**MEA Constitution & By-Laws Revisions**

**Approved by members present on May 1, 2021 at Waterville ME**

**Approved by Robert J. Van Campen, Esq., May 24, 2021**

**Area 1 Member – Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary**

**Page 5 Article II**

**Section 2.** Each lodge in the State having complied with Section 1 of Article II shall be entitled to representation and vote on the business of the association at meetings whether regular or special, as descried below, except for the election of MEA Officers, specifically the President-Elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. MEA Trustees are chosen at the local lodge level:

1. One Delegate for each fifty members, or portion thereof, in good standing, based on the Membership as certified to and contained in the report to the Grand Lodge on March 31st of the current year, in whom shall be vested the right and authority to participate in and vote upon the election of MEA Officers. Delegates will be determined by the Lodge, or by the Exalted Ruler as they deem appropriate.
2. The Past Presidents of this Association, the Exalted Ruler and all Past Exalted Rulers affiliated with local lodges of the State of Maine in good standing in which lodge membership is held, the current MEA Officers, MEA Committee Chairs and MEA Trustees shall be vested the right and authority to participate in and vote upon the election of officers of the Association. Each member identified here shall be given only one (1) credential and cast only one (1) ballot.

In no event shall any local lodge be entitled to more than twenty-five Delegates to this Association, exclusive of the Past Presidents of this Association, the Exalted Ruler of each local lodge and all Past Exalted Rulers affiliated with local lodges of the State of Maine in good standing, current MEA Officers, MEA Committee Chairs and MEA Trustees.

Delete Section 3, This has been included in Section 2, a. Section 4 is renumbered to Section 3

**Article III (new)**

**Section 5.** In the event the Annual Meeting cannot be held for any reason, the following shall be put in place to elect Association Officers, approve the budget and vote on any Constitution and By-Law revisions and additions.

1. The MEA Secretary will provide credentials in April to all Lodges, before the scheduled Annual Meeting, extra credentials will have been included in case of mistakes in the credentialing process.
2. The Lodge vote must be taken before June 1st because June 1st is the beginning of the MEA Association’s fiscal year.
3. The MEA Secretary will supply each lodge with a voting ballot, with directions on the correct way to mark each ballot. The MEA Secretary will also supply each lodge with a copy of the State Budget that has been previously approved by the MEA State Trustees and any MEA Constitution and By-Laws revisions and additions that need to be voted on.
4. The Lodge Secretary will produce enough ballots to permit all qualified members who wish to vote to be able to do so.
5. The Lodge Secretary will affix the Lodge Seal to the credential and present each eligible Past President of the Association, the Exalted Ruler, Past Exalted Rulers affiliated with local lodges of the State of Maine in good standing, current MEA Officers, MEA Committee Chairs, MEA Trustees and Delegates with a credential that must be signed by the member, Secretary and Exalted Ruler and returned to the Lodge Secretary prior to receiving a ballot. The Lodge Secretary will retain the credential after it is signed by the member.
6. If the Lodge Secretary is unable to be present for the vote the Exalted Ruler will appoint a Ballot Clerk to fulfill the duties of the Lodge Secretary as directed in the above instructions. However, it will still be the Lodge Secretary’s responsibility to complete and provide the credentials and ballots for the vote.
7. Balloting for Constitution and By-Laws revisions and additions, if possible, shall be done at the local Lodge Meeting with each revision or addition voted on individually. The total votes for each revision or addition shall be recorded with the number of YES and number of NO votes as a two-thirds majority is needed for approval. The number of votes cast for each revision or addition shall be forwarded to the MEA Secretary.
8. If the balloting does not occur at a Lodge Meeting, the above process, b-g, still apply while emphasizing the balloting must occur in the presence of the Lodge Secretary or Ballot Clerk and ballots must not be removed from their supervision.
9. After the balloting has been completed the Lodge Secretary or Ballot Clerk will take all the signed credentials, completed ballots and By-Law totals place them in a sealed envelope and mail it to the MEA State Secretary postmarked no later than June 3rd. Any sealed envelope postmarked after the June 3rd deadline will be invalid and will not be counted.

**Section 6**

**a**. A date and site will be selected by the MEA SDGER for the counting of ballots. The SDGER will be the ballot chairman and will be assisted by the Grand Lodge District Special Representatives from each District. The SDGER will also appoint two ballot clerks to confirm the ballot count. Prior to opening each Lodge envelope, the SDGER will announce the total number of delegates eligible for that lodge.

1. The MEA Secretary will open each lodge envelope, one at a time in numerical order starting with the lowest numbered lodge.
2. The MEA Secretary will count the number of credentials from the envelope and report such to the ballot chairman, who will record the number of Delegates and confirm that the number for each lodge is correct.
3. The MEA Secretary will then count the number of ballots from the envelope, if the credential and ballot numbers agree, the ballots will be placed into the ballot box. The credentials will then be placed back into the Lodge envelope. If the envelope contains more credentials than ballots, the ballots will be placed into the ballot box. The credentials will then be placed back into the lodge envelope. If the envelope contains more ballots than credentials, the credentials and ballots will be returned to the lodge envelope and those ballots will not be counted.
4. After each Lodge envelope has been opened and the authorized ballots have been placed into the ballot box, ballots will be counted by the MEA Secretary and the two ballot clerks in the following manner. A simple majority of votes cast will determine each winning candidate and the passage or failure of the State Budget. Candidates or a designee may observe the ballot counting. Uncontested Offices will be filled automatically.

Total for President-Elect

Total for 1st Vice President

Total for 2nd Vice President

Total for State Secretary

Total for State Treasurer

Total for MEA Budget, YES and NO

The SDGER and new State President will select the date for installation of Officers

**ARTICLE VI - Committees**

**Section 1** Delete Nominating Committee and Committee on Relations with other State Associations.

(Clarify) Grand Lodge Committee consisting of the following 5 members, Maine State Sponsor, Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and the Grand Lodge District Special Reps.

**Section 4.** The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of all delegates and of all Elks who by this Constitution are authorized to participate in the deliberations of the Association at any of its sessions, and it shall consider and pass upon the same and make a report thereon, together with such recommendations as it may deem proper.

**Section 8.** A member who wants to run for a MEA office shall submit their name, name and number of their lodge and the MEA Office they want to be considered for in writing to the MEA Secretary prior to the Spring (March) meeting. This includes current elected MEA Officers wishing to run for office. The MEA Secretary will report at each meeting the list of candidates received and their desired office. A candidate for a MEA Office may not run from the floor at the annual meeting unless no candidate for that office exists.

**Article VIII Order of Business**

**Section 1.** The Order of Business at all meetings of this Association, unless otherwise changed by a majority vote of the members present, shall be as follows.

1. Call to order.
2. Invocation
3. Pledge to the Flag
4. Roll Call of Officers
5. Recognize all Dignitaries present
6. Reading Minutes of Previous Meeting
7. Sickness and Distress
8. Report of Committee on Credentials
9. Reports of Officers by Seniority
10. Reports of Standing Committees
11. Unfinished Business
12. New Business
    1. Election of Officers
    2. Other New Business items
13. Good of the Association
14. Selection of location of next Annual Meeting if not already decided
15. Closing and Adjournment

**Committee on Laws:**

Claris Ranger PDD, PSP, Chairman

Roger Sicard PGLIG

Robert Drisko PGLT

Dwayne Guy PDD PSP, MEA Secretary

Susan Piper PDD PSP