



**BY-LAWS OF  
ROMA LODGE, INC.  
As Amended through May 8, 2026**

**ARTICLE I-PREAMBLE**

**Section 1:**

Following are the By-laws of Roma Lodge, Inc., (the "Lodge") a non-profit organization without stock, duly adopted in accordance with the Laws of the State of Wisconsin.

**ARTICLE II-PURPOSE**

**Section 1:**

The Purpose of this Lodge is to enroll in its membership all men of Italian birth, descent, or lineage regardless of religious faith or political affiliation for the following purposes:

- A. To devote the net earnings of the Lodge exclusively to charitable, literary, cultural, educational, and fraternal purposes, and
- B. To plan, promote and conduct activities for the purpose of raising funds to promote the goals and purposes of the organization, and
- C. To continue human relations activities on a charitable basis for the purpose of showing the community the positive force of Italian American citizens, and
- D. To plan, promote and conduct other charitable, educational, and cultural activities which will best serve the welfare of Americans of Italian extraction and the community at large, and
- E. To foster a pride in, and awareness of, Italian culture by sponsoring lectures, classes, conferences and study groups devoted to the contributions which Italian culture, history and descendants of Italians have made to this country and to mankind, and
- F. To raise, collect, administer, and dispense funds for the purposes set forth in these By-laws, and
- G. To foster a fraternal relationship in and among its members and to create a sense of self-worth and commitment in each of its members to the goals of the organization and a feeling of pride and self-worth in each of its members, and
- H. To exercise such other functions as are consistent with the purposes and objectives allowed by its certificate as a non-profit corporation and any amendment thereof, and
- I. To uphold the concept of Americanism and recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America at the beginning of each meeting, and
- J. To keep alive a spiritual attachment to the traditions of our Italian ancestors and a commitment to God by starting each meeting with a prayer, and
- K. To promote civic education among its members with the use of speakers, presentations, and other events whenever possible, and
- L. To initiate and organize movements for patriotic, cultural, historical and humanitarian purposes.

**ARTICLE III- EMBLEM. MOTTO. COLOR. LANGUAGE**

**Section 1:**

The emblem of the Lodge shall be determined by the Board of Directors with the approval of the membership. The motto shall be "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." The official color of the Lodge shall be purple. The official languages shall be both English and Italian, and each may be used in the course of the meetings.

**ARTICLE IV- LAWS OF THE LODGE**

**Section 1:**

The laws of the Lodge shall consist of rules and regulations adopted from time to time in accordance with these By-laws and the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation to govern, administer and control the affairs under its jurisdiction.

## **ARTICLE V- MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS**

### **Section 1:**

Any man may apply for adult membership in accordance with the established procedures of the organization, if the following qualifications are met:

- A. He has reached the age of twenty-one (21) years, and
- B. He is born of an Italian parent, or a parent of Italian lineage, or
- C. He was adopted by an Italian parent, or a parent of Italian lineage, or
- D. He is the spouse of a person who is Italian, or of Italian lineage, or
- E. He is the spouse of a person adopted by a person of Italian lineage, or
- F. He submits the results of genetic testing that shows Italian ancestry. (Amended September 14, 2108)

### **Section 2**

Candidates for membership must also strictly abide by the following:

- A. All applicants must be sponsored by a regular member, who has been a member in good standing for the previous two years (Amended February 7, 2003)
- B. An application for membership must be submitted upon an official application form, signed by the applicant and the sponsor.
- C. The application must be accompanied by an application fee, regardless of applicant's age, and payment of pro-rated dues to the end of the calendar year. (The application fee shall be waived for former members applying for readmission; provided the former member last left the membership as a member in good standing.) [Amended Jan. 10, 2014]
- D. The application must be forwarded to the Membership Committee for review, and an interview of the applicant.
- E. Following recommendation of the Membership Committee and approval by the Board of Directors, the name of the applicant and his sponsor must appear in the monthly newsletter, so that the general membership will have 30 days' notice of the proposed new member prior to a vote on admission, and an opportunity to advise the Membership Chairman if there is reason for disapproval of the applicant.
- F. The applicant will be voted upon at the next regularly scheduled general membership meeting that the applicant attends so that the applicant is available to be introduced to the membership in attendance.
- G. An applicant may be rejected by a simple-majority vote of those members present at said general membership meeting.
- H. A rejected applicant shall not be eligible to re-apply for admission unless six (6) months have elapsed from the date of his last rejection. An applicant who has been rejected twice by the membership is thereafter ineligible to re-apply for membership.
- I. A probationary member who does not successfully complete his term of probation shall not be eligible to re-apply for admission unless twelve (12) months have elapsed from the date of his rejection for full membership. [Amended May 2, 2008]
- J. Reasonable additional restrictions or requirements for membership may be imposed at the discretion of the Board of Directors; so long as such additional restrictions and requirements are consistent with the letter and spirit of these By-laws or contrary to the wishes of the General Membership.

### **Section 3:**

Whenever an applicant gains membership in the organization through fraud or willful misrepresentation, the Parliamentarian of the Lodge shall present a list of the allegations of such fraud or misrepresentation by such members in writing to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall then present the same to the General Membership for determination on the issue of expulsion.

### **Section 4:**

Applicants voted into membership will be initiated, in conformity with the ceremony, if any, prescribed by the Rules adopted for that purpose by the Lodge. [Amended May 2008]

### **Section 5:**

Members are duty bound to attend the monthly membership meetings of the Lodge and are obligated to pay annual dues in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of this Article.

#### Section 6:

Dues will be set by the Board of Directors with approval of the General Membership. [Amended Jan. 10, 2014]

- A. A statement of dues will be mailed to each member during November of the previous year.
- B. Dues must be paid in full by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- C. If a member has circumstances that prevent him from paying dues in full by January 31<sup>st</sup>, special arrangements may be made by contacting the President, Vice-President, or the Membership Secretary. In that event, the members shall not be dropped by the Lodge roll of members; however, such members shall not be eligible to vote for officers and directors until all dues have been paid in full.
- D. Members who have failed to meet their financial obligations at the Lodge by January 31<sup>st</sup> or have made special arrangements for payment of dues as provided in Paragraph C herein above, shall be placed in an inactive status. During this period of inactive status, such members shall have all their rights as members of Roma Lodge suspended. They shall be ineligible to participate in Lodge functions, use the members' facilities, and attend meetings of the members, or vote in any elections or referenda until they have paid their dues in full plus a past due payment penalty to be determined by the Board. Any member who has not paid his dues and the delinquent payment penalty before the end of February will be dropped from the membership.
  - i) On or about February 1st, the Membership Secretary shall send a "Final Reminder Statement" to those members that have not paid their dues by that date. The notice shall inform those members of the suspension of their rights and privileges as a member of Roma Lodge. They shall also be informed that failure to pay all dues and any other obligations than the Lodge together with the past due payment penalty by the end of February will result in such members being dropped for membership.
  - ii) Members dropped for non-payment of dues shall be eligible to re-apply for membership upon payment of their past dues, the delinquent payment penalty and any current application fee. The decision to accept such member back into the Lodge will be made by the Board of directors after consideration of a recommendation from the Membership Screening Committee. In the event the Board of Directors accepts such members back into the Lodge, the membership status of such members shall then reflect continuous membership, as though there was no gap in their term of membership as a result of this incident.

[Amended May 2008, May 4, 2012, and October 14, 2016]

- E. A member who voluntarily drops his membership must submit a letter of resignation to the Board stating his reasons for leaving the lodge.
  - i) If the individual applies to join the Lodge later, he must submit an application For Membership.
  - ii) The letter of resignation will be considered during the application process
  - iii) If the application is accepted, the applicant will not be assessed the initiation fee or be required to serve the terms of probation, except that dealing with the sale of festival raffle tickets.
  - iv) A returning member who does not have the required letter of resignation must follow the normal application process including probation. (Adopted December 3, 2010)
- F. An individual shall become a member in good standing when he has been accepted for membership by a vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled general membership meeting and all required application fees and dues have been paid. A member shall continue to be considered a member in good standing so long as he continues to abide by these By-laws and the rules of Roma Lodge.
  - i) The Membership Secretary shall issue a current membership card to each member in good standing, following payment of all required dues and fees. A current membership card shall be *prima facie* evidence of membership in good standing.
- G. The Lodge will recognize faithful service by its members in the flowing ways:
  - i) Members who have attained the age of 65 years and have at least 25 years of continuous service and paid membership shall be obliged to pay only one-half of the regular dues.
  - ii) Members who have attained the age of 80 years and have at least 50 years of continuous service and paid membership shall not be obligated to pay regular dues. (Adopted Dec. 4, 2009)

#### Section 7:

Each member in good standing shall have one vote at all general membership meetings on any matters calling for a vote by the general membership.

#### Section 8:

A member that has qualified for membership pursuant to Section 1 of this Article on the basis of marriage shall not be eligible to remain a member following a divorce or a remarriage after the death of their spouse unless the new marriage would also satisfy the requirements of Section 1 of this Article. (The death of the spouse shall not itself be a disqualifying factor.)

- A. In the event of remarriage, where the remarriage must satisfy the requirements of Section 1 (see above), and the member must contact the Membership Committee and convince the committee that the new marriage satisfies those requirements.

Section 9:

Subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the President may bestow the title of "Honorary Member" on any man who has demonstrated exemplary service to Roma Lodge or the Italian American community. An honorary member holds no rights or privileges in, and owes no duties or responsibilities to, Roma Lodge. (Added January 10, 2014)

**ARTICLE VI- ORGANIZATION**

Section 1:

The governing body of the Lodge shall be the Board of Directors, consisting of all current officers, Directors-at-Large and the last past president, each of whom shall be entitled to vote on all matters requiring Board action; except the current President, who shall vote only in the case of a tie. (Amended May 2, 2003)

Section 2:

The officers of the Lodge shall be elected in accordance with these By-laws. They shall be elected every other year to serve two (2) year terms; with the exception of past president, who shall serve so long as he is the last past president. With the exception of the President, all officers and directors shall be eligible for re-election without limitation on the number of their terms. The President may not be elected to serve as president for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 3:

The officers of the Lodge, and the order of succession in event of the unavailability or inability of the President to act, shall be the following:

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Parliamentarian
- D. Recording Secretary
- E. Membership Secretary
- F. Treasurer

(Adopted December 3, 2010)

Section 4:

The Board of Directors shall:

- A. Pass and Implement rules of governance of the Lodge to the extent consistent with either these By-laws or the wishes of the general membership.
- B. Direct the policies and programs of the Lodge and make rules for the conduct of its members and the use of its property.
- C. Fix the penalties for violations of the By-laws and rules of the Lodge.
- D. Review and take action or make recommendations on any matter referred to by the members in good standing.
- E. Keep a complete record of its actions and minutes of its meetings, to be available for review by any member in good standing at the next regularly scheduled general Membership Meeting that follows their approval as accurate by the Board.
- F. Prepare an annual financial report.
- G. Keep a complete record of all financial transactions and reports, and review the financial reports prepared by any certified auditors (to be chosen, if necessary, by the Board), the financial officers, managers, and accountants of the Lodge.
- H. Establish standing or temporary committees. The chairpersons of any such committees shall be appointed by the president, subject to majority approval of the Board, to serve during the term of the appointing president.

Section 5

The past president shall be the member who has served the last complete term as President of the Lodge immediately preceding the incumbent. He shall be a voting member of the Board, and his term length will be three months. After three months have passed, the current president and the past president can agree to a longer period of service for the past president as a board member. (Adopted December 3, 2010)

Section 6:

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to the general membership, except on matters involving alleged member misconduct, employee personnel matters or other similar agenda items deemed personal or sensitive.

- A. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of Board Members present must be made before the Board may go into closed session.
- B. A general member of the Lodge must obtain advance approval of the President (or presiding officer for such meeting) prior to being permitted to speak at a Board Meeting.
- C. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the officers and directors eligible to vote. (Amended May 2, 2003)

## Section 7:

The President shall serve as chairman of the Board of Directors and the Recording Secretary shall act as secretary of the Board.

## Section 8:

The terms of office for officers and Directors-at-Large shall be as follows:

- A. The term of office for the President shall be two (2) years. The President may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive full two (2) year terms.
- B. The term of office for the Vice-president, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary shall be two (2) years. These officers shall be eligible for re-election to said offices without limitation on the number of their terms. The Board may approve an annual salary for the Treasurer, Recording secretary, and membership secretary in the amount of \$1,000.00.
- C. There will be eight (8) Directors-at-Large. The term of office for the Directors-at-Large shall be two (2) years. They shall be eligible for re-election without limitation as to the number of terms. Directors-at-Large shall be elected to staggered terms so that each year the terms of four (4) directors will expire, while the remaining four (4) directors will continue to serve another year. Those directors and officers serving at the time these by-laws are adopted shall continue to serve out their terms unaffected by adoption of these by-laws. [Amended January 20, 2014]

## Section 9:

The President is the highest-ranking officer of the lodge. As the leader of the Lodge, his duties are to:

- A. Call to order and preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Membership.
- B. See that the laws of the Lodge are observed and that the by-laws and the deliberations of the Board and the General Membership are conducted. (Amended September 14, 2108)
- C. Control the affairs of the Lodge and supervise the performance of the duties of the other officers of the Lodge.
- D. Sign all orders of payment, checks, correspondence, and all documents which invest the responsibility of the Lodge.
- E. Subject to majority approval of the Board, appoint the members of the Board as chairmen of the Lodge. Standing Committees:
  - Bingo
  - Building and Grounds
  - Cares
  - Membership
  - By-laws and Rules
  - Scholarship
  - Socialas well as chairmen of all committees of the Lodge (unless the laws of the Lodge provide otherwise). He shall be an *ex-officio* member of all such committees, except the Nominations and Elections Committee. (Amended September 14, 2018))
- F. Silence, reprimand or expel from any meeting any members causing disorder at such meeting; and, if necessary, in the interests of order, suspend such meeting to a later date and time.
- G. Have the power to appoint a Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Masters of Ceremonies and the Executive Director of the annual Festival, pending two-thirds (2/3)-majority approval of the Board of Directors.
  - i) The Sergeant-at-Arms is the doorkeeper of the Lodge. His duties are to exclude strangers from the meetings of the General Membership, and to admit those members who have identified themselves. The Chaplain and Executive Director of the Festival shall have those duties normally associated with their positions and as otherwise assigned by the President.
- H. Appoint and serve as Chair of an advisory committee to the Board of Directors concerning the Roma Lodge business known as the Racine Italian Welfare Association. (The committee will be known as the "RIWA Advisory Committee" and the business will be referred to as the "RIWA.") The RIWA is responsible for operation of the Roma Lodge banquet halls which are open to the public and the Roma Lodge Members' Lounge (both bar and restaurant). The RIWA Advisory Committee shall monitor and make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding general operations and procedures of the RIWA.
  - I. The RIWA Advisory Committee shall:
    - a. Consist of the President, the General Manager of the RIWA and a least 3, but not more than 5, other members. Committee members are appointed by the president with approval of the Board of Directors,
    - b. Monitor the financial and overall operational aspects of the RIWA business and make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning RIWA operations,
    - c. Ensure that the RIWA organization has a clear mission, that the mission is conducted, and that the mission is promoted widely throughout Roma Lodge and the community,

- d. Conduct mandatory quarterly meetings, or more often as conditions dictate,
- e. Make recommendations to the Board, as necessary, to ensure that a General Manager for the RIWA is in place to autonomously manage the day-to-day operations of the banquet halls and Members' Lounge,
- f. By November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, submit for approval by the Board of Directors an annual operating budget for the RIWA to be prepared by the General Manager in consultation and advice from the RIWA Committee. (Amended February 2017)

#### Section 10:

The Vice-President is the second highest-ranking officer of the Lodge. As such, he assists the President and takes his place when the President is absent or unable to act. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President performs the duties and exercises the prerogatives of the President to the same extent and with the same power that the President would have had, if present. In the event of the death, resignation, or expulsion from the Lodge of the President, the Vice-President shall immediately assume the office of the President.

#### Section 11:

The Parliamentarian gives opinions concerning the application and interpretation of the By-laws and rules of the Lodge. He shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining the most current B-Laws of Roma Lodge and the Rules of the Lodge. He will make them available to members upon request. (Amended September 14, 2018)

#### Section 12:

The Recording secretary is the custodian of the archives and the keeper of the seal of the Lodge. He shall receive a salary as recommended by the Board of Directors. His duties are:

- A. To take and record the minutes of all meetings of the Board and the General Membership. The minutes of each respective meeting shall be made available prior to the meeting for approval and corrections at the next successive corresponding meeting (i.e., Board or General Membership). (Amended May 8, 2026)
- B. To be responsible for all correspondence, incoming and outgoing.
- C. To make reports and fill out forms, keep records, letters, and books of the minutes and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.
- D. To be responsible for the production, publication, and dissemination to the membership of the monthly newsletter and other official notices.
- E. To arrange the slate of all candidates involved in the annual election of officers (if necessary) and directors in an order determined by a random drawing, and notify all club members of the slate by a newsletter at least fifteen days before the March election meeting. (See Article VII, Section 3.) (Amended May 2, 2003)

#### Section 13:

The Membership Secretary is responsible for keeping the role of the members in good standing and the status of all members' dues. He shall receive a salary as recommended by the Board of Directors. His duties are:

- A. To act as chairman of the Membership Committee.
- B. To collect dues and assessments, giving proper receipt, therefore.
- C. To make a roll of the membership and keep up to date the names of the membership of the Lodge.
- D. To notify by mail those members who are in default with the payment of dues and assessments.
- E. To announce members in default in the payment of dues and assessments.
- F. To provide every new member with a copy of the current By-laws and Rules of the Lodge upon admission to membership, and to provide additional copies to any member requesting one. [Amended May 2, 2008]

#### Section 14:

The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Lodge. He shall receive a salary as recommended by the Board of Directors. His duties are:

- A. To receive, and account for all money collected by the Membership secretary and to issue proper receipt, therefore.
- B. To record in and update the financial books of the Lodge. He shall register timely income and disbursements of the Lodge.
- C. To deposit in a Lodge account all money and other funds received by the Lodge, within two (2) business days of such receipt.
- D. To issue and co-sign checks together with the President, upon receipt of proper order for payment and to see to the proper delivery thereof.
- E. To withdraw funds from savings accounts opened in the name of the Lodge provided the withdrawal slip bears the signature of the President in addition to his own.
- F. To interpret Lodge and RIWA financial statements presented to the Board and provide information about those statements as requested. [Amended May 2, 2008]

Section 15:

Directors-at-Large, as members of the Board of Directors, supervise the affairs of the lodge. Their duties are

- A. To sit as members of the Board of Directors and attend any meetings thereof.
- B. To receive and review financial reports from the Treasurer, and any managers, accountants, and auditors of the Lodge.
- C. With approval of the President, Board Member Chairmen of standing committees may appoint, from the general membership, such other committee members as may be deemed necessary to carry out the functions of the Lodge. [Amended December 4, 2009]

Section 16:

In the event of the death, resignation or removal from office of any of the Board of Directors other than the President, the President shall appoint a successor to fill said vacancy for the balance of the term of such officer or director, or until the next election, whichever first occurs. The named successor must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 17:

- A. In the event an officer or director is absent from three (3) Board meetings between March 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> of the next calendar year, the Board must decide whether that officer or director should be removed from office.
- B. An officer or director can be removed from office upon a two-thirds vote of the rest of those Board members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, if said officer or director fails in the performance of his duties as an officer or director. [Amended January 10, 2014]

Section 18:

Based upon a failure to perform the duties of his office, a President may be removed from office only upon a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all members of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

**ARTICLE VII - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1:

To be a nominee for an elective office of the Lodge, a potential candidate must:

- A. Be a member in good standing. (See Membership Requirements)
- B. Have been a member of the Lodge for at least two (2) years. To be a candidate for the office of President, he must have served a full two- (2) year term on the Lodge Board of Directors.
- C. Accept their nomination at the time it is presented to the floor. Candidates unable to be present at the nomination meeting must present their intentions in writing at this meeting.
- D. Not be a purveyor to the Lodge.
- E. Not work in a paid position in the Lodge or receive a salary or hourly wage from the Lodge, except for those positions on the Board that are salaried.
- F. Members may run for both a Director's position and an officer's position at the same time and a director that desires to run for an officer position shall not be required to give up any remaining portion of a current terms based on his decision to do so. [Amended January 20, 2014]
- G. In the event a Director with a year remaining on his current term is elected to an officer's position, or a member that runs for both a director's position and an officer's position is elected to both positions, the vacant position shall be filled by the President of the Lodge with the approval of not less than 2/3 vote of the remaining Board of Directors. Such appointed officers or directors shall serve in the position until the next election, at which time the position will be filled by vote of the members. [Adopted January 10, 2014]

Section 2:

A Nominations and Elections Committee consisting of five (5) members in good standing shall be appointed by the President to develop a slate of candidates. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall:

- A. Submit its slate of nominees at the February membership meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that meeting. There will be no further nominations accepted after that date
- B. Make certain that the rules concerning the procedures for nominations and the election (including the procedure, if any, for the dissemination and return of absentee ballots) are timely published in the monthly newsletter. (Amended May 2, 2003)

Section 3:

The Recording Secretary shall arrange the slate of all candidates in an order determined by a random drawing, and will notify all club members of the slate by a newsletter at least fifteen days before the March election meeting. (Amended May 2, 2003)

Section 4:

Prior to the day of the March election meeting, the Nominations and Elections Committee shall:

- A. Prepare a ballot containing the names of all candidates in the order drawn.
- B. Obtain a list of those members eligible to vote, which shall be used for the registration of electors.
- C. Arrange for a polling place that will permit a reasonable degree of privacy, and supervise voting beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the date of the March meeting.
- D. Provide an absentee ballot to any member requesting one and set procedures to assure the integrity of any absentee ballots so issued and their receipt after completion. (Amended May 2, 2003)

Section 5:

Voting will cease at the start of the March General Membership meeting.

- A. Only those members that have paid their current dues by January 31<sup>st</sup> and been members in good standing for at least the previous sixty- (60) days shall be eligible to be an elector. Each elector must register prior to receiving a ballot.
- B. Ballots must be deposited in a sealed ballot box, which will not be opened until after the polls close.
- C. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman according to the procedure to be established by the committee. (See Section 4, D. above.)
- D. Ballots and absentee ballots shall be tabulated by the Nominations and Elections Committee, along with three (3) club members picked at random from the General Membership by the President.
- E. The person receiving a plurality of the Votes for each position shall be declared duly elected. {Amended January 20, 2014}
- F. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will be held at the March meeting by those members present. In the further event a run-off election cannot be held at the March membership meeting, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin to be conducted under the supervision of the Chairman of the Nominations and Election Committee in the presence of the candidates involved. [Amended January 10, 2014]
- G. Duly elected officers and directors shall be announced to the membership as soon as possible after the results are known, and at the March meeting, if possible. However, the failure to make such an announcement shall not delay the effect of the election, and duly elected officers and directors shall assume the responsibilities and duties of their positions as soon as the results of the election are known. Results of the election shall also be made known to the membership by any available means including but not limited to: posting the results on the Roma Lodge website and other appropriate location(s) at the Lodge. [Adopted January 10, 2014]

**ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS**

Section 1:

The regular meeting of the General Membership of the Lodge will be held on the second Friday of the month; except when the second Friday falls on a legal holiday, in which case the meeting will then be held on the following Friday. [Amended January 10, 2014]

- A. The regular meeting will be conducted in accordance with these By-laws and other rules set down by the General Membership and the Board of Directors.
- B. The meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 pm (Amended July 12, 2002)
- C. No regular or special meeting of the Lodge shall be declared open unless a quorum is present. The presence of 12.5% or more of the total membership in good standing as of February 1 of each year shall constitute a quorum from that date until February 1<sup>st</sup> of the next year. (Amended October 12, 2016)

Section 2:

Special meetings of the general membership of the Lodge may be called by the President or by written request of ten (10) members in good standing. The request must be signed by said members and must contain a detailed reason for the special meeting and all members of the Lodge must be notified thirty (30) days in advance of such meetings.

Section 3:

All members must be notified in the newsletter or by special mailing of all regular or special meetings, and their times and dates.

**ARTICLE IX – MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1:

Any By-Law Amendments that are not specifically related to the main By-Laws can and will be included in Article IX.

Section 2:

The annual installation of the newly elected and hold-over members of the Board of Directors shall occur at the March general membership meeting. Such officers shall be installed by any past or retiring President.

Section 3:

No expense incurred by any member of the Roma Lodge shall be reimbursed from the treasury without prior approval and receipt.

Section 4:

The Board of Directors can establish standing committees. The Chairpersons of these committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors, to serve in that capacity during the term of the Lodge President.

- A. A temporary committee may be established by the Board as deemed necessary. The President shall appoint chairpersons for such committees, with the approval of the Board, to serve for the tenure of that committee's existence, whether or not that time goes beyond the Lodge President's term of office.

Section 5:

The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may/shall hire a secretary to answer the phone, take hall bookings, type letters and the Roma Lodge newsletter, and receive, when necessary, goods coming to the Lodge.

Section 6:

The Board of Directors may suspend the rights of a member if that member's behavior or activities indicate such action.

- A. As such, a suspended member shall be ineligible to participate in Lodge Functions, use the members' facilities, attend meetings of the members and vote in any Lodge elections or referenda.  
B After two such suspensions, the member will automatically be dropped from the Lodge  
C A member may be dropped from the Lodge if his activities or behavior support such action by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular or a special meeting of the Lodge. (Adopted December 3, 2010)

Section 7:

A Roma Lodge Board member may be removed from office, but not necessarily from the Lodge, if his activities or behavior indicate such action, only by a two-thirds vote of the Lodge members present at a regular special meeting of the Lodge. [Amended May 2, 2008]

Section 8:

The grandchildren of Lodge members may attend any event that is open to children of Lodge members. [Amended May 2, 2008]

Section 9:

The Roma Lodge Christmas Party shall be "member's only function". The Columbus Day Dinner may be attended by members of Roma Lodge or the Vittoria Colonna Lodge and one guest. The Members Christmas Party must be held on a Saturday night. [Amended May 2, 2008, January 2, 2009, and October 14, 2016]

Section 10:

All members shall be duly bound to attend the funeral of deceased members when possible. [Amended May 2008]

Section 11:

These articles shall be reviewed at least once every five (5) years.

## **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION**

Section 1:

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation either by act of the Lodge or by operation of law; any and all funds, assets (including any personal or real property or receivables) shall be donated to a recognized organization or organizations involved exclusively in charitable activities in the greater Racine area.

## **ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS**

Section 1:

Proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the President, who shall arrange to have the proposed amendment published in the Lodge newsletter.

Section 2:

These By-laws may be added to or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all votes cast by members in good standing and in attendance at a membership meeting, provided that notice of such proposed changes have appeared in the newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting.

Section 3:

Amendments become effective thirty (30) days after adoption, except for the approval of this complete set of new By-laws, which become effective immediately upon adoption.

### ATTESTATION

The By-law Articles I through XI were adopted the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2000 by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Membership is present at a regularly scheduled meeting after due notice.

By-laws were amended July 12, 2002, May 2, 2003, May 2, 2008, January 2, 2009, December 4, 2009, December 3, 2010, January 10, 2014, February 10, 2017, September 14, 2018, and May 8, 2026

David Chiapete

David Chiapete, President

Anthony Povkovich

Anthony Povkovich, Recording Secretary

Gerald Perona

Gerald Perona, Parliamentarian

September 18, 2018 Jerry Perona  
For Roma Lodge web page

Revised and updated May 8, 2026 by Michael Clementi, Parliamentarian