

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO JOSE RIZAL LODGE NO. 1172 BYLAWS  
(June 8, 2012)**

Proposed Amendments are *italicized, underlined & red*

Current:

Article II Sec 1 – The Regular Communication of the Lodge shall be held on the second Fridays of each month, excepting such Fridays as may fall upon a Legal Holiday, when there shall be no communication. However, the Master may call a Special Communication as deems it necessary.

*Proposed Amendment:*

Article II Section 1 – The Regular Communication of the Lodge shall be held on the second Friday of each month *at 7:15 PM*, excepting such Fridays as may fall upon a Legal Holiday, when there shall be no communication. However, the Master may call a Special Communication as he deems it necessary.

Current:

Article II Section 3 The Annual Communication shall be on the Fourth Friday of January each year. The Fiscal year of the Lodge shall be calendar year.

*Proposed Amendment*

Article II Section 3 The Annual Communication shall be held on *the Second Friday of September* each year. The fiscal year shall be *June-May each year.* (Rationale, footnote no. 1) Current:

Article III Section 4 The Master shall appoint a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to visit the candidate, investigate his character and qualifications, and submit a written report signed by all members of the committee, at the next Regular or Special Communication of the Lodge before balloting of the candidates.

*Proposed Amendment:*

Article III Section 4 The Master shall appoint a committee of three, *one of whom shall be a Past Master*, whose duty it shall be to visit the candidate *in his abode* investigate his character and qualifications, *meet his family and explain Freemasonry using the prescribed Lodge guidelines* and submit a written report signed by all members of the committee accompanied by *letters of their personal references*, at the next Regular or Special Communication of the Lodge before balloting of the candidates. (Rationale, footnote no. 2)

**Current:**

**Article III Section 7 Any person having withdrawn from membership in the Lodge may be readmitted, but must first be proposed and balloted for. The fee for readmission shall be \$50.00.**

***Proposed Amendment:***

**Article III Section 7 Any person having withdrawn from membership in the Lodge may be readmitted, but must first be proposed and balloted for. The fee for readmission shall be \$100.00 (Rationale, foot note no. 3)**

***Proposed new sections:***

***Article III Section 5.1 Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts' proficiency examination must be done in an open Lodge meeting prior to the day of the degree conferral and must be proficient by a vote of the Lodge. The proficiency examination with no exceptions must be accomplished in its entirety and should not be done in unison. Brothers who are not proficient will not be passed or raised until proficient.***

***Article III Section 5.2 Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who have not demonstrated suitable proficiency in the preceding degree, are given another chance to take another proficiency exam at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, who has the prerogative to assign a mentor or coach before his next proficiency exam in open Lodge. (Rationale, footnote no. 4)***

***Article III Section 5.3 The Lodge System of Masonic Education must be used as prescribed by the Grand Lodge to ensure that the petitioners, initiated Apprentices, passed Fellowcrafts and raised Master Masons will have the basic knowledge pertinent to their status in the craft. The Lodge must ensure that the newly raised brothers take the Masonic Development Course (MDC) within the Lodge or on a district level within the first year of membership. (Rationale, footnote no. 5)***

**Current:**

**Article IV Section 2 – The Master shall at the Annual Communication appoint a Chaplain, the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, a Marshal, two Masters of Ceremonies, two Stewards, Tiler, Organist. Interim appointment may be made by the Master to fill up existing vacancies or a special election be held if a vacant position is elective.**

***Proposed Amendment:***

**Article IV Section 2 – The Master-elect shall prior to the Installation appoint a Chaplain, the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, a Marshal, two Masters of Ceremonies, two Stewards, Tiler, Organist, Historian, Almoner and Ritual Director. Interim**

appointments may be made by the Master to fill up existing vacancies or a special election be held if a vacant position is elective.

**Current:**

**Article IV Section 7 – The Chaplain, Marshal, Masters of Ceremonies and Stewards shall be subject in all things relating to their official duties to the direction of the Master or the Presiding Officer.**

***Proposed Amendment:*** Article IV Section 7 – The Chaplain, Marshal, *Historian*, Masters of Ceremonies and Stewards shall be subject in all things relating to their official duties to the direction of the Master or the Presiding Officer.

***Proposed new sections:***

***Article IV Sec 3.1 Brothers aspiring to the position of Senior or Junior Warden must have completed the Road to the East (RTTE), Masonic Development Course (MDC) courses before being nominated. (Rationale, footnote no. 6)***

***Article IV Section 10 The Ritual Director, must be well versed with the Standard Work and shall be subject in all things relating to ritual within the Lodge including but not limited to opening and closing of the Lodge and degree preparation and execution under the direction of the Worshipful Master.***

***Section 11 The Almoner shall be subject in all things relating to the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge including but not limited to collecting voluntary contributions each meeting.***

**Current:**

**Article V Section 1. The Standing Committees of the Lodge shall be: Finance Committee, Visiting Committee, Widows and Orphans Committee, Membership Committee, Refreshment Committee.**

***Proposed Amendment:***

**Article V Section 1. The Standing Committees of the Lodge shall be: Finance Committee, Visiting Committee, Widows and Orphans Committee, Membership Committee, Refreshment Committee *and the Past Masters Council.* (Rationale, footnote no. 7)**

**Current:**

**Article V Sec 2.6 To perform such other duties of a Finance Committee as are not herein specifically provided for.**

***Proposed:***

Article V Sec 2.6 To perform such other duties of a Finance Committee as are not herein specifically provided for, such as but are not limited to audit of every fund raising event and special projects.

**Current:**

Article V Section 6.2 To plan, prepare and arrange collations of the Lodge after each and every Stated or Special Communications.

***Proposed:***

Article V Section 6.2 To plan, prepare and arrange collations of the Lodge after each and every Stated or Special Communications. No alcoholic beverage can be served prior to Stated Communications or Special Communications called for the Conferral of Degrees. (Rationale, footnote no. 8)

**Proposed new sections:**

Article V Section 7 Any committee formed for the purpose of Special Projects and Fundraising activities are required to submit written reports subject to audit by the Finance Committee before being presented to the Lodge.

Article V Section 8 the Past Masters Council shall be composed of all Past Masters of the Lodge. The council is to meet at least twice a year preferably April and December or as needed. The chairman or a minimum of 5 past masters can call a meeting. A chairman shall be elected every two years from among those present at the April Council Meeting. The council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Worshipful Master and the Lodge.

**Current:** Article VI Section 3 The yearly dues shall be \$100.00 plus Grand Lodge per capita tax, payable in advance before the Annual Communication of the Lodge, and payable by all members of the Lodge.

***Proposed Amendment:***

Article VI Section 3 The yearly dues shall be \$100.00 plus Grand Lodge per capita dues tax, payable in advance *on or* before the January Communication of the Lodge, and payable by all members of the Lodge. Members who are not current with their dues are not eligible to vote in the Election of Officers. (Rationale, footnote no. 9)

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**Rationale: Footnote 1**(Article II Section 3) The 2nd Friday of May is the elections. The annual communication would be the meeting where the budget, annual report of the trustees, secretary and treasurer as well as other reports are to be given. By doing that in September, it would be the first meeting of the year. Yes, it may be depending on the installation date in June be technically the 2nd meeting, but, given that it is after summer, everyone will be given ample time to audit the treasurer, trustees and secretary as well as prepare the necessary reports and turnover from one administration to another.

**Footnote 2:**(Article III Section 4) The work of the investigating committee is to look into a petitioner's character and qualifications for membership. Although it would be difficult if not impossible to totally grasp the character of a person in one visit, but by visiting a petitioner in his own environment, we will be given a glimpse of his family life, and we will be given the opportunity to meet with him and his wife or family at a familiar setting for them, where they are comfortable.

**Footnote 3:** Article III Section 7 – The amount was increased in keeping with the times.

**Footnote 4:**(Article III Sections 5.1-5.2) By having the EAs and FCs examined in the Lodge, we are able to see the effort they have given to learn the ritual. Suitable proficiency will be the standard used to pass EAs and FCs as required by our ritual. Should a brother be a victim of mental block, section 5.2 gives them a second chance at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. We must not be pressured to pass or raise brothers in a short span of time. Quality must be our guide, not quantity.

**Footnote 5:**(Article III Section 5.3) It is the responsibility of the Lodge to educate its members at least in basic Freemasonry. By so doing, we increase the chances of a brother staying an active member of the craft.

**Footnote 6:**(Article IV Sec 3.1) By requiring brothers aspiring to be Junior Warden to complete the MDC and Road to the East, we are equipping our future leader with knowledge that will aid him in successfully leading our Lodge.

**Footnote 7:** (Article V Section 1) Adding the Past Master Council as one of the Standing Committee gives the group an official status as advisory council to the Worshipful Master and the Lodge, not just an ad-hoc committee.

**Footnote 8:** (Article V Section 6.2) It would be to the benefit of the Lodge if we serve alcoholic drinks as part of the celebration after the conclusion of the job at hand.

**Footnote 9:** Article VI Section 3 Requiring members be current will enable the Lodge to keep more members current especially if they want to vote for the election of officers. This follows the Grand Lodge example of disenfranchising Lodges from voting if the Lodge is not current with their per capita dues.

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First presentation: February 10, 2012

Second Presentation: March 9, 2012

Third Presentation: June 8, 2012

Bylaws Committee

Bro. Henry Garcia, Chair

RW Carlito Gallardo

VW Mon Cruz

Bro. S. Almiron, Ex-Officio