

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**OF THE**

**OKLAHOMA STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' LODGE 219**

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF  
POLICE**



A National Police Organization

First Certification: December 11, 2013  
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# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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## PREAMBLE

We, the law enforcement Officers of the United States and the State of Oklahoma, do hereby associate our Lodge with the Grand Lodge for the following purposes:

To support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Oklahoma State Constitution; to inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the United States of America and the State of Oklahoma; to promote and foster the enforcement of law and order; to improve the individual proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage social, charitable and educational activities among law enforcement Officers; to improve pay, benefits and working conditions for law enforcement Officers; to ***the extent authorized by law*** the formation of Committees within the Lodge to address issues of concern and to engage in discussions with all lawful groups, lobbyist, executives and/or legislative members individually or as assembled bodies; to advocate and strive for the consistent and uniform application of the state merit protections system for appointments, promotions discipline and other applicable or related matters; to create a tradition of esprit de corps insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our members and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession and thus more firmly establish the confidence of the public in the service dedicated to the protection of life and property; and to advance and assure public confidence.

The Lodge is non-political and does not endorse any political party, it may support or endorse a specific position or positions or philosophies that in its view and opinion, enhance law and order, the public good and the membership body.

Whenever, in the Constitution and By-laws, "man" or "men" or related pronouns appear, either as words or as parts of words, (other than with obvious reference to a named individual) they have been used for literary purposes and are meant for their generic sense (i.e., to include all humankind, both male and female.)

## Article I

### NAME

**Section 1.** This organization shall be known as the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219** (OKLEO FOP 219) of the Fraternal Order of Police of Oklahoma and shall consist of law enforcement officers, or other personnel adjudged as meeting the requirements for Active Membership contained in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Oklahoma State Lodge and Grand Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 219, who are admitted to membership and conform to its rules and regulations.

**Section 2.** The Constitution and By-laws as set forth herein shall be applicable to and govern the conduct of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219**.

**Section 3.** The rights to authorize, control, and/or restrict the use our name and logo shall lie exclusively with the Executive Board, Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219. The name Fraternal Order of Police [FOP] and the Star are the property of the Grand Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, consequently permission must be sought to use those words and logo.

## Article 2

### CHARACTER

**Section 1.** The Lodge is an organization of Professional Law Enforcement Officers to include the sworn members of any statewide law enforcement agency headquartered in **Oklahoma** which have the power of arrest when on and off duty, and employees of such organizations who are employed in direct support law enforcement officers. (Nothing set forth herein shall be construed to eliminate any organization currently part of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219**.)

**Section 2.** The General Membership shall have the right to approve or disapprove any new law enforcement organization or qualified individual as defined in this document;

**(.1)** A simple majority vote taken or tallied in any authorized [general membership] meeting and will constitute approval or disapproval;

**OR**

**(.2)** Electronic notifications to the general membership, upon board approval shall, constitute notification of membership application; absent any objections the member shall be considered accepted. In instances of electronic notifications, the general membership may at the next posted general membership meeting ask for a general membership acceptance vote and approval or acceptance will be as outlined in Section 2.1.

**Section 3.** The Lodge shall not engage in unlawful strikes or other unlawful activity.

**Section 4.** This Constitution shall be the fundamental law of the Lodge, and together with the By-laws enacted in conformance therewith and the Rituals of the GLFOP, shall govern the conduct of the Lodge.

## Article 3

### DEFINITIONS

**"Agency Trustee"** shall mean a representative elected from within a member agency having at least ten members. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) is hereby authorized TWO (2) Trustees as follows: One trustee representing members who have attained the rank of Lieutenant or above within the OHP, provided that group represents at least 10 (ten members) and One Trustee for the members below the rank of Lieutenant in OHP, provided that group represents at least 10 (ten members). Should membership in either of one of the two groups representing the OHP fall below the required ten (10) members, the Trustee of the other group shall represent the collective voice of the OHP, however, the affected sitting Trustee shall remain on the board until the next election cycle.

**"Exiguous Trustee"** When two or more agencies have less than ten members each they shall collectively elect a trustee to represent those agencies with membership in the lodge of less than 10 members, an Exiguous Trustee, for purpose of lodge business, shall be deemed an Agency Trustee and absents specific language any reference to Agency Trustee shall apply to any Exiguous Trustee. The Exiguous shall represent any and all agencies with less than ten members.

**"Agency Liaison"**, shall mean individual(s) from each member agency, appointed by members from the agency who will act as principal means of relaying communications between members and the Executive Board and from the Executive Board to the members. The number of liaisons will depend on the size of the agency and the number of its regional offices or troops.

**"Executive Board"** shall mean and consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past President, the State Trustee, the Agency Trustees, Secretary, and any person approved by amendment.

**"Committee"** A committee shall consist of two (2) members appointed by the President and one (1) member appointed by each of the vice presidents. The President shall name the chairperson of each committee.

**"Elected Officers/Executive Board"** shall mean and consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Agency Trustees, State Trustee, and the Immediate Past President, Chaplain.

**"Full-time employed"** shall mean law enforcement Officers that are engaged in such employment as their full-time primary occupation.

**"Good Cause"** shall mean nonfeasance, malfeasance, dishonesty, or refusal to carry out the will of the general membership.

**"Due Process"** shall mean a fair system of handling allegations of wrong doing.

**"Hearing Panel"** is a group of three (3) members appointed by the President and the 1st Vice President who will hear grievances from one member against another member and make recommendations on discipline of those adjudged guilty of a grievance.

**"Legislative Representatives"**, shall mean **2 non-voting members of board**. one from the Oklahoma House of Representative, and one from the Oklahoma State Senate, approved by committee, authorized to attend any meeting and who may participate in discussions. The presences or absence of any number Legislative Representatives will have no bearing on quorum status of the board. Further, the presence or absence of any number Legislative Representative will **NOT and DOES NOT constitute a political endorsement of any party**.

**"Member in good standing"** shall mean a member who has paid all dues and assessments due and payable to the Lodge, and who is not more than thirty (30) days in arrears of such payments as of the date specified for the payments thereof.

**"Member not in good standing"** shall mean a member whose dues are in arrears more than thirty (30) days and less than ninety (90) days.

**"Public Information Officer(s)"** shall mean a **non-voting member** of Board, approved by committee, who, after signing a letter or non-disclosure, is authorized to attend any authorized meeting and participate in discussion; with approval of the Board is authorized to make public announcements on behalf of the Lodge. The PIO may be a non-sworn Public Relations person. The presences or absence of the PIO will have no bearing on quorum status of the board.

**"Standing Committee"** shall mean a permanent committee named in this Constitution and Bylaws.

**"Sworn members"** shall mean a regularly employed law enforcement officer having the power of arrest on and off duty.

**"Substantial Issue"** shall mean a matter of real worth or importance; of considerable value; valuable. Belonging to substance; actually existing; real; not seeming or imaginary; not illusive; solid; true; veritable.

**"Non-Sworn members"** shall mean a regularly employed person who works in direct support of law enforcement officer.

**"Legislative Liaison"**, shall mean one or more individual(s) from each member agency, appointed by executive board who will act as principal means of relaying bi-lateral communications to and from the members, the Executive Board to/from any authorized legislative or executive body of the State Government. The number of liaisons will depend on the size of the agency and the number of its regional offices or troops or as maybe authorized by law.

**"OPEA Liaison"** shall mean the President of the Lodge, or designate, who will act as principal means of relaying bi-lateral communications to and from the members, the Executive Board

to/from the Oklahoma Public Employees Association. The liaison shall represent the interests of the FOP to the OPEA and convey the interest of the OPEA to the FOP. This position shall exist as long as continuing memorandum of Understanding between the FOP and OPEA exists, and in so long as the FOP, through or vis-a-vis the OPEA Liaison, has a vote with the OPEA Executive Board.

#### **Article 4**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Any regularly appointed and/or full time law enforcement officer of the State of Oklahoma or an Agency of the State of Oklahoma shall be eligible for membership in the **Lodge**, subject to provisions of this Constitution and the By-laws of the Lodge.

**Section 2.** There shall be four (4) classes of membership:

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP** – shall include regularly appointed or elected full-time law enforcement officers; or a retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who elect to remain active in the Lodge by continuing to pay full dues.

**RETIRED MEMBERSHIP** – shall be comprised of retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who withdraw from Active membership, in writing to the Lodge, upon or after retirement from his or her law enforcement agency. Retired Members may also elect to remain Active Members by notifying the Lodge Secretary and continuing to pay the same dues as Active Members.

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP** – shall be comprised of individuals recognized by OKLEO FOP 219 for exceptional service or contribution to the law enforcement community and/or to the Fraternal Order of Police. An Honorary member shall have no voice or vote in Lodge business and may be admitted, or excluded, from meetings of the Lodge at the discretion of the Lodge.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** - are as those individuals who support law enforcement organization but are not sworn Officers but who are employed in a law enforcement organization and are recognized as being instrumental to the efforts of the organization. Associate members may engage in recognized discussion within a meeting. Associate Members shall not be permitted to vote or hold office on the board. A qualified person may apply for membership or be nominated for membership by any Active member. Associate members can also be non-full time but sworn Officers. Associate members shall have no voice or vote in Lodge business.

**Section 3.** Any regular member who accepts a forced leave of absence or termination from their regular position shall remain eligible for membership until such time as there is a felony conviction or until there is a final determination of their employment standing by an independent board or Court of competent standing.

**Section 4.** No person shall be simultaneously a member of more than one lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police.



## Article 5

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** Persons wishing to apply for membership in the Lodge shall do so by completing the appropriate written or electronic application as the board may from time to time establish. Admission to membership is subject to approval by the membership, receipt of the required dues and fees, and adherence to the Constitution/By-laws and applicable rules and regulations.

**Section 2.** The application may include the oath taken by each member of the Order and shall constitute a knowledge of the Oath of Allegiance to the Order. In the absence of an official "swearing-in" ceremony at a meeting of the Lodge the signed Oath shall be deemed as being "sworn in" upon official acceptance of the application by the Lodge. The Secretary shall keep accurate records of the "swearing in" of members and Officers.

## Article 6

### ORGANIZATION

**Section 1.** The **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219** shall consist of such organizations as are admitted to membership and conform to its rules and regulations.

**Section 2.** Within the Lodge there may be formed one or more Committees which are certified or certifiable bargaining units or other legal purposes.

**Section 3.** Within the Lodge there may be formed Auxiliaries to the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219**. Such Auxiliaries shall be known as Fraternal Order of Police; **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219** Auxiliary and may function as subordinate lodges as approved by the Executive Board.

## Article 7

### ELECTED OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The elected Officers of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219** are defined in Article 3 - DEFINITIONS

**Section 2.** The President was elected upon installation of **OKSTATELEO 219** July 2011, from the OSBI and shall serve no more than one (1) two year term. The 1st Vice President shall be elected from among OHP supervisors only; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President shall be elected from OHP Troopers only and both shall serve as does the President. Upon the completion of the term of the inaugural President, the 1st Vice President then assumes the Office of President, the 2d Vice President is elevated to 1st Vice President, and the former President reverts to Past President. Each of the presidential Officers will stand for re-election from within his agency every two (2) year cycle. All Vice Presidents will rotate through the office of President for one (1) two year term.

- a. Vice Presidents may be added upon the inclusion of other agencies that have met all requirements for membership and shall assume the position of the next numerical 3rd Vice President, 4th Vice President, etc. and shall assume the rotation to President.
- b. The Exiguous Agencies may nominate and elect a representative from their collective ranks as a Vice-President, and will follow Section 2a.
- c. The President, and all Vice Presidents, shall be eligible to serve an additional two (2) year term, freezing them in position, by a majority recommendation of the Board to the general membership at the general membership meeting in October of odd numbered years. Tie votes on the Board on a motion to extend terms shall be deemed to have failed. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the October meeting in odd numbered years is required to extend the terms.

**Section 3.** The Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms shall serve two (2) year terms and stand election from the entire general membership with nomination in October and election in November of odd numbered years. Officers are installed in January of even numbered years.

**Section 4.** The State Trustee is a State Officer and therefore is elected in accordance with the C&B of the Oklahoma State Lodge 219.

**Section 5.** The Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-At-Arms shall have no term limits but must stand election every two (2) years.

**Section 6.** The Immediate Past President is not an elected office but is filled with the last serving President who steps down from office of President or has not been re-elected to Vice President by his or her respective agency when his term of President has expired.

**Section 7.** The State Trustee is a State Officer elected from the general membership at the same time as all other general elections are held. The term of the State Trustee coincides with the OK State FOP two year Conference schedule.

## **Article 8**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1.** The Executive Board of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219** is defined in Article 3 - DEFINITIONS;

**Section 2.** The Executive Board of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers Lodge 219** shall meet at least once each quarter and shall have the majority of the elected, voting Officers present to constitute a quorum for transacting the business of the Lodge. In the event a quorum is not present, the President may adjourn the meeting to some future time within thirty (30) days.

**Section 3.** The Executive Board shall have and exercise all administrative powers of the Lodge and have the authority to transact business to accomplish the aims and objectives of the membership in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

**Section 4.** Any vacancy on the Executive Board shall be filled by the President with the approval of the majority of the remaining members of the Executive Board. Vice President and Trustee vacancies shall be filled by the affected agency.

**Section 5.** The expenses of the members of the Executive Board and the Delegates of this Lodge attending meetings or conferences may be paid by the Lodge.

**Section 6.** May declare a matter a "substantial Issue".

## **Article 9**

### **PRESIDENT**

**Section 1.** The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Lodge.

**Section 2.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Lodge, and shall have general management of the business of the Lodge, and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Executive Board and the membership are carried out.

**Section 3.** The President, together with the Secretary, shall execute any and all contracts that may be authorized by the Executive Board or the membership.

**Section 4.** The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

**Section 5.** The President shall have the power to appoint two (2) members to all committees with the Vice Presidents appointing one (1) member each. The President shall name the Chairperson of each Committee.

**Section 6.** The President shall have the power to inquire into any affair or matter affecting or concerning the Lodge.

**Section 7.** The President shall have the authority to call a special or emergency meeting of the Lodge membership or of the Executive Board when he deems it necessary for the good of the Lodge.

**Section 8.** The President shall, at each meeting of the Executive Board or Lodge, submit a complete and comprehensive report of the official business transacted by him subsequent to the last meeting, together with such recommendations as he may deem advisable.

**Section 9.** The President shall at the expiration of his term of office or termination thereof for any reason, convey to his successor all unfinished business of the Lodge within ten (10) days thereafter. The President shall deliver all books, documents, records, paraphernalia, equipment

and all other Lodge property in his possession, and shall require and receive a receipt from his successor for same.

**Section 10.** The President shall have the authority, when by the Treasurer and/or the Secretary to draw, sign, and issue checks, drafts and money orders for the withdrawal of Lodge funds for the prompt payment of all lawful obligations of this Lodge.

**Section 11.** The President may furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his duties performed by his office. Such form and amount as approved by the Executive Board shall be paid for by the Lodge, when required by the Executive Board.

**Section 12.** There may be a General Legal Counsel retained on an annual basis who shall be designated by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

**Section 13.** The President will direct the Public Information Officer between Board meetings and general membership meetings.

**Section 14.** The President may from time to time enter into agreements deemed necessary for the good of the order. All such agreements must be presented to the Executive Board, and to the General membership either at the next regular meeting or by electronic dissemination. When such agreements are presented to the Board the Executive Board, they may vote as outlined in Article 17 Section 3 of the Bylaws, to rescind any such agreement(s), unless previously approved by the general membership. Should the Executive Board desire to revoke such agreements, the President may submit the matter for approval to the general membership for a vote.

**Section 15.** The President may declare matters deemed necessary a "**substantial issue**" and shall bring that issue before the Executive Board.

## **Article 10**

### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**Section 1.** The Immediate Past-President shall assist the President and the members of the Executive Board in the performance of their respective duties.

**Section 2.** The Immediate Past President will attend all meeting of the Board and Lodge and is be deemed a member of the Executive Board and entitled to cast a vote.

**Section 3.** The Immediate Past-President shall execute any assignments as may be ordered by the President or the Executive Board or the membership.

## **Article 11**

### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

**Section 1.** The Vice Presidents shall attend all meetings of the Lodge and the Executive Board, and shall preside at those meetings in the absence of the President.

**Section 2.** The First Vice President shall be the President elect and assume the position of President in accordance with the C&B thereby automatically moving the 2d Vice President to the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. All Vice Presidents will rotate to the office of President.

**Section 3.** The outgoing President may run for re-election to Vice President or, in the event the Outgoing President fails to win re-election, the outgoing President will assume the position of Immediate Past President.

**Section 4.** The Vice-President shall have the authority to perform the duties of the President during his absence in the order enumerated above.

**Section 5.** The Vice-Presidents shall have the power to appoint one (1) member to each Committee.

**Section 6.** The Vice-Presidents shall execute any or such assignments as may be directed by the President, the Executive Board, or the majority of the membership.

**Section 7.** The 1st Vice-President shall be declared the President in the event the office of the President becomes vacant for any reason in the order of succession as stated above.

**Section 8.** The Vice-Presidents shall at the expiration of his term of office or termination thereof for any reason, convey to his successor all unfinished business of the Lodge within ten (10) days thereafter. The Vice-President shall also deliver all documents, records, paraphernalia, equipment and all other Lodge property in his possession, and shall require and receive a receipt from his successor for same.

**Section 9.** The Vice-Presidents are elected exclusively by the agencies they represent. The OHP is authorized two (2) Vice Presidents, one elected by supervisors and one elected by troopers.

## **Article 12**

### **SECRETARY**

**Section 1.** The Secretary shall have custody of all books, records, documents, the Seal of the Lodge and all equipment and paraphernalia pertaining to his duties under the general authority of the President and the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The Secretary shall maintain a book containing the Constitution and Bylaws of this Lodge and all amendments made thereto.

**Section 3.** The Secretary shall receive all monies due the Lodge and turn such receipts to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall maintain an accurate mailing list of the members for the purpose of communications, notifications, reporting per capita to the State and Grand Lodges, and for the conduct of elections.

**Section 5.** The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Lodge.

**Section 6.** At the expiration of his term of office, he shall give a correct report of the business of the office to the Lodge and his or her successor. He shall also deliver to his successor in office, all books, records, and other property in his possession belonging to the Lodge.

**Section 7.** He shall perform all other business of the which, by custom, pertains to the office of Secretary.

**Section 8.** The Secretary shall, together with the President, execute any and all contracts that may be authorized by the Executive Board and the membership.

**Section 9.** The Secretary shall have the authority, to draw, sign, and issue checks, drafts and money orders for the withdrawal of Lodge funds for the prompt payment of all lawful obligations of this Lodge and as prescribed in Article 25.

### **Article 13 TREASURER**

**Section 1.** The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of the Lodge. The Treasurer shall receive all monies from the Secretary and take charge of all monies belonging to the Lodge and deposit same in banks named by the Lodge.

**Section 2.** The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and expended, credit each special fund with such funds as accrued thereto and report to the Executive Board and the Lodge at each meeting.

**Section 3.** At least once each year the Treasurer shall give the Agency Trustees for their inspection, a correct accounting of all monies in possession of the Lodge along with the books, receipts, papers, etc. belonging to the office. The Agency Trustees shall give the Board and the Lodge a report of their inspection of the financial records of the Lodge.

**Section 4.** The Executive Board may also order that an audit be done at any time and that audit shall be reported. The Treasurer shall also assist in any accounting or audit of the funds of the Lodge.

**Section 5.** The Treasurer shall insure that the proper relevant state and federal tax reports are filed in a timely manner.

**Section 6.** The Treasurer shall provide and deliver to his or her successor all books, records, monies, etc. and other property belonging to the Lodge.

**Section 7.** After the installation of Officers at each term, the Secretary, Treasurer, President and a majority of the Executive Board shall determine the correct amount of monies in the bank that will be transferred to the care of a new Treasurer to be accurate and credited to the Lodge.

**Section 8.** No discretionary expenditures will be made except upon approval of the Board or the general membership.

**Section 9.** The Treasurer shall give a bond to the Lodge an amount of which would cover the entire funds of the Lodge during any calendar year. The Lodge will pay said bond.

**Section 10.** All accounts to be carry the names of the Treasurer, President, 1" Vice President and the Secretary and they shall be the only signatures authorized to sign on any account belonging to the Lodge. The Treasurer shall see that the President does authorize routine payments, donations, bills, etc. unless questioned by the Board or the general membership at a meeting of the same.

**Section 11.** The Treasurer's books shall be open for inspection to any member of the Executive Board or the general membership.

## **Article 14**

### **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

**Section 1.** The Sergeant-At-Arms shall examine membership cards of Officers and members, ascertaining that all present at the meeting are in good standing, take up the password and report to the President.

**Section 2.** The Sergeant-At-Arms shall have charge and control of the Lodge Hall or meeting place. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall remove from the Hall disruptive members at the direction of the President and the body assembled.

**Section 3.** The Sergeant-At-Arms shall perform other duties as the President and the Board and the membership may require.

**Section 4.** The SAA shall guide all candidates through the Initiation Ceremony and introduce them to the membership

## **Article 15**

### **AGENCY TRUSTEES**

**Section 1.** Agency Trustees are defined in Article 3. These trustees shall be elected the month prior to the general elections of the Lodge and the agencies shall name those selected at that time.

**Section 2.** Trustees shall have supervision over the property of the Lodge. They shall review the financial records of the Lodge each year just prior to the annual meeting where the election of Officers takes place and report their findings to the Executive Board and the membership.

**Section 3.** The Agency Trustees shall perform such other duties as the President, Board and membership may require.

**Section 4.** Agency Trustees shall have a term of office of two (2) years.

## **Article 16**

### **MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Considering that the Membership in the Lodge is spread throughout the State, the Lodge shall hold one regular meeting of the general membership annually unless otherwise needed as determined by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall meet each quarter. Nothing in this Section shall preclude the holding of more general membership meetings per year if the amount of business necessitates the meetings as determined by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall determine the location, dates, and times of general membership meetings. The membership is entitled to at least a two (2) week notice of the intent to have regular meetings. The Executive Board may conduct electronic meeting by teleconference, but must conduct face to face meetings at least once each quarter. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of every electronic or teleconference meeting.

**Section 2.** Special meetings of the Lodge may be called by the President of the Lodge or upon the request of a majority of the Executive Board in writing, or upon written request of a majority of the Executive Board in writing or upon the written request of any fifteen (15) members in good standing of the Lodge. The reason for the Special Meeting shall be specified in the notice calling the meeting and no business shall be transacted except for the reason that the meeting was called. All Special Meetings shall be posted electronically and at the agency's location or satellite locations at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting is to be held.



## **Article 17**

### **OFFICIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section 1.** In accordance with the official Ritual of this Order, the official order of business shall be as follows:

Call to Order  
Roll Call of Officers  
Reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting or any special meetings.  
Acceptance of new applications for membership.  
Officers Reports  
Reports of Committees  
Bills and Communications  
Reports of Members in Sickness or Distress  
Initiation of Applicants for Membership  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Good of the Order  
Election of Officers  
Installation of Officers  
Adjournment

## **Article 18**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Officers of the Lodge shall be nominated at the regular meeting in October of odd numbered years. Within two (2) weeks after nominations are made the Secretary, with the assistance of the Sergeant-At-Arms, shall cause a ballot to be mailed or sent via electronic ballot to each active member to be returned to the Secretary either by mail or electronically. The ballots will be counted by the Agency Trustees and the results announced at the next regular meeting after nomination and/or electronically. The ballot will be prepared in such a manner as to insure authenticity, accountability and secrecy.

**Section 2.** Each agency electing a Vice President and Agency Trustee from within its own membership shall conduct those elections in October of odd numbered years and announce the results at the Board Meeting in November of odd numbered years.

**Section 3.** All Officers will be installed in January of even numbered years. Newly elected Officers who were absent at the first installation shall be installed the next regular meeting, and if absent again at the 3rd regular meeting from time of election. If the officer is not installed within the three (3) meeting time limit the office shall be declared vacant and a successor elected in a manner described above.

**Section 4.** Any member in good standing who has been a member of **OKSTATELEO 219** for more than six (6) months immediately preceding the election shall be eligible as a candidate for any office in the Lodge.

**Section 5.** It shall be the duty of each elected officer of the Lodge to be present at no less than sixty percent of Board or regular meetings per year unless prevented by sickness, vacation, or official assignment. Failure to attend sixty percent of the Board or regular meetings per year may be grounds for removal from office upon the written complaint, taken under Oath, of any member.

## **Article 19**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** There shall be four (4) standing committees: Membership Committee; Constitution and By-laws Committee; Financial/Legal Assistance Committee and Legislative Committee.

**Section 2.** Two (2) members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the President. One member of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by each of the Vice Presidents. The President shall name the Chair of each Standing Committee. All appointments to a standing committee must be approved by the Executive Board.

**Section 3.** Once appointed, a Standing Committee member retains his position on the committee for the term of the President or until such time as he resigns or is removed for cause by the Executive Board.

## **Article 20**

### **OTHER COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** There shall be other Committees appointed as recommended by the President, the Executive Board, or the membership at a regular membership meeting. These Committees shall be filled as are the Standing Committees above.

**Section 2.** Other Committees appointed will be dissolved upon completion of their assigned task not to exceed one (1) year.

## **Article 21**

### **DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**Section 1.** The Lodge shall be empowered to levy a monthly dues assessment of its members as established by a majority vote of the entire active membership.

**Section 2.** The dues of the Lodge shall be payable through the State of Oklahoma payroll deduction system or by direct debit by the Credit Union or banking institution used by the Lodge, and sent to the Secretary of the Lodge.

**Section 3.** Any member delinquent in payment of dues for a period of ninety (90) days shall forfeit all rights and privileges and benefits accorded to members in good standing of the Lodge and is automatically suspended and dropped from the Lodge. The Lodge, through vote of the membership, may waive payment of dues for special circumstances but cannot fail to pay the required dues and assessment to the Oklahoma State Lodge or the Grand Lodge in the name of that member.

**Section 4.** Any member delinquent or suspended may be reinstated and restored to good standing by the payment of all amounts due, and, in addition thereto, the payment of all dues for the whole of the current calendar year in which reinstatement is made.

**Section 5.** The Lodge Secretary and Treasurer shall see that the Lodge's National and State per capita taxes and assessments are paid in accordance with the provisions of State and National Constitution and Bylaws.

**Section 6.** Upon a 2/3's vote of the entire membership each member may be assessed additional dues on a one-time emergency basis. There may be more than one assessment authorized during any calendar year.

## **Article 22**

### **AUXILIARY**

**Section 1.** The formation of an Auxiliary made up for spouses, sons, daughters and parents of regular **OKSTATELEO 219** is authorized.

**Section 2.** The supervision of the Auxiliary rests solely with the members of the **OKSTATELEO 219** which can dissolve the organization at any time.

## **Article 23**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**Section 1.** Proposed amendments to this enabling document shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Lodge who will refer said proposal to a committee designated for that purpose. The committee shall make recommendations on the proposed amendment to the general membership at a regular or special meeting. The amendment will be read at two regular or special meetings and then submitted to the general membership for a vote by mail in the same manner as with the election of Officers. Upon approval the amendment shall immediately become in full force and effect. A two thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Lodge who return a vote is required to make any change to the Constitution and Bylaws.

## **Article 24**

### **APPROPRIATION OF MONIES**

**Section 1.** No discretionary expenditure shall exceed \$400 unless it is approved by the Executive Board and subsequently the general membership. A majority vote of the members present shall be sufficient to approve or disapprove said appropriation.

**Section 2.** The President, with the agreement of two (2) members of the Executive Board, may, in a justified emergency, authorize the expenditure of Lodge funds in excess of \$1500.00 and report the same at the next regular meeting, any subsequent special meeting, or by electronic mail within 30 days of the transaction.

## **Article 25**

### **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

**Section 1.** The Constitution & Bylaws of this Lodge, shall govern the conduct and deliberations of the meetings of the Order. All questions outside the scope of the C&B will be decided by Roberts Rules of Order.

# **BYLAWS**

## **OKLAHOMA STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' FOP LODGE 219**

### **Article 1**

#### **Dues**

**Section 1.** Dues are established by the Executive Board subject to the financial needs of the Lodge, dues may be changed by majority vote of the General Membership.

**Section 2.** The dues to members is \$35.00 per month.

**Section 3.** Retired member dues are \$60.00 annually or \$5.00 monthly to cover the cost of per capita fees. Retired Members may elect to retain legal coverage but will be required to pay the same dues as Active Members.

**Section 4 and 5 are preserved for future use.**

**Section 6.** The dues for Associate members are \$10.00 per month or \$30.00 per month for Associates wanting the GLFOP Insurance Plan.

**Section 7.** The Secretary & Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all members who have paid their dues and any special assessment.

### **Article 2**

#### **RETIRED (INACTIVE) MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, AND HONORARY MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** Retired Members will be considered Retired Active Members and have a voice and vote in the Lodge. Retired Active Members may participate in all Lodge business including voting and may hold Board positions.

**Section 2.** Honorary Members have no voice or vote in the Lodge. They may receive benefits of membership as granted by the active membership at a regular or special meeting. Honorary Members are entitled to receive all bulletins and notices sent all members.

**Section 3.** Associate Members have no voice or vote in the Lodge. They may receive benefits of membership as granted by the active membership at a regular or special meeting. Associate members are entitled to receive all bulletins and notices sent all members. Associate members who request to participate in the GLFOP Legal Defense Plan will be required to pay the same dues as Active members.

## Article 3

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** No member shall use the name or insignia of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers' FOP Lodge 219** except as authorized by the Constitution and By-laws, the Executive Board or as set forth herein. The unauthorized use or the abuse of the name or insignia of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers' FOP Lodge 219** or the infringement of a trademark thereof by a member shall be grounds for discipline, including suspension, expulsion, or removal from office.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board may promulgate such rules as deemed necessary to protect, police, regulate and license the trademarks of the **Oklahoma State Law Enforcement Officers' FOP Lodge 219** and to ensure that the name and insignia of this Lodge is used only for the purposes established by and in accordance with the authority granted by the Executive Board.

**Section 3.** The Lodge shall be the judge of its membership, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws.

**Section 4.** Any member "not in good standing" as defined in the Constitution may be denied all benefits and privileges not specifically denied by any other section of these By-laws by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

**Section 5.** Applications for membership to the Lodge shall be on forms prescribed and shall be accompanied by any initiation fee and other requirements as set forth in the C&B.

**Section 6.** Applications for membership to the Lodge shall be referred to the Executive Board or to a Membership Committee who shall judge the qualifications of the applicant based on this C&B.

**Section 7.** The applicant, after having been notified of his acceptance to membership, shall present himself for initiation at a general membership meeting within three (3) months from the date of such notification. Special exceptions to this rule shall be allowed at the discretion of the Executive Board.

## Article 4

### ORGANIZATION

**Section 1.** The regular meetings of the general membership of the Lodge shall be held annually, or at the call of the President and Board, at a date, place and time designated by the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall meet at least once a quarter on the day and time specified by the President of the Lodge. The locations of these meetings shall be arranged by the Secretary.

**Section 3.** At any general membership or special meeting of the Lodge fifteen (15) or more active members and a majority of the Elected Officers shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4.** Preserved for future use.

**Section 5.** At all general membership and Executive Board meetings a register shall be kept by the Secretary of all members that are present.

## **Article 5**

### **ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** Any member in "Good Standing" for a period of six (6) consecutive months or more immediately preceding the holding of any election and who has met all other requirements of the By-laws shall be eligible for election to any office.

**Section 2.** Nomination for Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-At-Arms shall be held at the regular meeting in October of odd numbered years.

**Section 3.** Eligible members seeking nomination may do so by submitting notice to the Secretary on or before the date of the nominations meeting.

**Section 4.** Nominations for office shall also be entertained from the floor at the nomination meeting or by registered e-mail to the Executive Board. The nomination must be personally accepted by the nominee. Acceptance maybe be accomplished by e-mail if the e-mail is transmitted from the nominees regular registered e-mail address.

**Section 5.** No member shall be a nominee for more than one (1) elective office.

**Section 6.** There shall be a nominating committee, consisting of three active members, who will verify the eligibility of the candidate seeking the elective office.

**Section 7.** Election of Officers shall be by email or secret ballot. Members can vote in person by secret ballot or by email with the Secretary or a Board officer, or ballots can be mailed by the Secretary, and counted at a Board or membership meeting in November of each odd numbered year, the Executive Board shall determine the most efficient means of balloting

**Section 8.** The names of all nominees shall appear on a printed or electronic ballot as soon as can be prepared by the Secretary after nomination in October of odd numbered years. The order in which the names appear within each office shall be determined by a random process.

**Section 9.** There shall be an Election Committee consisting of such Active Members as necessary for the orderly process of the election.

**Section 10.** The Election Committee members are responsible for counting ballots. Candidate watchers may also be present at the counting.

**Section 11.** Candidates are free to campaign for office electronically or with printed material posted at approved locations.

**Section 12.** Upon completion of the voting and counting by Election Committee the results will be announced to the Executive Board who then shall release the information. Regardless of the number of candidates nominated for an office, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

**Section 13.** In case of a tie a coin flip will determine the winner.

**Section 14.** The installation of the elected Officers shall be held at the next Board meeting in January when the Officers take Office.

**Section 15.** The conduct of elections for Vice Presidents and Agency Trustees shall be held in October of odd numbered years. Results will be announced to the Executive Board and the membership in November of odd numbered years. Vice Presidents and Agency Trustees shall be installed in January of the forthcoming year.

**Section 16.** The type of affair for the installation of the elected Officers shall be the decision of the Executive Board.

## **Article 6**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1.** Any member of the Executive Board who shall miss six (6) general membership or Executive Board meetings or any other meeting which is called within any calendar year without the approval of the President or Vice President shall be declared absent and the office which the member holds shall be declared vacant.

## **Article 7**

### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

**Section 1.** All Officers, with the exception of the State Lodge Trustee, are required to report to the members in writing at the October meeting each year as to his or her activities and assignments in behalf of the Lodge.

**Section 2.** The State Lodge Trustee is required to report in writing to the membership upon his



or her return from any Conference or Board Meeting so the membership remains knowledgeable.

of all activities of the FOP at the State and national level. The State Lodge Trustee will pass on to the Officers and members of the Lodge all correspondence or information received from the State or Grand Lodge of interest to the general membership.

**Section 3.** The President and the Secretary will pass on to other Officers and the members all information received from the State Lodge or the Grand Lodge that is of importance to the Lodge membership.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall maintain any current relevant information on all Lodge bulletin boards, by electronic mail or through a newsletter.

## **Article 8**

### **SECRETARY**

**Section 1.** The Secretary shall maintain a book known as the "Book of Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws" which shall be authenticated by the Seal of the Lodge and the signature of the President.

**Section 2.** The Secretary shall, whenever it is deemed necessary, prepare and circulate a newsletter pertaining to the activities of the Lodge to all of the membership.

**Section 3.** The Secretary shall give written notice to all applicants for membership to the Lodge of their election or rejection.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall notify appropriate members of all special meetings. The notification shall include the day and time and location of such meetings. Such notifications may be made by mail, email, telephone, posting at the Lodge or by other means reasonably designed to notify members under the particular circumstances.

**Section 5.** The Secretary shall furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his duties performed by his office. The bond will be in such form and amount as approved by the Executive Board and will be paid for by the Lodge.

**Section 6.** The Secretary shall notify, in writing, all members who are in arrears of their dues or assessments in violation of the Constitution and shall notify the Executive Board as soon as possible of any member suspended for non-payment of dues or assessments.

**Section 7.** The Secretary shall certify and forward all per capita tax to the State and National FOP as appropriate.

## **Article 9**

### **TREASURER**

**Section 1.** The Treasurer shall deposit all funds collected into a bank which has been approved by the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The Treasurer shall set up individual accounts for funds as needed. The accounts of the Treasurer will be reviewed each year by the Agency Trustees and that review will be reported to the membership at the January meeting. A Certified Audit of Lodge may be authorized by the Executive Board as they determine that such an audit is necessary.

**Section 3.** The Treasurer shall submit monthly reports to the Executive Board and to the general membership of the financial condition of the Lodge.

**Section 4.** The Treasurer shall furnish a bond for the faithful performance of his duties performed by his office such form and amount as approved by the Executive Board to be paid for by the Lodge.

**Section 5.** The Treasurer shall insure that all Oklahoma and Federal tax exempt reports are submitted in a timely manner each year.

## **Article 10**

### **CHAPLAIN**

**Section 1.** A Lodge Chaplain shall be appointed by the President. The Chaplain shall give the invocation and benediction at all meetings; shall advise the Lodge of members in illness and distress; and shall represent the Lodge in circumstances of bereavement of members and their families.

**Section 2.** The Chaplain is not a voting member of the Board.

## **Article 11**

### **AGENCY TRUSTEES**

**Section 1.** The Agency Trustees have charge of and are responsible for all property of the Lodge to include written records, computer printouts, computer programs and disks, and any other records or documents generated for the Lodge by a member of the Lodge.

**Section 2.** The Agency Trustees shall take charge of all physical property of the Lodge and make a complete and itemized inventory. The Agency Trustees shall file with the Executive Board a certified copy of such inventory within thirty (30) days upon taking office.

**Section 3.** Agency Trustees shall act as a liaison from their respective agencies to the Executive Board and perform other such duties as directed by the President.

**Section 4.** Any vacancy in the office of Agency Trustee shall be filled through a special vote and from within that agency.

**Section 5.** Each Agency trustee is responsible for setting up a system of Agency Liaison members who will assist in the dissemination of information from the Board to the members and from the members to the Board.

## **Article 12**

### **DELEGATES TO STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Section 1.** All members having the required number of meetings for election shall be eligible as delegates to the State or National Conference. Delegates shall be elected by the Board at the quarterly meeting prior to the State or National Conference which the delegate is to attend. The Board will seek nominations for delegates via email to the members. Nominations may be made to the Board by any member prior to the quarterly meeting. The travel and lodging expenses of the delegate may be paid by the lodge at the discretion of the Board.

**Section 2.** Delegates must attend the Oklahoma FOP Conference annually and may attend the National FOP Conference at the discretion of the Board.

**Section 3.** (reserved for future use)

**Section 4.** Any delegate who misses the Oklahoma FOP Conference may be removed by the Board and replaced.

## **Article 13**

### **DISCIPLINE**

**Section 1.** A member may be censured, suspended or expelled from the Lodge for good and just cause. A complaint from a member must be made in writing identifying all parties. The complaint is submitted to the President and Executive Board.

**Section 2.** Upon receipt of any complaint the President and the 1st Vice President shall appoint a hearing committee of three (3) members with the President appointing two (2) members and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President appointing one (1) member. (To insure fairness those appointed will not work directly with or for the complaining party or the person who is named in the complaint.)

NOTE: Either party to the complaint may challenge the Hearing Panel seated for cause but the decision of the President to change or retain any Panel member is final.

**Section 3.** The Hearing Panel shall notify all parties of the complaint and insure that the affected member has a copy of the written allegations. The Panel will set a hearing date of at least 45 days forthwith and require the parties to attend. Notification of the hearing will be done in person or by registered mail. Notification of the hearing will advise all parties to bring all materials or evidence to be introduced into the record.

**Section 4.** Each party to the complaint may bring a chosen FOP representative of his or her choice to assist the complaining party and the affected member in the presentation of evidence and the examination of witnesses. Because the hearing is an internal FOP process, no attorneys may act as FOP representative.

**Section 5.** The hearing is not open to the general membership, or the public, and the Panel shall determine the extent of the number of persons participating in the hearing which will include principals and witnesses. The panel will determine if "the rule" is to be used or not.

**Section 6.** At the completion of the hearing the Panel will conduct an executive session to weigh the testimony and evidence and based on that information formulate a recommendation to be made to the Executive Board and the membership. The Panel can recommend censure, suspension for a specific length of time, or expulsion from the Order.

**Section 7.** After receipt of the decision of the Hearing Panel the President will notify the principals of the recommendations and set the decision of the Panel on the agenda of the next regular general membership meeting. The members will hear the recommendation of the Panel and can only "accept" or "reject" the Panel's recommendation. No adjustments in the recommendation can be made. The facts of the complaint will not be heard "de nova".

**Section 8.** The Executive Board will insure that the decision of the general membership is carried out.

**Section 9.** A censure or suspension of a member does not affect his or her legal defense status. Expulsion from the Order does affect legal defense coverage from the Lodge or GLFOP Legal Defense Plan.

**Section 10.** A disciplined member may appeal an adverse decision to the State Lodge of Oklahoma.

**Section 11.** It is the responsibility of the Oklahoma State Law Enforcement FOP Lodge 219 to always insure "just cause" and "due process" in all disciplinary process of the Lodge.

## **Article 14**

### **LEGAL AID**

Section 1. The required participation of all members in the GLFOP Legal Defense Plan does not expose the Lodge to any representation liability beyond that offered by the Plan.

Section 2. Only in extreme extenuating circumstances do the Executive Board and the membership have authority to expend legal defense payments from the general fund.

## **Article 15**

### **STATE FOP CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS GRAND LODGE FOP CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**Section 1.** All rules, duties, and standards not specifically addressed or legally modified by this document, and which are covered or addressed in the State and National documents, become a part of this document.

## **Article 16**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the convening of the next regular meeting. The proposed amendment(s) shall then be submitted to members. Upon adoption by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the authorized members who return a vote, the proposed amendment(s) shall become a part of these By-Laws. Proposed Amendments to these By-Laws may also be approved by a vote of the authorized members conducted via Electronic mail at any time. The Secretary shall distribute the proposed Changes and the results shall be verified by the Lodge Trustee.

## **Article 17**

### **SUBORDINATION**

**Section 1.** Except as otherwise established herein, at any authorized meeting a simple majority vote of the members in attendance, when a board quorum exists, shall be deemed sufficient to change any board decision or to pass any measure conducting ordinary business. A minimum of seven members in good standing must be in attendance to overturn the Executive Board's decision.

**Section 2.** When a matter has been declared a "substantial issue", a majority of the Executive Board or simple majority of the General Membership of the authorized members, shall be necessary for passage or repeal.

**Section 3.** In all matters deemed a substantial issue, the order of Precedence will be:  
 Acts of the President as the Chief Executive Officer  
 Majority vote of the Executive Board  
 Majority vote of the Executive Board, except or in case of a declaration of a substantial issue  
 which shall require a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board  
 The membership. In all matters the General Membership will be the deciding authority.

**Article 18**

**OPEA BOARD LIAISON**

**Section 1.** Upon signing and acceptance of both a Memorandum of Understanding and acceptance of a Memorandum of Agreement and for the duration of said Memorandum of Agreement, unless sooner revoked by the Board, the Oklahoma Public Employee Association (OPEA) shall be granted a liaison seat on the Executive Board and shall have a voice and authorized to express a position regarding matters before the board, be known hereinafter as OPEA LIAISON.

**Article 19**

**REIMBURSEMENT**

**Section 1.** The Executive Board is authorized to approve reimbursement of reasonable expenses to members who have incurred and authorized expense in the conduct of lodge business. Travel to or from a General Membership meeting shall not be reimbursable.

**Section 2.** Reserved.

**OFFICIAL COPY, ATTESTED TO BY SIGNATURE AND SEAL:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **PRESIDENT, OK FOP LODGE 219** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE**

**ATTESTED BY**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SECRETARY, OK FOP LODGE 219** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE**