorum during the session of the temple, the WM may at his discretion, reprimand or exclude him, for the communication, from the temple.

Section 11. Any brother who owes two month dues shall not be eligible to vote on any matter.

Section 12. These By-Laws shall be read at the first meeting in January once a year.

Section 13. Visiting guest or guests will sit, depending on degree, in specified seating in the temple. Inviting B.O.L. brother will, when the time

permits, introduce the visitor. Visitor will be greeted by WM and then be seated.

Section 14. Ballot box is sacred and anonymous vote is sacred. Revealing anonymous vote to another is strictly forbidden.

Section 15. Entering the temple thru columns and approach altar salute WM and take seat.

Section 16. Penalties of unmasonic conduct.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 17. Failure to obey gavel is a discourtesy and will be treated with seriousness.

Section 18. When a brother is rapped down he must obey.

Section 19. When voting every brother must vote.

Section 20. When speaking stand salute WM and begin speaking.

Section 21. Lodge will open 4 hours before actual scheduled time for meeting. Temple will be off limits for entry.

Section 22. Temple is off limits until given O.K. by WM.

Section 23. The brotheren will convey in the locker room until O.K. by WM to enter temple.

Section 24. Two new passwords are given each meeting for the next meeting.

Section 25. Master masons always sit in the south in the temple.

Section 26. Any brother that does not remember or use different password may not enter. There will be a password to enter lodge and a password to enter temple.

Section 27. All brothers will enter temple in full dress regalia no later than 5 minutes before scheduled meeting.

Section 28. All visitors must be seated in their proper area of the temple, which they will be advised where that is prior to entering, no later than 5 minutes before scheduled meeting.

Section 29. Before any visitor will enter lodge or B.O.L. meeting there must be advanced notice and unanimous vote by brotheren to allow visitor (advanced notice is at minimum 3 days prior to meeting).

Section 30. Locker room, bathroom and shower must be kept clean and sanitary at all times.

Section 31. Before entering temple black slippers must be worn. Black slippers will be provided by B.O.L. Absolutely no street outside shoes ever be worn in temple.

Section 32. All B.O.L. master masons mandatory to purchase and voluntarily wear a B.O.L. custom ring that will be the same as every other B.O.L. brotheren. This is a separate charge to a rising master mason as only master masons can wear a ring.

Section 33. Before entering WM office located in lodge one must have authorization from WM.

Section 34. Before entering storage room located in lodge one must have authorization from WM.

Section 35. All brothers will receive and properly maintain a locker and you must maintain your locker in a sanitary and organized manner.

Section 36. All regalia and personal clothes will hang on hangers in lockers. No article of clothing will be on the ground except shoes.

Section 37. No alcohol drinking in temple or lodge.

Section 38. No gum chewing in temple or lodge.

Section 39. No smoking cigarettes or cigars in temple or lodge.

Section 40. No cell phones in temple (lodge O.K.).

Section 41. Expelling: Candidates.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 42. Only a master mason (3rd degree) may be an officer in B.O.L. (with an extreme rare exception).

Section 43. Only a master mason (3rd degree) may vote in B.O.L. (with an extreme rare exception).

Section 44. When the gavel is sounded in the east.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 45. When late for temple and meeting is in session.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 46. B.O.L. will have a family dinner for brotheren and their family once every 4 months. Dinner will be formal attire and held at the Pegasus Room in Las Vegas Hotel & Casino.

Section 47. B.O.L. members dress at temple meeting will be white guayabera, black pants, black socks and black shoes as well as proper regalia. A black jacket, black necktie will be kept in locker for certain events.

Section 48. The serving terms of the WM as well as the serving terms of officers.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 49. No asking of favors or money from other B.O.L. brothers.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 50. Officers will do their best to study and memorize their roles when conferring degrees.

Section 51. All officer positions except WM will be voted on the first meeting of December for next calendar year.

Private rule discussed with candidates or brotheren only

Section 52. Brotheren or guests never walk between the east and the alter when temple is open.

Section 53. Library is open to all visitors and members whenever Lodge is open. No permission needed for entry.

Section 54. Library books are never to be taken out of the library without the permission of the secretary of B.O.L. The secretary can grant a checkout of a book, document the day it is checked out and the day it is supposed to be returned and when it is actually returned (checked out books must be returned within 2 weeks). Visitor guests cannot check out books but can use the library at any time of opening hours.

Section 55. Licensed firearms are allowed in the lodge (B.O.L. brotheren only) but **not** in the temple. Every brother will have a locker with a safe and a key where they will lock their licensed firearm in the safe. Licensed firearms are absolutely off limits to guests. No entry for guests at any time to lodge if they have a licensed firearm.

Section 56. Secretary of B.O.L. mandatory to have these By-Laws on his desk at all times during meeting.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

No additions, alterations or amendments can be made to these By-Laws, unless presented in writing and read at designated meeting. Unanimous voters must agree to pass an amendment to the By-Laws. To vote in favor of an amendment to the By-Laws brothers must have notice of one meeting prior to vote.

Amendments added to the By-Laws must be unanimous and added to the By-Laws as an amendment, dated with seal and signed by secretary and WM and placed in By-Law book in amendments section and will be in effect at next scheduled meeting.

B.O.L. MOTIONS

**** ONLY MASTER MASONS IN B.O.L. CAN CALL A MOTION ****

<u>Kind of Motion</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Opening Statement</u>
Amend	To improve the motion	I <u>move to amend</u>
Refer	To delay action to consider more carefully	I move to refer motion to discussion
Inquiry	To secure advice	I rise to a point of inquiry
Postpone	To delay action for future consideration	I move to postpone until _____
Reconsider (3 minute discussion)	To vote again after 3 minute discussion	I move to reconsider vote on _____ and to vote again on _____
Discussion	To talk about issue further	I move to discussion _____

MOTION RULES

Member must stand and announce motion. WM will approve or deny motion. If it is approved it is commenced. If it is denied gavel is banged and issue is dead for that meeting.

B.O.L. will have 3 committees:

1. Committee of charity
2. Committee of masonic education
3. Committee of media

<u>Fines</u>	<u>BZD</u>
Not giving 4 hour notice to secretary or WM to be absent from a meeting	\$ 20.00
Being 15 minutes later or more to a meeting	\$ 30.00
Entering temple not fully and properly regaled	\$ 30.00
Having a disorganized locker	\$ 30.00
Chewing gum in the lodge	\$ 50.00
Entering lodge without authorization	\$ 50.00
Not obeying the gavel	\$ 50.00
Coming to meeting under the influence of alcohol (possible expulsion pending)....	\$200.00
Cell phone in lodge	\$200.00
Wearing outside shoes in temple	\$200.00
Not returning or losing book from library	\$ 50.00
Returning a library book late	\$ 20.00

All fines money will go to B.O.L. account. Fines must be paid within 2 months