

Hudson Valley District PER Association By-Laws

PREAMBLE

The Hudson Valley District Past Exalted Rulers Association of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the State of New York is formed to unite all elks in closer bonds of fraternity; to cultivate good fellowship and to further good fellowship among Lodges; to foster the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to further patriotic devotion to the principles of Constitutional government; to protect and promote the interests of this Order in the State of New York; to exchange ideas beneficial to the Lodges of the District; and to bear true allegiance to the Constitution and Laws of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

Section 1. - The name of the association shall be "The Hudson District Past Exalted Rulers Association" of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the New York State Elks Association and shall be referred to as the 'Association'.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

Section 1. - The purpose of this 'Association' is to promote the bonds of fraternalism as fostered by one's membership in this Order, to unite all past Exalted Rulers in closer bonds of good fellowship, to promote the programs and interests of the Grand Lodge of the Order in the Hudson Valley District, to exchange ideas beneficial to the Lodges of the District, to bear true allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, and to act as advisory to and be of assistance to the Lodge and the Officers of the Lodges of the Hudson Valley District of the State of New York.

The members of the 'Association' or a sub-committee especially designated for a specific purpose, will render all possible assistance and guidance requested officially by the Past State President(s), District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, State Vice President, and State Trustee.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. - Membership in this 'Association' shall be open to all Elks in good standing who are Past Exalted Rulers and are members of a Subordinate Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in the Hudson Valley District.

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

Section 1. – The officers of the 'Association' shall be the President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. – The President shall be the outgoing State Vice-President of the Hudson Valley District of the New York State Elks Association, and he/she shall assume his/her office following the Spring Convention of the New York State Elks Association.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the 'Association', preserve order, decide all questions of order subject to appeal by members of the 'Association', fill all vacancies on special committees of the 'Association' (except those of the Past District Deputies Committee) and perform such other duties as may be imposed upon him/her by law and are customarily performed by the presiding

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officer. The current State Vice President shall preside at all meetings in which the President is absent, and shall perform all functions normally assigned to the President

Section 3. – The Secretary/Treasurer shall assume his/her office following the meeting in which he/she is elected.

Section 4. - The Secretary/Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Association. keep a true record of the proceedings of same, preserve all books and documents of the Association, attend to all notices and correspondence, receive all monies paid over to the' Association , and keep an accurate account of receipts and expenditures. He/She shall submit a quarterly financial report to the Past State President(s) of jurisdiction and the President of the Association. He/She shall submit an annual financial report to the membership at the November meeting.

Section 5. - Removal from office of any of the officers of the Association shall be conducted at a special meeting of the Association called for that purpose. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting is required for removal. Article 5 will be used to fill any resulting vacancies.

ARTICLE 5 - VACANCIES

Section 1. - In the event of an officer vacancy, a letter shall be sent by the Secretary/Treasurer to all Lodges within 5 days after the vacancy occurs. The Provisions of Article 10, (Endorsements) shall be followed. Resumes must be submitted within 15 days and election held within 30 days of the vacancy.

Section 2. - Should the office of President become vacant, the current State Vice President shall assume the duties of President until the provisions of Article 5 Section 1 are fulfilled.

Section 3. - Should the office of Secretary/Treasurer become vacant, the President shall appoint a member of the 'Association' to assume the duties of Secretary/Treasurer until the provisions of Article 5 Section 1 are fulfilled.

ARTICLE 6 - MEETINGS

Section 1. - The annual meeting of the Association shall be held at the Lodge of the Presiding President on the last Sunday in November at 1:00PM. Should the meeting be cancelled due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held on the following Sunday at the same place and time as originally scheduled.

Section 2. - Special meetings shall be held at the call of the President of the Association or at the request of three (3) Subordinate Lodge PER associations. The Secretary/Treasurer shall give ten (10) days notice in writing to each Subordinate Lodge PER Association and/or Lodge Secretary stating the nature of the business to be considered, and no other business shall be considered.

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Section 3. - A quorum shall consist of a least one (1) PER from Four (4) Lodges holding membership in the 'Association'. All members in good standing of the 'Association' present at a meeting are entitled to vote.

Section 4. – The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 7 – DUES and FINANCES

Section 1. - The annual dues of \$ 10.00 is payable before the day of the annual meeting in November to ensure that each member retains his/her voting privileges. Dues notices will be sent to members and prospective members of the Association by the 1st. of September of each year.

Section 2. - The dues of the Association shall be used for the necessary expenses of the Association, such as postage, telephone, cards, or for any other purpose as voted by the membership. Monies of the 'Association' shall be used for any purpose as voted by the membership.

Section 3. – All monies raised for the District and not a specified committee (Major Projects) will be given to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association who will deposit these funds in a bank account established for the Association. These funds will be distributed at the direction of the members of the Association. For those District Committees that do raise funds, a detailed financial report must be submitted to the Past State President(s) of jurisdiction, the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Hudson Valley District, State Vice President and the Secretary/Treasurer of the 'Association' within two (2) weeks after the event. A detail report must be given at the next District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler clinic.

ARTICLE 8 - AUDIT

Section 1. - A compilation to include all books, records, and financial activities of the 'Association' shall be available upon request from the Secretary/Treasurer by any member. It will be scheduled with the Secretary/Treasurer at his/her earliest convenience.

ARTICLE 9 - COMMITTEE OF PAST DISTRICT DEPUTIES

Section 1. - Membership in this committee shall consist of Past District Deputies who are members of the Association. This PDD committee shall be known as the 'Committee'. The purpose of the 'Committee' is to review resumes for the office of District Deputy and meet with the Past State President(s) of this District.

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ARTICLE 10 - ENDORSEMENTS

Section 1. ENDORSEMENT for the OFFICE of DISTRICT DEPUTY

By the 15th of September, the Secretary of the ' Association' shall invite each Subordinate Lodge in the Hudson Valley District to submit the name of a candidate for District Deputy for such consideration. He/She shall advise the Subordinate Lodge of the criteria for the selection to be used in making such endorsement by the 'Committee', as set forth in the following paragraphs:

1. To be selected for District Deputy, the prospect should have been a successful Exalted Ruler, exhibiting good leadership qualities.
2. It is desirable for the member recommended to come from a strong, successful lodge. He/She must be from a lodge that participates in and promotes the programs of the order and the State Association. It is also important that the prospect's lodge adheres to the laws of the order, and especially that the prospect subscribes to full compliance with the statutes. If selected as a DDGER, he/she will not only have to have knowledge of the laws of the order, but also be willing to take a stand for their enforcement.
3. The prospect should also have shown that he/she has a continuing interest in his/her lodge by some semblance of regular attendance, service on the trustees or committees of the lodge, or other such position after his/her tour of duty as an officer ends.
4. The prospect should have shown interest in his/her State Association and his/her district by participation in State Association and district matters; by participating in district deputy clinics, lodge visitations, and by participating in, as well as attendance at State Association meetings and conventions.
5. He/She should willingly accept committee assignments for the State Association (if available) and/or as a State Association member. His/Her record of accomplishments on these jobs should be commendable.
6. The prospect should be personable, neat, and of moderate habits. He/She should be the kind of person that the Grand Exalted Ruler (and all of us) would be proud to have represent him. He/She should be well liked and well known in the district.
7. The prospect should be available, interested, of proven ability, and have the time to dedicate to the job.
8. He/She must have the consent and support of his/her employer and family, and must have sufficient finances, so that his/her serving will not be a sacrifice for him/her or his/her family.
9. The choice of the prospect should be a popular one in his/her lodge. A District Deputy needs the unanimous support of the lodge to which he/she belongs.
10. The term of office for the District Deputy will be for two (2) years if he/she participates and performs the programs of the Order and State Association in a diligent and professional manner. If he/she does not perform their duties as required, then his/her term of office will only be for one (1) year.
11. When the District Deputy term of office is over, it should be reasonably certain that he/she will continue his/her interest in the order and the affairs of his/her lodge, district, and state. He/She must be willing to accept assignment as a lodge advisor or other special assignment for the good of the order.

In addition, the State Sponsor (PGER Dave Carr) recommends that we should not consider the appointment of a junior Past Exalted Ruler. Such a candidate needs seasoning and experience.

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There shall be presented in his/her behalf, a written statement from the Past District Deputies , or if none exist, the Past Exalted Rulers Association of his/her Lodge; or if none exist, the Lodge membership, endorsing his/her candidacy. The resume should be double-spaced and no more than two (2) one sided pages in length. A copy shall be sent to the Past State President(s) of the District by November 1st. No resume or statement shall be accepted after this deadline. It shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring entity to ensure receipt of the resume by the appropriate parties.

Any candidate may be required to appear before the members of this 'Committee' at a special meeting, to be examined and questioned before any consideration will be made. The Committee will then make their recommendation to the Past State President(s) of the District. The Past State President(s) of jurisdiction will submit the name or names of the respective candidates for District Deputy designee to the Past Grand Exalted Ruler(s) of the New York State Elks Association for recommendation to the Grand Exalted Ruler

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Section 2. - ENDORSEMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF STATE VICE PRESIDENT AND STATE TRUSTEE

By October 1st, the Secretary shall advise all Lodges of the proposed meeting and respectfully invite submission by each Subordinate Lodge the name/s of a candidate/s for such consideration. He/She shall advise the Subordinate Lodge of the criteria for selection to be used in making such endorsement by the ' Association', as set forth in the following paragraph:

No one will be considered for this high office who is not a Past Exalted Ruler in good standing. He/She must have the endorsement of his/her Lodge. He/She must have served with distinction during his/her term as Exalted Ruler and fulfilled the requirements of that office. There shall be presented in his/her behalf, a written statement from his/her Lodge attesting to it's endorsement of his/her candidacy. It shall set forth the year he/she served as Exalted Ruler, the Grand Lodge Convention he/she attended as a delegate of his/her Lodge, and the city in which it was held. It shall also set forth evidence of his/her continued interest in his/her Lodge and the Order beyond his/her year as Exalted Ruler; a resume of the committee(s) on which he/she served on a District level; and any other such information as may be helpful in evaluating him/her as a candidate for the office to which he/she aspires. The written statement shall be the front of two (2) pages, double spaced and sent to the Past State President(s) of the District, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association, and the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge in the District by November 1st. of each year. No resume or statement shall be accepted after this deadline. It shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring Lodge to ensure receipt of the resume by the appropriate parties.

Any candidate may be required to appear personally before the members of this ' Association' at a special meeting, to be examined and questioned before any endorsement from this 'Association' will be made. Following the examination and/or interview of the candidate/s, the members of this 'Association' shall vote as to their choice for the office. Any member in good standing in the ' Association' is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the candidate/s of his/her choice. The vote will be taken at the November meeting. A simple majority of the voting quorum of the 'Association' will be sufficient to cause the Secretary/Treasurer of this 'Association' to submit the name of anyone so endorsed to the Past State President(s) of jurisdiction.

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Section 3. - ENDORSEMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT SECRETARY / TREASURER

By October 1st, the Secretary shall advise all Lodges of the proposed meeting and respectfully invite submission by each Subordinate Lodge the name of a candidate for such consideration. He/She shall advise the Subordinate Lodge of the criteria for selection to be used in making such endorsement by the 'Association', as set forth in the following paragraph: No one will be considered for this high office who is not a Past Exalted Ruler in good standing. He/She must have served with distinction during his/her term as Exalted Ruler and fulfilled the requirements of that office. A resume setting forth the year he/she served as Exalted Ruler, the Grand Lodge Convention he/she attended as a delegate of his/her Lodge, the city in which it was held, evidence of his/her continued interest in his/her Lodge and the Order beyond his/her year as Exalted Ruler, a resume of the committee(s) on which he/she served on a District level, and any other such information as may be helpful in evaluating him as a candidate for the office to which he/she aspires. The resume shall be the front of two (2) pages, double spaced and sent to the Past State President(s) of the District, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association and the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge in the District by November 1st. of each year. No resume or statement shall be accepted after this deadline. It shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring Lodge to ensure receipt of the resume by the appropriate parties.

Any candidate may be required to appear personally before the members of this 'Association' at a special meeting, to be examined and questioned before any endorsement from this 'Association' will be made. Following the examination and/or interview of the candidate, the members of this 'Association' shall vote as to their choice for the office. Any member in good standing in the 'Association' is entitled to cast one (1) vote for the candidate of his/her choice. The votes will be taken at the November meeting. A simple majority of the voting quorum of the 'Association' will be sufficient to cause the election of the Secretary/Treasurer of this Association.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall initially be elected to a two (2) year term of office. Following his/her initial election, re-election to office by the current Secretary/Treasurer shall be for one (1) year terms.

ARTICLE 11 - VOTING

Section 1. BALLOTING

Election of officers shall be by written ballot provided by the Secretary/Treasurer unless the candidate is running unopposed. In that case, a simple motion to elect will suffice.

Section 2. TIE VOTE

Should no candidate receive a majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the least number of ballots shall be dropped, and a new ballot held with the remaining candidates. This procedure will continue until a candidate receives a majority of the ballots cast.

In the case of a tie vote between the remaining two (2) candidates, the President of the 'Association', (who shall **NOT** cast an initial ballot), shall then cast the deciding ballot.

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ARTICLE 12 - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Section 1. – The By-Laws of the ‘Association’ maybe amended at any time. Written notice must be given to each member of the ‘Association’ detailing the proposed amendments, and the meeting in which these amendments will be considered. At least a two-thirds vote of the membership present is required to approve amendments.

Section 2. – Every five (5) years, the President of the ‘Association’ shall appoint a By-Law Committee to review and propose amendments to update the By-Laws.

* By-Laws Approved November 24, 2024