

COVER SHEET FOR THE:

**BY LAWS
of**

**THE EDWARD J. WILDBLOOD, Jr. -
LODGE OF RESEARCH OF VERMONT
No. 110, F. & A. M.
(Chartered June 9, 1999)**

Revisions:

Rev	Date	Description	Approvals
A	4/22/2003	Gen Rev, Name change, Clarified -Full- vs -Corr.- Members, Clarified eligibility and dues remission.	JES, REH, CCorsones
B	4/22/2008	CM Vs Full Membership clarified. Benefits of FM defined. E-format for proceedings added. Defined dues status. See amendment #1	EG, REH CCorsones

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THE EDWARD J. WILDBLOOD, Jr. -
LODGE OF RESEARCH OF VERMONT
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PREAMBLE

This Lodge shall be governed by the law of the land; the landmarks, articles of incorporation, and constitution of The Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Vermont; Bylaws of the Vermont Masonic Code; and these By Laws not inconsistent there with.

All Master Masons, Fellow Craft and Entered Apprentice's in good standing are invited and encouraged to attend the Research Lodge Meetings. They are welcome to join in the discussions on presented papers but have no voting powers in the lodge nor can they hold an elective office. Non-members may submit papers to the Master for consideration by the lodge. Such papers become the property of the Research Lodge for disposition.

ARTICLE I

Name

1.1 Name. The name and number of this Lodge shall be:

**THE EDWARD J. WILDBLOOD, Jr. - LODGE OF RESEARCH OF
VERMONT No. 110 - F. & A. M.**

ARTICLE II

Purpose

2.1 Lodge Purpose. The purpose of the Lodge is to foster research, discussions and education of the craft at large regarding topics of Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy and current events. Accordingly, the Lodge shall not confer degrees upon candidates.

ARTICLE III

Communications

3.1 Regular Communications. Regular communications shall be held on the Tuesday of or following the full moon, as determined by the Master, in the months of April, September, and February commencing at 7:00 p.m., unless suspended by the Lodge as herein provided. In the event that no full moon shall occur in one of the aforesaid months or in the event of other irreconcilable conflict, then the meeting shall be held on a date during such month noticed by the Master. Communication shall be held at such duly chartered lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Vermont as the Master may set forth in the notice of the communication. Except as otherwise required by the Vermont Masonic Code or these bylaws not inconsistent therewith, all matters or motions before the Lodge shall be decided by majority vote of the members present.

3.2 Annual Communications. The Annual Communication shall be the regular communication in April and shall be held at any duly chartered lodge within the city of Rutland, Vermont. At the annual communication, the Lodge may vote whether to suspend or add any regular communications during the

year.

3.3 Notice of Regular Communication. The Master shall be responsible for giving notice of the date, place, and time of any regular communication by having the same communicated at least 30 days prior to the communication to the Full Members as well as the Corresponding Members. The notice shall include identification, when possible, of the individuals who will be presenting their papers at said communication together with the topics of said papers, and shall contain the minutes of the previous communication to obviate the necessity of reading the same in open Lodge. Secretary shall be charged with mailing the notice at the direction of the Master. Mailings and warnings may be made via internet, website, or other electronic media at the discretion of the Master and Secretary.

3.4 Communication Format. The agenda for regular communications shall consist of the following in the order recited: Opening and approval of minutes, payment of bills, communications, old business, new business, and presentation of papers followed by discussion, closing. Agenda for the Annual communication shall be as follows; Opening, approval of minutes, payment of bills, communication, old business, new business, Master's annual report, Secretary's annual report, Treasurer's annual report, election of officers, presentation of papers followed by discussion, closing. It is acknowledged by all Members that the fundamental purpose of the Lodge is to foster research, writing, and presentation of papers of Masonic interest. Members shall therefore use discretion and refrain from irrelevant or superfluous discussion or comment in open lodge.

3.5 Special Communications. A special communication may be called by the Master at any time, but notice must be given to each member stating the business to be considered (which business must have received the prior dispensation of the Grand Master) and no other business than that specified in the case may be transacted. Not less than one week's notice must be given of the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

4.1 Eligibility for Correspondent Membership (CM). Any Mason (MM, FC or EA) who:

- (a) is a member in good standing of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Vermont or of a Lodge whose Grand Lodge is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Vermont,
- (b) must, at all times remain in good standing in his other Vermont Lodge or in his Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Vermont
- (c) submits a petition for Corresponding Membership with the required fee and satisfies the other requirements specified herein

4.1.1 Correspondent Memberships. Requests for "Correspondent Membership" in the Lodge may be accepted from any Mason of a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of VT, or from any Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of VT or from a lodge itself, that has been, duly chartered or recognized by the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

4.1.2 Endorsements. A request for Correspondent Member status must be endorsed by the Master of the Lodge of Research.

(4.1.3) Rights. Correspondent Members shall receive one copy of the Transactions as the same are published. They shall be entitled to sit in Lodge and participate in the discussions of papers and vote on all matters presented. They shall have the right to submit papers for consideration by the Master and for publication in the Transactions. They can ask that their papers be published on the web site of the lodge.

(4.1.4) Papers. Correspondent Members shall not be required to submit papers, but will be required to pay all dues, assessments, etc. as set forth in future actions by vote of the lodge.

4.2 Petitions for Corresponding Membership. The form of the petition for membership shall be in accordance with the Vermont Masonic Code and Article V below.

4.3 Full Membership (FM): Request for FULL MEMBERSHIP and requirements thereof:

(1) A Correspondent Member may request FULL Membership after the submission and acceptance of **two papers** for publication and receive all benefits as hereafter defined, refer to Article VII.

(2) Papers by Full Members. Each full member of the Lodge, to maintain that status, as a minimum, shall be required to submit a paper at least two double-spaced typewritten pages in length, with or without footnotes, each year on a topic of Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, or current events. The format and style for the paper shall be set forth from time to time by the Master. Each full member shall further periodically present his paper or a brief summary of a paper in open Lodge at a time set by, and in the discretion of, the Master. The topics for each year shall be discussed with and approved by the Master following the annual communication and the Master shall promptly publish the topics and schedules for presentation in the Lodge subsequent to each annual communication. Papers shall be submitted to the Master at least 45 days prior to the date of the annual communication of the Lodge.

(3) Electronic format is the preferred method of submission. Hard copies will be received only with the prior approval of the Master.

- (a) Format: MS Word, only
- (b) Script: Times New Roman, 12pt script.
- (c) Margins: 1.5 inches.
- (d) Footnotes: Listed at end of text.

NOTICE! Failure without good reason of a full member to submit a paper for **two successive years** shall result in automatic reduction to Correspondent Membership status in the Lodge and all FULL Membership benefits will be forfeited.

4.4 Grand Masters. All Past Grand Masters and the sitting Grand Master are hereby determined to be (dues remitted) (DR) permanent life members of the Research Lodge and are exempt from dues. They will be given a copy of latest published transaction upon request and they will be electronically (only), mailed all correspondence and notices of the lodge.

4.5 Voted Lodge Membership (VLM): VLM Members that have been voted (DR) Membership into the Research lodge shall receive all benefits of a Correspondent Member except they will be exempt from dues for a period of two (2) years (from date of award). After which, they will be automatically become Corresponding Members (CM) and be subject to all the rules, regulations and suspensions of a regular CM membership in the VT Research Lodge including payment of dues.

ARTICLE V

Accepting and Balloting Upon Petitions

5.1 Time. Acceptance of petitions for Correspondent Membership shall be held at the next regular communication after receipt of petition by the Research Lodge Secretary.

NOTICE! Correspondent Membership petitions, upon receipt, will be accepted at the next regular Communication by approval of the **sitting** Master. The name of the petitioner must be read aloud at that Communication with an opportunity for discussion by the members present to follow.

5.2 Disclosure. No brother, whether or not a member of the Lodge, shall inform a rejected petitioner, directly or indirectly, how a member of the Lodge responded or how he believes a member of the Lodge influenced acceptance or rejection of a petition. No vote is required unless directed by the Master after the discussion.

5.3 Discipline. A brother violating the preceding section is guilty of un - Masonic conduct.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

6.1 Officers. (a) **Elected Officers.** The elected officers are the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary.

(b) **Appointed Officers.** The appointed officers are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Chaplain, Marshal and Tyler.

6.2 Time of Election or Appointment. The officers are to be elected or appointed, as appropriate, at the Annual Communication and installed at the Annual Communication of the Lodge or as soon thereafter as practical.

6.3 Duties of Officers. They shall have the duties recited in the Vermont Masonic Code and additional duties not inconsistent therewith which are recited in these bylaws.

a) Master. No brother shall be eligible to be elected and installed Worshipful Master of the Lodge unless he shall have already been elected and installed as Worshipful Master of another Lodge within the State of Vermont, or of a Lodge whose Grand Lodge is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Vermont. He:

(1) shall be the editor in chief of the Transactions of the Lodge, as hereinafter described

(2) shall have sole discretion to assign or disallow topics for papers or discussion and shall be solely in charge of scheduling, deferring or disallowing presentation and discussion of papers in the Lodge

(3) may, at his Masonic discretion, bar publication of papers or limit oral presentation lengths and shall be responsible for setting the date and place and the agenda for all meetings. His decision on all such subjects shall be final.

(4) shall appoint such standing, special and ad hoc committees, as he deems appropriate.

(b) Senior Warden. He shall, in addition to his regular duties, be responsible for making the logistical arrangements for all meetings of this Lodge at a regular Lodge which is the host of the particular communication.

(c) Secretary. Shall be responsible for sending notices of each communications at the direction of the Master and be responsible for keeping and transporting the necessary furniture of the Lodge.

6.4 Dress. The dress for the officers and members at communications shall consist of a dark business suit or jacket and tie, officer jewel and plain aprons without markings or other adornment.

6.5 Compensation. The officers, other than the Treasurer and Secretary, shall serve without compensation. The Lodge may determine whether the Treasurer and Secretary shall receive any compensation and , if so, the amount thereof.

6.6 Indemnifications. All officers and committee members shall be indemnified by the Lodge for all expenses reasonably incurred by them in defending themselves from any proceedings instituted or threatened against them provided the lodge votes that they have acted within the scope of their authority and are not guilty of misfeasance or malfeasance.

ARTICLE VII

Dues, Fees and Assessments

7.1 Rejections or Dismissal. If a candidate for Membership is rejected or his petition dismissed,

the petition and fee shall be returned with no further explanation for rejection.

7.2 Dues. The annual dues for **Correspondent Membership** is the amount in effect or as may be subsequently revised and set at the Annual Communication each April.

7.3 Assessments. A proposal for an assessment shall be presented at a regular communication. The proposal is then laid over to the next regular communication or a special communication called for action thereon. The notice of the communication must be sent to every member of the Lodge and must recite the text or substance of the proposed assessment.

7.4 Remissions. By the approval of the first three elected officers, the lodge may remit the dues of a brother, or extend the time for payment, for either good cause shown to the Lodge or a committee selected for that purpose.

7.5 Full Membership (FM). (a) Designated full membership members (FM) will not be subject to any dues or assessments set by the lodge for the ensuing year. The Master and Secretary will review membership in March to assure status of each member and that minimum requirements have been met before dues notices are mailed, refer to 4.3.2.

(b) Full Members will have reduced rates, as set by lodge vote or by the top five officers, for all functions and events sponsored by the VT Research Lodge throughout the ensuing year.

ARTICLE VIII

Budget and Revenue

8.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Lodge shall commence on the first day of May and end on the last day of April of each year.

8.2 Budget. The Treasurer and Secretary shall prepare and complete a proposed lodge budget for the ensuing year in time for submission at the Lodge's Annual Communication.

8.3 Adoption. The annual budget shall be adopted at the Annual Communication or at a special communication called for that purpose.

8.4 Fidelity Bond. The trustees of the Grand Lodge of Vermont have purchased and carry a blanket position fidelity bond covering the officers of the Lodge and indemnify the Lodge against loss resulting for infidelity, defalcation or misappropriation by officers, employees or members of its funds, assets or property.

ARTICLE IX

Transactions

9.1 Publication in Transactions. At the conclusion of each Masonic year or at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, the Lodge shall publish the papers submitted in the preceding year or years, as approved and edited by the Master, as well as the proceedings of the annual communication of the Lodge, in a suitable format to be known as the "Transactions of the Vermont Lodge of Research, No. 110". The Transactions may contain such other relevant and appropriate material as the Master of the Lodge may determine. Portions of the Transactions may be made available via Internet, website or other electronic media at the discretion of the Master.

9.2 Distribution: Transactions, when published, can be transmitted by CD, DVD, Flash Drive, via internet or any other electronic transmission device to save costs at the direction of the Master or through

the Secretary at his direction. Paper copies will be provided upon request; but requester must reimburse the lodge for expenses.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

10.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended as provided in the Vermont Masonic Code.

10.2 Masonic Code. If a change is made in the Vermont Masonic Code and that change affects the Bylaws of this Lodge, these Bylaws are amended, *ipso facto*, to conform to the code.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1

Records all items voted by the lodge in detail. Such as actual fees and directives with the dates of incorporation or change.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a proposal to adopt the foregoing Bylaws was presented to the regular communication of the Vermont Lodge of Research, U.S. (subsequently assigned No. 110), F. & A.M. on September 7, 1998. The proposal was approved by at least two-thirds of the members present at the communication.

Dated this 20th day of December 1998.

W. WHITAKER

Secretary

-- JAMES P. W. GOSS

-Master

Attest: -- ROBERT

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APPROVALS

We have reviewed and considered the foregoing revised Bylaws and find them in proper form and consistent with the provisions of the Vermont Masonic code.

-- CORTLAND CORSONES
Cortland Corsones - Chairman
Jurisprudence Committee

The foregoing revised Bylaws of Vermont Lodge of Research, U.D. (subsequently assigned no. 110) F. & A.M. are effective this 10th day of JUNE 1999.

-- EDWARD J. WILDBLOOD, Jr. --

Edward J. Wildblood, Jr. - M.W. Grand Master

Attest: -- CEDRIC L. SMITH --

Cedric L. Smith - R.W. Grand Secretary