

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433 FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

*“THE LITTLE LODGE THAT COULD”*

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*Revised 2023 – Adopted Sept 12, 2023*

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## CHAPTER I

### THIS LODGE, ITS TITLE, WARRANT, MEETINGS, AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

**SECTION 1** This lodge shall be known and hailed as Dacula Lodge #433 under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia.

**SECTION 2.** It is held under the authority of the warrant granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, on the first day of November in the year of light 5900 and in the year of our Lord 1900, to whose constitution, rules, and edicts the implicit respect and obedience shall be paid. Its jurisdiction is concurrent with all lodges in Gwinnett County.

**SECTION 3.** The meetings of this lodge shall be regular, festival, or called. The regular communications shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, except that the second Tuesday shall be the only communication held in December. The time of meetings shall be 7:30 P.M.

**SECTION 3-a.** Additionally, if a date for a regular communication shall fall during an Annual Grand Lodge of Georgia Communication, the Worshipful Master may declare that no second meeting will be held on October.

**SECTION 4.** The order of business at every regular communication shall be as follows:

- Reading and confirming of minutes of the last and all called communications.
- Reception of petitions.
- Second reading of petitions and balloting.
- Reports of special committees in writing.
- Applications for relief.
- Reading of communications and bills.
- Unfinished business.
- New business.
- Business for the good of the Order.
- Work and Lectures.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

The regular Order of Business may be temporarily dispensed at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

**SECTION 5.** All business of this lodge must originate at a regular communication except the burial of the dead. No appropriation of funds of the lodge shall be made at any other than a regular communication, except by the benevolence committee in case of emergency as hereafter provided.

Degrees may be conferred at a called communication provided the candidates have been elected at a regular communication.

**SECTION 5-a.** The Treasurer has permission to draw upon the Lodge General Fund to pay the monthly utility bills without the vote of the Lodge. A report of payments shall be stated at the regular communication that is closest to the due dates of utility bills.

**SECTION 5-b.** The Treasurer shall present the Lodge a quarterly report on the status of current Lodge finances. A majority vote of members present is required to accept the quarterly financial report. A written copy of the report will be placed within the minutes of the Lodge when accepted. This report shall be made at the March, June, October, and December meetings.

**SECTION 5-c.** The Secretary and Treasurer shall each be issued a Dacula Lodge debit card for use in making purchases for Dacula Lodge. Typically, purchases made using the debit cards will be previously approved by a vote of the lodge; however, no vote of the lodge is required in the event of an emergency, minor operational expenses that change, (such as postage), other purchase as deemed appropriate by the Worshipful Master. The use of the debit card shall be reported at the regular communication following the date of the use of the card.

**SECTION 6.** There shall be two festival communications each year. One for St. John the Baptist, on or nearest the regular communication to June 24th. The other for St. John the Evangelist, on the regular communication preceding December 27th.

**SECTION 7.** Called communications may be held at any time at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, due and reasonable notice of the time and purpose thereof being previously given.

**SECTION 8.** No communication of this lodge, whether stated, festival or called, shall be held unless the Charter or warrant is present and fully displayed in view of the members present.

**SECTION 9.** In the event of dissolution of Dacula Masonic lodge #433 or loss of Charter to the Grand Lodge of Georgia or any other cause of which makes Dacula Masonic Lodge #433 null and

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

void: it will be decided by a majority vote of current members at time of dissolution or voidance of disbursement of lodge properties and holdings and location of the disbursement of proceeds from sale or from holding, including checking and savings accounts, bonds, certificates or any other cash convertible holdings. Funds or proceeds should go to some form of charity such as The Masonic Children's home of Georgia or other recognized tax-exempt organization whose primary focus is children or local families to Dacula Georgia. Notice must be mailed to all current member stating time & place for said meeting, discussion and vote, vote must be in written form, typed, and recorded and the results along with ballots turned over to the Grand Lodge of Georgia for their records.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER II

#### MEMBERS OF THIS LODGE, AND THEIR DUTIES

**SECTION 1.** The members of this lodge are those who have received their degrees in said lodge, or elected by the membership, and those who have not demitted or been expelled, or suspended.

**SECTION 2.** Members of this lodge shall be bound to avoid all irregularity or intemperance that may impair their faculties or debase the dignity of their profession. They shall obey these By-Laws in spirit as in letter, uphold the lawful interest of the lodge at all times, and extend the honor of its name.

**SECTION 3.** The various charges in the three symbolic degrees respectively are hereby incorporated in this code as a correct summary of Masonic duties. Any violation of these rules or neglect of the duties herein specified is an offence against Masonry.

**SECTION 4.** Every member shall be bound to attend the due summons of the Master for regular or called communications (health and business permitting) and shall not retire from the lodge without permission of the Worshipful Master before the same is closed.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER III

#### OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

**SECTION 1.** The officers of this lodge shall be as follows: (pursuant to Masonic Code Section 24-101)

- Worshipful Master
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Chaplain
- Senior Deacon
- Junior Deacon
- Senior Steward
- Junior Steward
- Tyler

The first five officers shall be annually elected by ballot, at the regular Communication on or preceding the festival of St. John the Evangelist; and the installation at the same communication if circumstances permit.

Other officers of the lodge are to be appointed as follows:

The Senior Deacon by the Master-elect; The Junior Deacon by the Senior Warden-elect; The Stewards by the Junior Warden-elect; The Master-elect shall also appoint the Tyler, Chaplain, Director of Work, and Lodge Lecturer.

**SECTION 2.** All officers duly elected and installed shall hold their office until their successors are duly elected and installed.

**SECTION 3.** Every Master Mason, who is a member of this lodge and in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and no other. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to a choice and no member shall expose his vote; but the same shall be privately deposited.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER IV

#### PETITIONS AND BALLOTING

**SECTION 1.** All petitions for initiations, affiliations, and reinstatement shall lie over until the next regular communication after the one at which they are presented. If the applicant is rejected, his fee shall be returned to him. If upon election, he fails to avail himself thereof in six months, he shall not be received without a new ballot.

**SECTION 2.** All petitions for initiations, affiliation, or reinstatement shall be unanimous. If there is one negative ballot, the Master, before declaring the result, shall order a new ballot taken. No further ballot shall be allowed.

**SECTION 3.** Once rejected, a petitioner for initiation or reinstatement shall not be at liberty to repetition until after the expiration of twelve (12) months from the time of rejection.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER V

#### FEES, BENEVOLENCE, ETC.

**SECTION 1.** The total amount for the degrees of masonry will be \$250.00 and shall accompany the petition from each candidate. The fees are due and payable before the degrees are conferred and shall cover the current year's dues, Grand Lodge fees, and a donation to the building fund. The fees are determined as follows:

- \$60.00 for the Entered Apprentice Degree
- \$60.00 for the Fellow Craft Degree
- \$80.00 for the Master's Degree
- \$50.00 for the building fund.

**SECTION 2.** The annual dues will be \$100.00 plus the Grand Lodge dues, fees, and assessments from the previous year, payable in advance to the Secretary by December 31st of the current year. At the first meeting in April of each year, the Secretary shall report, in open lodge before any other business is taken up, those who may be in arrears with their dues at least 18 months. Members declared emeritus by the Grand Lodge (Code 31-115), a Perpetual Member (Code 7-201), a Life Member, or an Honorary Member shall be exempt from Lodge dues; however, those exempt may choose to pay their fees or dues if they so desire. The dues shall be specified as follows: from January 1st through December 31st.

**SECTION 2-b.** A member who is actually 18 months in arrears for dues shall be suspended indefinitely at the regular communication held on the second Tuesday of June. The fee for reinstatement shall be the amount of dues (including any of the Grand Lodge dues, fees, assessments, and per capita) owed the lodge by the petitioner at the time of his suspension for non-payment of dues plus the current year's dues (including any of the Grand Lodge dues, fees, assessments, and per capita).

**SECTION 2-c.** No dues will be remitted by this Lodge, for any reason, except a brother who is financially unable to pay his dues, after a majority vote of members present and voting at a regular communication.

**SECTION 3.** The sum of \$3.00 per year is to be taken from the dues of each member of the Lodge to be placed in the Charity Fund for Dacula Lodge for the maintenance of said fund. The Lodge is not limited, restricted to, or prohibited from adding additional monies to said Fund, with the consent of the Lodge.

**SECTION 3-a.** At the first meeting in January, the Lodge shall determine by majority vote the amount of money the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

(as a group) be allowed to disperse to any one person or group of people as emergency relief. If said person or group of people shall need further assistance, a committee shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master to determine said need, their report made to the Lodge, and the matter decided by a vote of all members present.

**SECTION 4.** Upon the death of a member of this Lodge, a gift of at least \$50.00 or more by vote of the lodge shall be made as flowers to be delivered to the funeral home, or donation to a fund or charity as requested by the deceased before passing or the family of the deceased.



# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER VI

#### COMMITTEES, MODE OF APPOINTMENT

**SECTION 1.** There shall be two standing committees of the lodge:

- Committee on benevolence (charity)
- Committee on finance

**SECTION 2.** The Master shall appoint the Committee on Benevolence, consisting of the Worshipful Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens. The Committee on Benevolence shall dispense the beneficence of the lodge so as to relieve the distressed and afflicted in the speediest and most practical manner. This committee shall take such measures in providing for the sick and making preparations for the burial of the dead, as any sudden emergency demands, The Master is held responsible for the committee's condition and has the right to appoint and remove the members on all annual committees.

**SECTION 3.** The committee on finance shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master at the time of his installation. This committee shall be responsible for submitting the budget for the ensuing year. The budget shall not exceed the anticipated income as determined by the committee chairman, Worshipful Master, Treasurer, and Secretary. A copy of the proposed budget shall be made available to all members of Dacula Lodge #433 in good standing and presented no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January of each year. A majority vote of members present is required for the passage of the budget and a copy will be placed upon the minutes.

**SECTION 3-a.** Pursuant to the Georgia Masonic Code (Code 25-116) the Worshipful Master shall appoint an audit committee on or before the last regular communication in November of each year to examine all transactions of the Lodge. There shall be a written detailed report of these findings submitted to the Lodge at the annual election of officers and no later than the first meeting in January.

**SECTION 4.** When not otherwise directed as to number, all committees shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master and shall consist of three (3) Master Masons. All reports of committees shall be in writing unless ordered by the Worshipful Master.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER VII

#### OFFENSES, TRIALS, AND RELIEF

**SECTION 1.** An offense in masonry is an act that contravenes these By-Laws, the constitution and edicts of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, the written laws of Freemasonry, the law of the land or the law of God.

**SECTION 2.** Un-Masonic conduct consists of divulging the transaction of the lodge, involving the secrecy of the ballot box, rude and indecorous behavior in the lodge, contumacy in refusing obedience to a lodge summons and all acts incompatible with duties and obligation of Freemasonry.

**SECTION 3.** The Senior Warden shall report all matters of offense or un-Masonic conduct occurring while the lodge is at labor. The Junior Warden or another Master Mason appointed by the Lodge, who is a member of the Lodge, shall report all matters of offense or un-Masonic conduct as may occur, while the lodge is not at labor. To report such occurrences or make them the subject of private counsel or admonition may be at the Junior Warden's discretion. All such reports shall be made in writing and in the form of charges and specifications.

**SECTION 4.** All matters relating to un-Masonic conduct, masonic offenses, charges, trials, etc. shall be handled as outlined in the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER VIII

#### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1.** Applications for advancement may be made at any time and as often as the candidate may think he is prepared and has made suitable proficiency. The applications for advancement shall be voted on as in case of initiation, and the ballot must be unanimous.

**SECTION 2.** For the faithful performance of his duties, the retiring Worshipful Master shall receive emblem(s) of recognition as a Past Master from the Lodge.

If at the end of the year, the lodge is in sound financial condition, it may reward any officer for the faithful performance of his duties with a special gratuity by a majority vote of the members present.

**SECTION 3.** No one shall ever inspect the ballot box except the Master and Wardens. No brother shall make known to another or to the lodge, what manner of ballot he has, or will cast, nor inquire of another member of his ballot. The secrecy of the ballot shall be inviolable.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER IX

#### BUILDING FUND

**SECTION 1.** The purpose of the building fund is for the future finance of additions to, or the rebuilding of the lodge hall.

**SECTION 2.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the profits from each fundraiser will be deposited in the building fund. This excludes benefit fundraisers set up for the purpose of charity and/or benevolence.

**SECTION 3.** All donations designated for the building fund will be deposited directly into the building fund account. All donations to the lodge with no specific designation shall be deposited into the building fund unless otherwise dispersed by a majority vote of the members present at a regular communication.

**SECTION 4.** The sum of one dollar (\$1.00) from the annual dues of each member will be deposited into the building fund per annum.

**SECTION 5.** In the event that a withdrawal from the building fund becomes necessary, the request must be made at a regular communication and lie over until the next regular communication where it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### CHAPTER X

#### AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing at a regular communication and must lie over until the next regular communication, when it shall require a two-third (2/3) vote of the members present.

#### Revised 2023

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY ROGER WARNER, WORSHIPFUL MASTER

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- JUDD J. WOLFE P.M., DACULA LODGE #433
- WIL MOORE P.M., DACULA LODGE #433
- JIM STEWART, SENIOR WARDEN, DACULA LODGE #433
- ERIC PUCHSTEIN P.M., DACULA LODGE #433

Summary of changes

- Formatting, spelling, punctuation, and grammatical error corrections.
- Ch 3 Sec 1 – added Masonic Code section reference.
- Ch 5 Sec 4 – change \$50 for death from masonic brick to flowers or choice of donation to fund or charity.
- Added Chapter X – Amendments to capture changes made.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at regular communication: Aug 22, 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at regular communication: Sep 12, 2023
- Adopted: Sep 12, 2023

#### Revised 2021

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY JOE McILVAINE, WORSHIPFUL MASTER

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- JUDD J. WOLFE P. M., SECRETARY, DACULA LODGE #433
- RON SIMPSON P. M., DACULA LODGE #433
- DOUG McCOY, DACULA LODGE #433

#### Revised 2017

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY TOM TUCHSCHMIDT, WORSHIPFUL MASTER

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433

## FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- GENE GREESON P.M., TREASURER
- JOSEPH PHILLIPS P.M.
- JUDD J WOLFE P.M., SECRETARY

### Summary of changes

- Added Chapter 1 Section 9 – dissolution of lodge.

### Revised 2002

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY STEVE RONEY, WORSHIPFUL MASTER

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- DONNIS ETHERIDGE
- FRANK McKELVEY

### Summary of changes

- Ch 5 Sec 1 – degree fee change \$20 to \$25.
- Ch 5 Sec 3 – degree fee change \$20 to \$30.

### Revised 1985

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY [name], WORSHIPFUL MASTER

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- GENE GREESON
- BILLY KENNEDY
- BENNY BAGWELL

### Revised 1980

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY [name], WORSHIPFUL MASTER

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- HOWARD ETHERIDGE
- BILLY KENNEDY
- DOUG C
- NELSON CAIN

# BY-LAWS OF DACULA LODGE #433 FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Dacula, GA

## Summary of changes

- Ch 5 Sec 3 – degree fee change \$15 to \$20.

## Revised 1976

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY EUGENE BROOKS, WORSHIPFUL MASTER

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE BROTHERS

- J. C. FOWLER P.M., SECRETARY
- J. H. GOWER, P.M.
- W. O. McKINNON