

**Bylaws of**  
**Academia Lux Borealis**

**Alaska Lodge of Research and Education**

**Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska**

**Preamble**

In accordance with the Alaska Masonic Code and in conformity with the ancient landmarks and usages of Freemasonry, this Alaska Lodge of Research and Education ever supports, maintains, and conforms to the same and is hereby constituted as such under Section 13.17 of the Alaska Masonic Code.

**Article I ~ Alaska Lodge of Research and Education**

This Alaska Lodge of Research and Education is to be known as Academia Lux Borealis (ALB) also known as the Academy, Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

**Article II ~ Mission Statement**

Academia Lux Borealis is dedicated to research and education. The Academy is committed to the pursuit of excellence in our respective Masonic journeys and aiding our brethren on their paths toward greater knowledge and Masonic Light.

**Article III ~ Concept**

Academia Lux Borealis is an online and traveling Masonic lodge of research and education. Meetings offer Masons an opportunity to learn and participate in thoughtful approaches to Masonic research, education, and discourse in a dignified and engaging atmosphere – elevating the Masonic experience through shared brotherhood, and supported by our quest for knowledge and wisdom.

Meetings focus on research activities, including sharing of essays, research materials, and spirited discussion on such subjects as art, science, philosophy, history, and esoterica. Special events of ALB travel around Alaska. These events include excellent meals, exemplification of rituals, engaging activities, social gatherings, as well as hosting guests and speakers.

**Article IV ~ Communications**

**Section 1        Communications**

Stated Communications are held online and held on the Fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 o'clock post meridiem Alaska Time. Any Communication falling on a holiday will be held the preceding week.

Special Events are held routinely on weekends. At least one Special Event will be held each year.

**Section 2        Notice & Registration**

Notice and registration of special events will be sent to the Academy within 90 days of the function. The courtesy of an RSVP is expected from all Masons.

### Section 3 Online Forum

An online forum will be maintained for the routine discussion and research conducted by the Academy. Officers of the Academy will moderate discussions to ensure that forum content is in proper decorum and maintains secrecy.

## **Article V ~ Membership**

### Section 1 Membership in Academia Lux Borealis

Membership in the Academy is limited to Master Masons in good standing of a constituent lodge of the M.W. Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Alaska, or a Master Mason in good standing from jurisdictions in amity with the Grand Lodge of Alaska. It is the responsibility of each brother to maintain good standing in their respective Blue Lodge(s).

It is strongly recommended that a Master Mason desiring to affiliate with the Academy prepare an original work and present it to the Academy. A mentor from the Academy will be assigned to assist in this undertaking, and his original work will undergo peer review. A unanimous ballot in the candidate's favor is required for affiliation.

The fee for affiliation and the annual dues are due when a petition is submitted for affiliation.

### Section 2 Original Work

An original work may be an essay, lecture, presentation, et cetera. It is not received from others nor one copied from or based upon the work of others, unless it has been properly cited. Original work drawing from the work of others must be properly cited. Citation is an abbreviated alphanumeric expression embedded in the body of an intellectual work that denotes an entry in the bibliographic references section of the work for the purpose of acknowledging the relevance of the works of others to the topic of discussion at the spot where the citation appears. The use of AI in the creation of any work within the Academy is strictly prohibited.

### Section 3 Retention of Membership

Membership shall be maintained by crafting an original work to sustain the work of the Academy every three years and attendance of 50% of meetings and events during the calendar year. Or attending 75% of meetings and events during the calendar year. The Officers of the Academy reserve the right to hear appeals and make exceptions to this section for extenuating circumstances.

### Section 4 Membership Honors

A secret ballot of 7/8th majority of the Academy present, with a 2/3rd quorum of the Academy in attendance, at a Stated Communication is required to award any honor.

1. Fellow of Academia Lux Borealis is an honor bestowed by the Academy upon a Mason for making substantial contributions to the improvement of Masonic research and education in Alaska. No more than two Fellowships can be bestowed annually.
2. Emeritus of Academia Lux Borealis is an honor bestowed by the Academy upon a Mason that has made substantial contributions to the improvement of Masonic research and education in Alaska and is of advanced age. Emeritus Masons are excused from payment of the annual dues, excluding attendance at meetings and event.
3. M.W.Bro. John R. "Bo" Cline Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Academy upon a Mason to recognize their life's work of outstanding significant contributions to the improvement of Masonic research and education in Alaska.

## **Article VI ~ Budgets, Dues, & Fees**

### Section 1 Annual Budget & Dues

The annual dues are \$175. The annual dues shall not be pro-rated.

## Section 2 Fee for Affiliation

The fee for affiliation is \$75, exclusive of the annual dues.

## Section 3 Special Events

Fees for all special events will be as follows:

1. An appropriate budget will be created for each event and a per capita cost thereby determined.
2. Fees and registration will be published online 90 days in advance of an event, as follows:
  - a. Registration will include the dates, location, and agenda.
  - b. Registration may require prepayment in full.
  - c. Refunds may be granted, less cancellation fees, as determined by the Executive & Finance Committee.
  - d. Registration will close no later than two weeks before the event.
3. A Mason is responsible for the fees related to an event he registers for, unless he cancels by the date designated by the Academy (usually between two to four weeks). Absent Masons that have registered for an event will be responsible for their per capita expenses for the missed event.

## Section 4

The Executive & Finance Committee has discretion to exercise judgment over any outstanding issue related to dues and fees. Fair and transparent budgets will be utilized to safeguard the harmony, honor, and fiscal integrity of the Academy. Officers of the Academy are hereby charged with managing and maintaining adequately funded budgets; ensuring that any deficit or indebtedness is uniformly funded by the membership. An assessment may be levied if approved by a majority vote of the Academy at a Stated Communication.

## Section 5

The Treasurer may draw on the accounts of the Academy to pay for any expense authorized by the annual budget and an event budget. Unbudgeted transactions shall be itemized and reported to the Academy at the next Stated Communication to be considered for approval.

# Article VII ~ Officers & Committees

## Section 1 Officers of Academia Lux Borealis

The Officers of the Academy are identified in the Alaska Masonic Code (AMC) and their duties in the AMC and these Bylaws.

## Section 2 Executive & Finance Committee

The Executive & Finance Committee shall consist of a quorum of the elected officers. This Committee will coordinate the operations of the Academy, establish a budget for the ensuing year and specific budgets for events.

## Section 3 Mentoring Committee

Mentors will be assigned to each Mason of the Academy. Mentoring will be a one-on-one. The objective of the mentor-mentee relationship is to provide personal mentorship and support to our brethren in their research and development of original works. Mentors will advise the Academy when the mentee's original work is ready for peer review. Mentors may be periodically re-assigned to encourage new perspectives and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood.

## Section 4 Peer Review Committees

Peer Review Committees shall consist of a quorum of at least two Masons. These committees will be tasked with conducting the peer review process, with an emphasis on providing good and helpful feedback, and aiding the author in finishing their original work.

## Section 5            Masonic Academy Committee

The Masonic Academy Committee is tasked to design and form courses and curricula to found and sustain an Alaska Masonic Academy to provide high quality education programs for Alaska Masons.

## Section 6            Publication Committee

The Publication Committee shall consist of a quorum of at least three Masons. This committee will be tasked with efficiently managing the process of publishing the completed, scholarly works of the Academy. These works shall not be opinion or editorialized pieces.

## Section 7            Audit Committee

The Audit Committee shall consist of a quorum of at least three Masons, exclusive of the Executive & Finance Committee. This Committee shall make reports to the Academy on: 1) the adequate funding of budgets, 2) examine finances pertaining to Academy operations, 3) note and report any discrepancies, and 4) provide necessary recommendations, in accordance with Section 15.11 of the Alaska Masonic Code.

# Article VIII ~ Signs and Summons

Academia Lux Borealis will utilize a secure online forum and email for all signs and summonses.

# Article IX ~ Provisions & Amendments

## Section 1            Provisions

Any issue not addressed by these Bylaws or the Alaska Masonic Code may be addressed during a Stated Communication of the Academy in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order: Masonic Edition.

## Section 2            Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by: 1) Submitting proposed amendment(s) by email to the Secretary within 30 days of the next communication. 2) The Secretary will post proposed amendment(s) to the online forum and will send an email notice of the same to the Academy at least 10 days prior to the subsequent communication. 3) A proposed amendment is then adopted and ratified by a 3/4<sup>th</sup> favorable ballot of the Academy present and voting at the subsequent Stated Communication identified in the notice. The amendment will become effective when approved by the M.W. Grand Master of F. & A.M. of Alaska, unless rejected by the M.W. Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Alaska at the next Annual Communication.

## Section 3            Observances & Traditions

The Academy may maintain a list of Observances and Traditions. These may be amended by a secret ballot of 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority of the Academy present with a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> quorum of the Academy in attendance at a Stated Communication. These Observances and Traditions shall conform to the Alaska Masonic Code and the ancient Landmarks and usage of Freemasonry.

