



# **SPJST By-Law Recommendations**

*as approved by the  
SPJST Supreme Lodge  
on April 20, 2021  
to be submitted  
to the By-Law Committee  
and Delegates to the  
33rd SPJST Convention*

1	<b>PREAMBLE</b>	1
2	— The main idea and purpose of this Society, as organized	2
3	by fearless and peace-loving Czech pioneers in Texas, was and	3
4	is:-	4
5	— To provide and promote fraternal and social fellowship	5
6	among its members.	6
7	— To endeavor to keep alive the cherished traditions, cus-	7
8	tom, heritage, culture, and language of our forefathers.	8
9	— And generally, through moral, spiritual, and economic re-	9
10	spect, to encourage benevolence and humanity through the So-	10
11	ciet, with sound practical life insurance for its members.	11
12	— This Society operates under the lodge system and pro-	12
13	vides for the payment of life, sick, accident, or other benefits	13
14	to its members.	14
15		15
16		16
17	<b>ARTICLE I</b>	17
18	<b>NAME</b>	18
19		19
20	<b>Section 1.</b> The name of this Fraternal Benefit Society is	20
21	SPJST, originally chartered as <i>Slovanská Podporující Jednota</i>	21
22	<i>Státu Texas</i> (Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas	22
23	{SPJST}).	23
24		24
25		25
26	<b>ARTICLE II</b>	26
27	<b>PRINCIPAL OFFICE</b>	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 2.</b> The principal office (Home Office) of SPJST	29
30	shall be located in Temple, Texas.	30
31		31
32		32
33	<b>ARTICLE III</b>	33
34	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	34
35	<b>MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS</b>	35
36		36
37	<b>Section 3.</b> The objectives of this Society, as organized by	37
38	fearless and peace-loving Czech pioneers in Texas, are:	38
39	(1) To provide and promote fraternal and social fellowship	39
40	among its members.	40
41	(2) To endeavor to keep alive the cherished traditions, cus-	41
42	tom, heritage, culture, and language of our forefathers.	42
43	(3) Generally, through moral, spiritual, and economic re-	43
44	spect, to encourage benevolence and humanity through the So-	44
45	ciet, with sound practical life insurance products for its	45
46	members.	46
47	(4) To operate under the lodge system.	47
48	(5) To provide for the payment of life, sick, accident, or	48
49	other benefits to its members.	49
50		50
51	<b>Section 4.</b> <u>Mission.</u> Insuring and enriching lives.	51
52		52
53	<b>Section 5.</b> <u>Vision.</u> Our vision is to provide financial security	53
54	for our members; build a wholesome family environment; and	54
55	encourage cherished Czech traditions.	55
56	<b>Section 2.</b> <u>Vision.</u> Our vision is to provide a wholesome	56
57	family environment; to encourage cherished Czech traditions;	57
58	and to provide high quality, competitive life insurance for our	58
59	members.	59

*Reason:  
move to Article III  
Objectives*

*Reason:  
update to more  
clearly define  
SPJST's vision*

1	ARTICLE IV	1
2	FRATERNAL BENEFICIARY SOCIETY	2
3		3
4	<b>Section 6.</b> SPJST is a 501(c)(8) non-profit corporation	4
5	formed, organized, and incorporated under the fraternal benefit	5
6	society laws of the State of Texas; and carried on solely for	6
7	the mutual benefit of its members and their communities and	7
8	beneficiaries; and having a lodge system, with a representative	8
9	form of government. SPJST shall have all the powers granted	9
10	to it by law. SPJST will strive to be a financially strong fraternal	10
11	benefit society and to provide high quality, competitive life	11
12	insurance and value-added benefits to its members. SPJST will	12
13	conduct its affairs in a manner that is perceived as a good corporate	13
14	citizen.	14
15		15
16		16
17	ARTICLE V	17
18	MEMBERSHIP	18
19		19
20	<b>Section 7.</b> <u>Application for Membership.</u> Individuals may become	20
21	members if they meet the requirements for membership	21
22	established by SPJST, apply for membership upon a form in	22
23	use by SPJST, and are accepted into membership in accordance	23
24	with the rules, procedures, and rituals of SPJST. All members	24
25	must be citizens, legal residents of the United States, or tax-	25
26	paying non-residents with a legal Individual Taxpayer Identification	26
27	Number (ITIN).	27
28	<del><b>Section 7.</b> <u>Application for Membership.</u> Individuals may become</del>	28
29	<del>members if they meet the requirements for membership</del>	29
30	<del>established by SPJST, apply for membership upon a form in</del>	30
31	<del>use by SPJST, and are accepted into membership in accordance</del>	31
32	<del>with the rules, procedures, and rituals of SPJST. All</del>	32
33	<del>members must be citizens or legal residents of the United</del>	33
34	<del>States.</del>	34
35		35
36	<b>Section 8.</b> Local Lodge Membership. The local lodge has	36
37	the right to determine whether it will accept an applicant for	37
38	membership into the lodge. Upon receipt of notification of a	38
39	new candidate for membership, the local lodge must vote to	39
40	accept or to reject the candidate no later than the second regularly	40
41	scheduled meeting after application is accepted. The	41
42	candidate for membership must receive a majority vote of	42
43	those present and voting to be accepted as a member. The local	43
44	lodge secretary notifies the candidate whether he/she is accepted	44
45	or rejected. If rejected, the member may begin application	45
46	to another lodge. No one may hold membership in more	46
47	than one SPJST lodge.	47
48		48
49		49
50		50
51		51
52		52
53		53
54		54
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56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

*Reason: We are losing opportunities when many of our competitors accept ITINs. In 2015, more than 4.4 million ITIN holders paid \$23.6 billion in taxes. Most commercial companies accept it. Since ITINs were not issued until July 1996, it was not on the radar for fraternal. The American Fraternal Alliance by-laws leave it up to the state.*

1	<b>Section 9. Membership Classes.</b> There shall be the follow-	1
2	ing classes of members:	2
3		3
4	(a) <u>Adult Member.</u>	4
5		5
6	(1) A person of 18 or more years whose application	6
7	has been accepted and approved and to whom there	7
8	has been issued a certificate of membership and in-	8
9	surance or annuity which is in force or who is receiv-	9
10	ing a settlement agreement benefit by reason of such	10
11	insurance or annuity. It is expressly determined that	11
12	in this latter event, the owner of the insurance or an-	12
13	nuity, if different from the insured, shall have no priv-	13
14	ileges of membership and the insured will retain these	14
15	rights.	15
16	<del>(1) A person of 16 or more years whose application</del>	16
17	<del>has been accepted and approved and to whom there</del>	17
18	<del>has been issued a certificate of membership and in-</del>	18
19	<del>surance or annuity which is in force or who is receiv-</del>	19
20	<del>ing a settlement agreement benefit by reason of such</del>	20
21	<del>insurance or annuity. It is expressly determined that</del>	21
22	<del>in this latter event, the owner of the insurance or an-</del>	22
23	<del>nuity, if different from the insured, shall have no priv-</del>	23
24	<del>ileges of membership and the insured will retain these</del>	24
25	<del>rights.</del>	25
26		26
27	(2) A person may become a member by purchasing	27
28	an annuity in a minimum amount as set by the Su-	28
29	preme Lodge and pays his or her local lodge dues and	29
30	assessments, if any, annually in advance.	30
31		31
32	(3) Further, it is determined that in the event that a	32
33	third party owner surrenders the insurance or annuity,	33
34	the insured who is the member shall have his/her	34
35	membership privileges imparted by the surrendered	35
36	insurance or annuity terminated immediately.	36
37		37
38	(4) Members upon reaching age 18 automatically be-	38
39	come adult members with all rights of adult members by	39
40	complying with all requirements of adult membership.	40
41	<del>(4) Members upon reaching age 16 automatically be-</del>	41
42	<del>come adult members with all rights of adult members by</del>	42
43	<del>complying with all requirements of adult membership.</del>	43
44		44
45	(5) Adult members whose life insurance certificates	45
46	have matured based on the applicable mortality table	46
47	shall remain members of SPJST, with all the privi-	47
48	leges and benefits of active members and shall not be	48
49	required to pay any dues or assessments.	49
50		50
51	(6) An adult member suspended for non-payment of	51
52	premiums, dues, and assessments, if any, loses his/her	52
53	right to vote and is not eligible for election.	53
54		54
55	(7) Adult members are eligible for election as of-	55
56	ficers of local lodges, in the district, delegates, as	56
57	committee members, and as members of the Supreme	57
58	Lodge.	58
59		59

*Reason:  
18 is considered  
"the age of majority"  
in Texas.*

1	(b) <u>Youth Member.</u> SPJST may insure the lives of chil-	1
2	dren. Such insurance shall be issued upon the application	2
3	of an authorized adult (who shall not by reason thereof,	3
4	nor by reason of any benefit providing for waiver of pre-	4
5	mium, become a member) who has an insurable interest.	5
6	At age 18, the insured youth shall become an adult	6
7	member.	7
8	<del>(b) <u>Youth Member.</u> SPJST may insure the lives of chil-</del>	8
9	<del>dren. Such insurance shall be issued upon the application</del>	9
10	<del>of an authorized adult (who shall not by reason thereof,</del>	10
11	<del>nor by reason of any benefit providing for waiver of pre-</del>	11
12	<del>mium, become a member) who has an insurable interest.</del>	12
13	<del>At age 16, the insured youth shall become an adult</del>	13
14	<del>member.</del>	14
15		15
16	(c) <u>Associate Member.</u> An associate member is a per-	16
17	son who holds an SPJST certificate purchased through an	17
18	outside agency under contract with SPJST selling group	18
19	insurance. This member will not have SPJST or local	19
20	lodge privileges, benefits, or voting rights.	20
21		21
22	(d) <u>Social Member.</u>	22
23		23
24	(1) A social member is a member whom a lodge	24
25	votes in as a social member, who completes a social	25
26	membership form, and who pays his/her membership	26
27	dues and assessments, if any, to the local lodge.	27
28		28
29	(2) A social member is not eligible to vote or hold of-	29
30	fice; however, a social member may, at the discretion	30
31	of the local lodge, serve on an appointed committee	31
32	with the inherent right to deliberate and vote on that	32
33	committee.	33
34		34
35	(3) A social member must pay for the <i>Věstník</i> if	35
36	he/she desires to receive it.	36
37		37
38	(4) An uninsurable child whose parent or guardian is	38
39	a member can participate in the youth program.	39
40		40
41	<b>Section 10. Membership Guidelines.</b> All members shall guide	41
42	themselves according to the charter, constitution, and by-laws	42
43	of SPJST; otherwise, they are subject to penalty as defined by	43
44	these by-laws and as prescribed by the Supreme Lodge for	44
45	violation and non-observance of them. No subordinate body,	45
46	nor any of its subordinate officers or members, shall have the	46
47	power or authority to waive any of the provisions of the by-	47
48	laws of SPJST. Such provisions shall be binding on SPJST	48
49	and every member and beneficiary of a member.	49
50		50
51	<b>Section 11. Induction of New Members.</b> Induction of new	51
52	members may be conducted at a time and date convenient to	52
53	the local lodge and the new members.	53
54		54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

*Reason:  
18 is considered  
"the age of majority"  
in Texas.*

1	ARTICLE VI	1
2	CONVENTION	2
3		3
4	<b>Section 12. Purpose.</b> The Supreme Governing Body of	4
5	SPJST shall be known as the Convention and shall be com-	5
6	posed of delegates elected according to the rules of these by-	6
7	laws. The Convention is the sole judge of eligibility and	7
8	qualifications of all delegates and substitutes. The Convention	8
9	has the power to:	9
10		10
11	(a) Adopt, amend, and supplement the by-laws of SPJST.	11
12		12
13	(b) Receive and act on all reports filed by Supreme Lodge	13
14	officers and district directors and the Convention Com-	14
15	mittee, which must be published in the <i>Věstník</i> 30 days	15
16	before the Convention. District directors may make one	16
17	combined report if they so agree.	17
18	(b) Receive and act on all reports filed by Supreme Lodge	18
19	officers and directors and all committees, which must be	19
20	published in the <i>Věstník</i> 30 days before the Convention.	20
21	Directors may make one combined report if they so agree.	21
22		22
23	(c) Elect district directors, alternate district directors, and	23
24	Convention Committee members.	24
25	(e) Elect Supreme Lodge President, Vice President, Chief	25
26	Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer), Editor/Director	26
27	of Communication, district directors, and all required	27
28	committees.	28
29		29
30	(d) Determine compensation of district directors.	30
31	(d) Determine salaries of Supreme Lodge President, Vice	31
32	President, Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer),	32
33	Editor/Director of Communication, district directors, and	33
34	all required committees.	34
35		35
36	(-) Determine compensation for all delegates, Conven-	36
37	tion officers, and Convention Committee members, and	37
38	Convention expense borne by SPJST. Delegates and Con-	38
39	vention officers will be paid the week following the Con-	39
40	vention.	40
41	(e) Determine compensation for all delegates, Conven-	41
42	tion officers, and committee members, and Convention	42
43	expense borne by SPJST. Delegates, Convention officers,	43
44	and committee members will be paid the week following	44
45	the Convention.	45
46		46
47	(f) Decide what donations will be made to various char-	47
48	ities and educational institutions, etc.	48
49		49
50	<b>Section 13. Regular Conventions.</b> Regular Conventions are	50
51	held once every four years. The date and location of the next	51
52	regular Convention shall be set by the Supreme Lodge and	52
53	published in the <i>Věstník</i> no later than January of the Conven-	53
54	tion year.	54
55	<del><b>Section 9. Regular Conventions.</b> Regular Conventions are</del>	55
56	<del>held once every four years. The date of the next regular Con-</del>	56
57	<del>vention shall be set by the Supreme Lodge and published in</del>	57
58	<del>the <i>Věstník</i> no later than January of the Convention year.</del>	58
59		59

*Reason:  
codifying (in that each  
adjustment is being  
made to adjust for a  
new process)*

*Move to Operations  
Manual - Supreme  
Lodge Duties*

*Remove. Donations  
should be driven  
by organizational  
means and in line  
with board objectives.*



1	<b>Section 14. Special Conventions.</b> Special Conventions may	1
2	be held upon a two-thirds vote of all members of the Supreme	2
3	Lodge for an urgent matter concerning the welfare of SPJST.	3
4	Such Special Conventions shall be held at such time and place	4
5	as may be determined by the Supreme Lodge. No business	5
6	may be taken up at such Special Convention except for the	6
7	purpose for which called, which purpose shall be clearly and	7
8	distinctly set forth in the call for the Special Convention. A	8
9	call for a Special Convention shall be deposited in the United	9
10	States mail at least 30 days prior to the convening of such Spe-	10
11	cial Convention, addressed to each delegate at his/her last	11
12	known address as shown by the records of SPJST. At the Spe-	12
13	cial Convention, delegates from each lodge shall have the	13
14	same number of votes as at the preceding Regular Conven-	14
15	tion.	15
16		16
17	<b>Section 15. Quorum.</b> Two-thirds of delegates seated at any	17
18	Regular or Special Convention shall constitute a quorum for	18
19	the transaction of all business.	19
20		20
21	<b>Section 16. Ballot In Lieu of Special Convention.</b> In lieu of	21
22	calling a special Convention, the Supreme Lodge may send a	22
23	ballot to all delegates by mail or by email. The ballot may in-	23
24	clude one or more resolutions that could be considered and	24
25	adopted at a special Convention. The proposed resolution or	25
26	resolutions must be mailed to the delegates at least 30 days	26
27	before the ballots must be returned. Delegates from each lodge	27
28	shall have the same number of votes as at the preceding regular	28
29	Convention. A resolution shall be deemed adopted upon re-	29
30	ceipt of signed ballots with votes equal to the number of votes	30
31	that would have been needed to adopt the resolution at a spe-	31
32	cial Convention at which all delegates were present.	32
33		33
34	<b>Section 17. Order.</b> All proceedings of the Convention will	34
35	be conducted in the following order, unless decided otherwise	35
36	by the Supreme Lodge and approved by the delegates:	36
37	<del><b>Section 17. Order.</b> All proceedings of the Convention will</del>	37
38	<del>be conducted in the following order, unless decided otherwise</del>	38
39	<del>by the Convention Order Committee and approved by the del-</del>	39
40	<del>egates:</del>	40
41		41
42	(a) <b>Supreme Lodge President convenes the Convention.</b>	42
43	<del>(a) Supreme Lodge President convenes the Convention</del>	43
44	<del>and appoints a temporary committee of seven tellers, one</del>	44
45	<del>from each district, to tabulate votes during the election of</del>	45
46	<del>the Convention Chair and Convention Vice Chair.</del>	46
47		47
48	(b) <b>Credentials report. A list of names of elected delegates</b>	48
49	<b>and number of votes each lodge and delegate is entitled</b>	49
50	<b>to will be made available to delegates at the beginning of</b>	50
51	<b>the Convention by the Supreme Lodge.</b>	51
52	<del>(b) Credentials Committee report. A list of names of</del>	52
53	<del>elected delegates and number of votes each lodge and del-</del>	53
54	<del>egate is entitled to will be made available to delegates at</del>	54
55	<del>the beginning of the Convention. At least 30 days prior to</del>	55
56	<del>the Convention, the Supreme Lodge President will ap-</del>	56
57	<del>point three members to the Credentials Committee.</del>	57
58		58
59		59

*The Home Office currently prepares for and plans the order at the convention.*

*The Convention Committee will serve as tellers at the Convention.*

*Delegate credentials are currently verified through the Home Office. The Credentials Committee will be an ad hoc committee of the Supreme Lodge.*

1	(c) Elect Convention officers (Chair and Vice Chair)	1
2	from among the delegates.	2
3	<del>(e) Elect Convention officers (Chair and Vice Chair) and</del>	3
4	<del>name Convention committees (Resolution, Grievance,</del>	4
5	<del>Order, Teller, other necessary committees) from among</del>	5
6	<del>the delegates.</del>	6
7		7
8	(d) Act on all reports filed by Supreme Lodge members	8
9	and the Convention Committee.	9
10	<del>(d) Act on all reports filed by Supreme Lodge members</del>	10
11	<del>and all standing committees (By Law, Finance, Insurance,</del>	11
12	<del>and Publication).</del>	12
13		13
14	(e) Deliberate by-laws.	14
15		15
16	(f) Convention Committee's report.	16
17	<del>(f) Convention committees' reports.</del>	17
18		18
19	(g) Miscellaneous business.	19
20		20
21	<del>(h) Elect Supreme Lodge President, Vice President, and</del>	21
22	<del>Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer), Editor/Di-</del>	22
23	<del>rector of Communication, district directors, and all re-</del>	23
24	<del>quired committees.</del>	24
25		25
26	(h) District caucuses. The purpose of these seven, sep-	26
27	arate district caucuses is to nominate and elect a district	27
28	director, <del>alternate district director, and Convention Com-</del>	28
29	<del>mittee member.</del> Each delegate will vote in accordance	29
30	with Section 31 (Votes) of the by-laws. The district direc-	30
31	tor will act as temporary chair of the district caucus until	31
32	delegates elect a permanent chair.	32
33	<del>(i) District caucuses. The purpose of these seven, sep-</del>	33
34	<del>arate district caucuses is to nominate and elect a district</del>	34
35	<del>director and substitute; By Law Committee member and</del>	35
36	<del>substitute; Finance Committee member and substitute; In-</del>	36
37	<del>surance Committee member and substitute; and Publica-</del>	37
38	<del>tion Committee member and substitute. Each delegate will</del>	38
39	<del>vote in accordance with Section 24 (Votes) of the by-laws.</del>	39
40	<del>The district director will act as temporary chair of the dis-</del>	40
41	<del>trict caucus until delegates elect a permanent chair.</del>	41
42		42
43	<del>(j) Select location for the succeeding Convention.</del>	43
44		44
45	(i) Install district directors and Convention Committee	45
46	members.	46
47	<del>(k) Install elected officials and standing committee</del>	47
48	<del>members.</del>	48
49		49
50	(j) Adjourn Convention.	50
51		51
52	<b>Section 18. Convention Officers.</b> The Supreme Lodge Pres-	52
53	ident shall convene the Convention and shall preside until a	53
54	Convention Chair is elected. The Supreme Lodge President	54
55	shall appoint the secretaries of the Convention. The Conven-	55
56	tion Chair and Convention Vice Chair are the Convention of-	56
57	ficers.	57
58		58
59		59

The Convention Committee will serve as the convention tellers and the Grievance Committee. The Supreme Lodge will accept resolutions to be presented at the Convention. The Supreme Lodge will present the Convention Order, which is currently prepared by the Home Office.

Reason:  
SPJST must be intentional and diligent in identifying, recruiting, and evaluating well-qualified candidates to serve in key Home Office management positions.



1	<b>Section 15. <del>Convention Committees.</del></b> The following commit-	1
2	tees appointed by the Convention Chair and Convention Vice	2
3	Chair will function during the Convention:	3
4		4
5	(a) <del>Resolution Committee — three members.</del>	5
6		6
7	(b) <del>Grievance Committee — seven members, one from</del>	7
8	each district.	8
9		9
10	(c) <del>Convention Order Committee — three members.</del>	10
11		11
12	(d) <del>Election Teller Committee — seven members, one</del>	12
13	from each district. This committee has the authority to em-	13
14	ploy machine operators, if needed.	14
15		15
16	(e) <del>All other necessary committees.</del>	16
17		17
18	<b>Section 19. Proceedings.</b> All proceedings in the Convention,	18
19	unless such rules are not covered by the by-laws, are con-	19
20	ducted in accordance with the current edition of “Robert’s	20
21	Rules of Order.”	21
22		22
23	<b>Section 20. Discussions.</b> All Supreme Lodge members and	23
24	<b>Convention Committee members</b> may participate in the dis-	24
25	cussions at the Convention, but they do not have the right to	25
26	make motions, vote, or nominate unless they are delegates.	26
27	<del><b>Section 17. Discussions.</b> All Supreme Lodge members, Ed-</del>	27
28	<del>itor/Director of Communication, and standing committee</del>	28
29	<del>members may participate in the discussions at the Convention,</del>	29
30	<del>but they do not have the right to make motions, vote, or nomi-</del>	30
31	<del>nate unless they are delegates.</del>	31
32		32
33	(a) No concern can be discussed in the Convention unless	33
34	it was first presented to the <b>Convention Committee</b> and	34
35	acted upon by that committee.	35
36	<del>(a) No concern can be discussed in the Convention unless</del>	36
37	<del>it was first presented to the Grievance Committee and</del>	37
38	<del>acted upon by that committee.</del>	38
39		39
40		40
41		41
42		42
43		43
44		44
45		45
46		46
47		47
48		48
49		49
50		50
51		51
52		52
53		53
54		54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

*The Supreme Lodge will accept resolutions to be presented at the Convention. The Convention Committee will serve as the Grievance Committee. The Supreme Lodge will present the Convention Order, which is currently prepared by the Home Office. The Convention Committee will serve as the convention tellers.*

*The Convention Committee will serve as the Grievance Committee.*

1	(b) No motion to change by-laws or amendment thereto	1
2	can be presented to the Convention unless the motion or	2
3	amendment thereto has been discussed and approved by	3
4	a lodge or the Supreme Lodge and submitted to any	4
5	member of the Governance Committee not later than 60	5
6	days prior to the Convention so that the Governance Com-	6
7	mittee could study such motion or amendment and deliver	7
8	its opinion. Recommendations must be submitted in the	8
9	English language. The Governance Committee secretary	9
10	shall forward all signed by-law recommendations to the	10
11	<i>Věstník</i> for publication. Rejected recommendations can	11
12	be presented by a delegate of the representative body in	12
13	the Convention during deliberation of the respective ar-	13
14	ticle. Between Conventions, recommendations can be	14
15	submitted to the Governance Committee for consideration	15
16	at Supreme Lodge meetings.	16
17	(b) No motion to change by-laws or amendment thereto	17
18	can be presented to the Convention unless the motion or	18
19	amendment thereto has been submitted to the By-Law	19
20	Committee 60 days prior to the Convention so that the	20
21	committee could study such motion or amendment and	21
22	deliver its opinion.	22
23		23
24	(e) Requests for donations, support, salaries, or increase	24
25	of salaries must be presented to the Finance Committee	25
26	60 days prior to the Convention for consideration, ap-	26
27	proval, or rejection, or the request cannot be discussed in	27
28	the Convention.	28
29		29
30	<b>Section 21. Voting.</b> The enactment, deletion, or amendment	30
31	to a by-law requires a two-thirds vote by authorized votes of	31
32	delegates present. Unless otherwise required by law or the	32
33	laws of SPJST, all other matters are decided by a majority of	33
34	authorized votes of the delegates present. Delegates shall vote	34
35	by voice, show of hands, standing, roll call, or secret ballot as	35
36	designated by the Convention Chair. No delegate shall vote	36
37	by proxy.	37
38	<b>Section 21. Voting.</b> The enactment, deletion, or amendment	38
39	to a by-law requires a two-thirds vote by authorized votes of	39
40	delegates present. Unless otherwise required by law or the	40
41	laws of SPJST, all other matters are decided by a majority of	41
42	authorized votes of the delegates present. Delegates shall vote	42
43	by voice, show of hands, standing, roll call, or secret ballot as	43
44	designated by the Convention Chair. No delegate shall vote	44
45	by proxy. All new by-laws become effective on the latter of	45
46	July 1 or the date filed with Texas Department of Insurance	46
47	following the Convention at which they were adopted.	47
48		48
49		49
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*The Governance Committee will be an established committee of the Supreme Lodge.*

*Duplication - this is covered in Section 102.*

1	<del><b>Section 19. Election of Supreme Lodge President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer), Editor/Director of Communication, and District Directors. Establish a screening process for the purpose of reviewing all qualifications of submitted candidates for Supreme Lodge President, Vice President, Chief Financial Office (Secretary-Treasurer), Editor/Director of Communication, and seven District Directors. The screening committee has the right to gather additional background information, submit the slate of qualified candidates to the delegates 90 days prior to Convention, and shall have the discretion to consult with personnel with legal and human resource expertise to assure compliance with current labor laws. The By-Law Committee will serve as the screening committee. Anyone seeking the positions of Supreme Lodge President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer), Editor/Director of Communication, or District Director must announce candidacy at least 120 days prior to Convention.</b></del>	1
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19		19
20	<b>Section 22. Minutes.</b> The Convention minutes should accurately summarize what was discussed and actions taken by the	20
21	Convention. The minutes should be accurate, concise, objective, and to the point, but written in such a way that they do	21
22	not leave out critical information and are easily understood	22
23	and usable in the future. Minutes may include brief summaries	23
24	of the discussions but should reflect a record of the exact	24
25	wording of motions, amendments, and resolutions as well as	25
26	who made the motions, who seconded them, and the outcome	26
27	of any votes taken. The minutes shall be kept and approved in	27
28	the English language. A copy of the Convention minutes shall	28
29	be sent to each local lodge secretary, all Convention delegates,	29
30	Convention Committee members, and all members, upon	30
31	request.	31
32		32
33		33
34	<del><b>Section 20. Minutes.</b> The minutes shall be kept and approved in the English language. A copy of the Convention minutes shall be sent to each local lodge secretary; all Convention delegates; members of all standing committees (By-Law, Finance, Insurance, and Publication); and all members, upon request.</del>	34
35		35
36		36
37		37
38		38
39		39
40		40
41	<b>Section -. Publicity.</b> Supreme Lodge President and Vice	41
42	President of Communications are responsible for appropriate	42
43	publicity pertaining to Conventions.	43
44	<del><b>Section 21. Publicity.</b> Supreme Lodge President and Editor/Director of Communication are responsible for appropriate</del>	44
45	publicity pertaining to Conventions.	45
46		46
47		47
48		48
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1	ARTICLE VII	1
2	CONVENTION COMMITTEE	2
3		3
4	<b>Section 23. Composition.</b> The Convention Committee shall	4
5	be comprised of seven elected members (one from each of the	5
6	seven districts). The Supreme Lodge shall fill any vacancy oc-	6
7	curring in the Convention Committee by appointing an Adult	7
8	Member to serve.	8
9		9
10	<b>Section 24. Eligibility.</b> Supreme Lodge members, their	10
11	spouses, and SPJST Home Office employees are not eligible	11
12	for membership on the Convention Committee, but they are	12
13	free to attend the Committee meetings, make suggestions and	13
14	recommendations, and assist the Committee.	14
15		15
16	(a) Convention Committee members are expected to at-	16
17	tend their respective district meetings. If two meetings are	17
18	missed during a four-year period, the Supreme Lodge will	18
19	appoint an Adult Member to complete the remainder of	19
20	the term.	20
21		21
22	<b>Section 25. Duties.</b> The Convention Committee shall have	22
23	the following duties:	23
24		24
25	(a) Review all compensation and financial benefits of dis-	25
26	trict directors. Gather relevant information and rec-	26
27	ommendations regarding reasonable compensation for	27
28	district directors and present a proposal to the Convention.	28
29	Any increase in compensation must be approved by the	29
30	Delegates of the Convention.	30
31		31
32	(b) Recommend to the Convention compensation of dis-	32
33	trict directors. The Committee's recommendations shall	33
34	be published in the <i>Věstník</i> 30 days prior to the Conven-	34
35	tion.	35
36	<del>(4) Recommend to the Convention per diem of delegates</del>	36
37	<del>and salaries of district directors. The Committee's rec-</del>	37
38	<del>ommendations shall be published in the <i>Věstník</i> 30 days</del>	38
39	<del>prior to the Convention.</del>	39
40		40
41	(c) Assist the Supreme Lodge President in the tabulation	41
42	of votes during the election of the Convention Chair and	42
43	Convention Vice Chair.	43
44		44
45	(d) Assist the Convention Chair in the tabulation of votes	45
46	of matters brought before the Convention.	46
47		47
48	(e) Serve as the Grievance Committee at the Convention.	48
49	Help resolve disputes at the Convention.	49
50		50
51	<b>Section 26. Committee Chair.</b> The Convention Committee	51
52	shall convene immediately following the Convention and elect	52
53	a Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary from its mem-	53
54	bership.	54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
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1	<b>Section 27. Meetings.</b> During the Convention year, the Con-	1
2	vention Committee shall hold a minimum of two meetings,	2
3	one at least six months and one immediately prior to the start	3
4	of the Convention. The day and time shall be designated by	4
5	the Convention Committee Chair after consultation with Con-	5
6	vention Committee members. The Convention Committee	6
7	Chair may call special meetings and shall call a special meet-	7
8	ing upon written request of at least three Convention Commit-	8
9	tee members. Any meeting of SPJST at which written minutes	9
10	are kept, except the Convention, may meet by telephone con-	10
11	ference or other means of communication that allows all par-	11
12	ticipants to simultaneously communicate with each other. All	12
13	non-electronic meetings shall be at the Home Office.	13
14		14
15	<b>Section 28. Quorum and Voting.</b> A majority of the Conven-	15
16	tion Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction	16
17	of Convention Committee business except that a smaller	17
18	number may adjourn a meeting for lack of a quorum. The	18
19	Committee shall act by a majority of Committee members	19
20	present.	20
21		21
22		22
23	<b>ARTICLE VIII</b>	23
24	<b>LODGE DELEGATE ELECTIONS</b>	24
25		25
26	<b>Section 29. Election of Delegates.</b> Delegates and substitute	26
27	delegates shall be elected no later than January at the local	27
28	lodge meeting that precedes the Convention for the term from	28
29	one Convention to the next Convention.	29
30		30
31	<b>Section 30. Number of Delegates per Lodge.</b> Every lodge	31
32	has the right to elect delegates in accordance with its member-	32
33	ship.	33
34		34
35	(a) The number of delegates a lodge may send to the	35
36	Convention shall be based on the following scale:	36
37		37
38	(1) One delegate for lodges with 20 to 200 adult	38
39	members;	39
40	<del>(1) One delegate for lodges with 20 to 100 adult</del>	40
41	<del>members;</del>	41
42		42
43	(2) One additional delegate for each additional 200	43
44	adult members.	44
45	<del>(2) One additional delegate for each additional 150</del>	45
46	<del>adult members.</del>	46
47		47
48	(b) Changes in Lodge Membership. If a lodge obtains	48
49	enough new active members to qualify for an additional	49
50	delegate to the Convention in the time period between the	50
51	annual meeting and 60 days before the Convention, then	51
52	that lodge shall send the substitute delegate or delegates	52
53	with the most votes. A lodge losing the required number	53
54	of members between such time shall not lose the delegate	54
55	or delegates.	55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

1	(c) New Lodges. A lodge chartered during the Conven-	1
2	tion year may elect its delegates and its substitutes any	2
3	time before the convening of the Convention. A lodge	3
4	chartered, merged, or reorganized less than three years	4
5	preceding the election of its delegates may elect its del-	5
6	egates and substitutes from among those members having	6
7	attended a majority of the regular meetings from the date	7
8	of its charter, merger, or reorganization.	8
9		9
10	<b>Section 31. <u>Votes.</u></b> A lodge represented by its delegate or del-	10
11	egates is entitled to one vote for every delegate.	11
12	<b>Section 24. <u>Votes.</u></b> A lodge represented by its delegate or del-	12
13	egates is entitled to one vote for every adult member. Del-	13
14	egates from each lodge shall divide their lodge's votes equally	14
15	among themselves. In the event the votes do not divide	15
16	equally among its delegates, the extra votes shall be assigned	16
17	proportionally to all of the lodge's delegates. (Example, a	17
18	lodge with 4 delegates and 405 votes would result in each del-	18
19	egate having 101.25 votes).	19
20		20
21	<b>Section 32. <u>Substitute Delegates.</u></b> Substitute delegates shall	21
22	be elected according to the procedures for election of del-	22
23	egates. No more than 10 substitute delegates shall be elected	23
24	per lodge. A substitute delegate shall attend the Convention if	24
25	one of the elected delegates cannot attend. The substitute del-	25
26	egate or delegates shall be chosen to fill vacancies according	26
27	to which substitute delegate received the most votes at the an-	27
28	annual lodge meeting.	28
29		29
30	<b>Section 33. <u>Delegate Election Requirements.</u></b>	30
31		31
32	(a) Qualifies as an adult member.	32
33		33
34	(b) Is present during the election or is absent due to un-	34
35	avoidable circumstances.	35
36		36
37	(c) Attended at least 50 percent of the regular meetings	37
38	of the lodge during one year preceding the Convention.	38
39	Lodges meeting monthly, 50 percent is six meetings;	39
40	lodges meeting bi-monthly, 50 percent is three meetings;	40
41	and lodges meeting quarterly, 50 percent is two meetings.	41
42	(When there is a conflict with the date of their local lodge	42
43	meeting, Supreme Lodge members, district fraternal ac-	43
44	tivities coordinators, on official business, may count as at-	44
45	tending a regular meeting for this purpose. The state	45
46	fraternal director, district youth counselors and their as-	46
47	sistants, on official business, may count as attending youth	47
48	club meetings. Notification must be given to the local	48
49	lodge secretary prior to the event with written confirma-	49
50	tion made by the party within two weeks following the	50
51	event.) Newly transferred members' attendance record of	51
52	the previous lodge shall be accepted.	52
53	(e) Attended a majority of the regular meetings of the	53
54	lodge during one year preceding the Convention. Lodges	54
55	meeting quarterly, majority would be two meetings.	55
56	(When there is a conflict with the date of their local lodge	56
57	meeting, Supreme Lodge members, Editor/Director of	57
58	Communication, fraternal field managers, and state and	58
59	district fraternal activities coordinators, on official busi-	59

*Reason:*

*Proportional representation (PR) offers an alternative to the prior majoritarian voting system which had a bias in favor of larger lodges. Under PR, more delegates' preferences are taken into account.*

*Reason:*

*Empowers lodge members to select delegates on the basis of their ability to effectively represent the lodge in matters of Society business.*



1	ness, may count as attending a regular meeting for this	1
2	purpose. The state youth director, district youth counselors	2
3	and their assistants, on official business, may count as at-	3
4	tending youth club meetings. Notification must be given	4
5	to the local lodge secretary prior to the event with written	5
6	confirmation made by the party within two weeks follow-	6
7	ing the event.) Newly transferred members' attendance	7
8	record of the previous lodge shall be accepted.	8
9		9
10	(d) Is a citizen of the United States of America at the time	10
11	of election.	11
12		12
13	(e) Is not an officer or director of another fraternal life in-	13
14	surance society.	14
15		15
16	(f) Any member who desires to serve as a delegate who	16
17	is an underwriter of any insurance company or an agent	17
18	(underwriter) of any other fraternal life insurance society	18
19	may be elected but must first disclose this information to	19
20	the local lodge members prior to the election.	20
21		21
22	<b>Section 34. <u>Term.</u></b> Delegates and substitute delegates shall	22
23	hold office until their successors are seated at the following	23
24	Convention. The delegates and substitutes to the most recent	24
25	regular Convention shall be the delegates and substitutes to	25
26	any special Convention or for any ballot in lieu of a special	26
27	Convention. If a delegate is not in the Convention by the sec-	27
28	ond day, he/she will not be seated unless he/she has a good ex-	28
29	cuse, such as serious illness/emergency or death in immediate	29
30	family. In the event of the merger of two or more lodges fol-	30
31	lowing the Convention, those delegates of each lodge shall be	31
32	entitled to the same number of votes they had at the preceding	32
33	Convention.	33
34		34
35	<b>Section 35. <u>Delegate Selection Procedure.</u></b>	35
36		36
37	(a) When a lodge is entitled to two or more delegates, the	37
38	nomination and election of delegates is made by whatever	38
39	procedure is deemed most convenient and expedient by	39
40	the local lodge. If a nominating committee is used, nomi-	40
41	nations from the floor must be permitted. In the election	41
42	process, a secret ballot may be used. Ballots <b>containing</b>	42
43	<b>designating</b> more nominees than permitted are void and	43
44	not counted. The nominees receiving the highest number	44
45	of votes are elected.	45
46		46
47	(b) The result of the election of delegates and substitutes	47
48	shall be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer ( <del>Secre-</del>	48
49	<del>tary-Treasurer</del> ) within 30 days after the election. Failure	49
50	to do so will nullify the lodge's delegates.	50
51		51
52		52
53		53
54		54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
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1	(c) The Chief Financial Officer forwards to the local	1
2	lodge secretary the required forms in duplicate that must	2
3	be <b>completed</b> by the secretary and signed by the president	3
4	and secretary of the local lodge, to certify the election of	4
5	the delegate and substitute(s). After completion, one form	5
6	must immediately be forwarded to the Chief Financial Of-	6
7	ficer. The elected delegate must present the second form	7
8	to the Credentials Committee during Convention registra-	8
9	tion. The credential form must contain:	9
10		10
11	(1) A statement of the number of regular meetings	11
12	held by the lodge the delegate is representing.	12
13		13
14	(2) The number of regular meetings attended by the	14
15	delegate in the year preceding the Convention.	15
16		16
17	(3) The mileage from the delegate's home to the	17
18	Convention site and return.	18
19		19
20	(d) Lodges failing to comply with all required lodge	20
21	duties and obligations within 60 days prior to the Conven-	21
22	tion will lose their right to representation at the Conven-	22
23	tion.	23
24		24
25	(e) In the event of a delegate's death, incapacity, or trans-	25
26	fer to another lodge, he/she shall automatically be replaced	26
27	by the first substitute of such lodge.	27
28		28
29		29
30	<b>ARTICLE IX</b>	30
31	<b>SUPREME LODGE</b>	31
32		32
33	<b>Section 36. Composition.</b> The Supreme Lodge shall be com-	33
34	posed of the seven elected district directors (one from each of	34
35	the seven districts) and the President, who is appointed by the	35
36	district directors. The other officers (Vice President of Sales	36
37	and Marketing, Vice President of Communications, Chief Fi-	37
38	nancial Officer, and Controller) shall serve as non-voting	38
39	members of the Supreme Lodge. The President shall abstain	39
40	from voting on any item of business relating to his/her per-	40
41	sonal compensation and/or employee benefits. The Supreme	41
42	Lodge shall have the authority to provide rules and regulations	42
43	for the extension and development of SPJST and shall have	43
44	all other necessary and incidental powers to carry out the ob-	44
45	jectives of SPJST and such other duties as prescribed by these	45
46	by-laws.	46
47	<del><b>Section 29. Composition.</b> The Supreme Lodge shall be com-</del>	47
48	<del>posed of the President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer</del>	48
49	<del>(Secretary-Treasurer), Controller, and seven elected directors</del>	49
50	<del>(one from each of the seven districts). The Supreme Lodge</del>	50
51	<del>shall have the authority to provide rules and regulations for</del>	51
52	<del>the extension and development of SPJST and shall have all</del>	52
53	<del>other necessary and incidental powers to carry out the objec-</del>	53
54	<del>tives of SPJST and such other duties as prescribed by these</del>	54
55	<del>by-laws.</del>	55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

1	<b>Section 37. Conflicts of Interest.</b>	1
2		2
3	(a) No agent of any other life insurance company, or any	3
4	officer or director of any similar fraternal order is eligible	4
5	for membership in the Supreme Lodge.	5
6		6
7	(b) No Supreme Lodge member shall receive commis-	7
8	sion for the sale of property belonging to SPJST. No Su-	8
9	preme Lodge member can buy property from SPJST. No	9
10	Supreme Lodge member shall be personally liable to	10
11	SPJST or its members for monetary damages for any act	11
12	or omission in the officer's or district director's capacity	12
13	as an officer or district director except in the following in-	13
14	stances:	14
15		15
16	(1) For any breach of the officer's or district direc-	16
17	tor's duty of loyalty to SPJST or its members;	17
18		18
19	(2) For any act or omission not in good faith or which	19
20	involves intentional misconduct or knowing violation	20
21	of the law;	21
22		22
23	(3) For any transaction from which the officer or dis-	23
24	trict director received a benefit deemed improper by	24
25	the Supreme Lodge, whether or not the benefit resulted	25
26	from action taken within the scope of the officer's or	26
27	district director's position;	27
28	<del>(3) For any transaction from which the officer or di-</del>	28
29	<del>rector received an improper benefit, whether or not</del>	29
30	<del>the benefit resulted from action taken within the scope</del>	30
31	<del>of the officer's or director's position;</del>	31
32		32
33	(4) For any act or omission for which the liability of	33
34	an officer or district director is expressly provided for	34
35	by statute or payment of a dividend.	35
36		36
37	(c) No person can be an employee of the Supreme Lodge	37
38	if he/she is related to any member of the Supreme Lodge	38
39	within the third degree, as construed under Section 573 of	39
40	the Government Code of the Texas Revised Civil Statutes.	40
41		41
42	<b>Section 38. Duties.</b> The affairs of SPJST shall be managed	42
43	under the direction of the Supreme Lodge between regular	43
44	meetings of the Convention. The Supreme Lodge has the duty	44
45	and authority to:	45
46		46
47	(a) Provide leadership for all SPJST members and others.	47
48		48
49	(b) Promote fraternalism between lodges.	49
50		50
51	(c) Learn and promote Czech heritage and language and	51
52	the history of SPJST.	52
53		53
54	(d) Employ legal counsel on an as-needed basis.	54
55		55
56	(e) Provide sufficient insurance coverage for the protec-	56
57	tion of SPJST.	57
58		58
59		59

1	(f) Conduct a strategic planning process and develop an	1
2	annual business plan with clearly defined qualitative and	2
3	quantitative goals.	3
4		4
5	(-) Approve a contract on an annual basis, if deemed	5
6	beneficial, for the printing of the <i>Věstník</i> , after consulting	6
7	with the Vice President of Communications.	7
8	(g) Approve a contract on an annual basis, if deemed	8
9	beneficial, for the printing of the <i>Věstník</i> , after consulting	9
10	with a member of the Publication Committee designated	10
11	by that committee, and the Editor/Director of Communi-	11
12	cation.	12
13		13
14	(g) Adopt formulas to determine the amount of refund to	14
15	lodges based on premium income from members and	15
16	other incentive factors after a review of the annual state-	16
17	ment and consultation with the actuary.	17
18		18
19	(h) Adopt such additional plans and tables of insurance	19
20	including annuities and universal life products, which ap-	20
21	pear to be beneficial, according to fraternal insurance laws	21
22	of the State of Texas.	22
23		23
24	(i) Ratify compensation schedule and incentive programs	24
25	for sales agents.	25
26		26
27	(j) Fill vacancies for the Supreme Lodge President and	27
28	Convention Committee members.	28
29	(k) Fill vacancies in the Supreme Lodge and Editor/Di-	29
30	rector of Communication with the exception of the Pres-	30
31	ident, as specified in Section 41 (Vacancy).	31
32		32
33	(k) Employ a certified public accountant, upon rec-	33
34	ommendation of the Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-	34
35	Treasurer), to prepare a detailed report concerning the	35
36	condition of SPJST.	36
37		37
38	(l) Prepare a report of its progress/accomplishments	38
39	since the preceding Convention. Each Supreme Lodge of-	39
40	ficer must submit a report to be printed in the <i>Věstník</i> at	40
41	least 30 days prior to the Convention. District directors	41
42	may submit one combined report, if they so agree.	42
43		43
44	(m) Investigate all irregularities, disorders, and incompe-	44
45	tence in office of the President or any district director. Fol-	45
46	lowing a thorough investigation, including a hearing of	46
47	such charges and 20 days advance notice to the accused,	47
48	the Supreme Lodge may discharge the accused from	48
49	his/her office by a two-thirds vote.	49
50	(n) Investigate all irregularities, disorders, and incompe-	50
51	tence in office of any Supreme Lodge member and Edi-	51
52	tor/Director of Communication (after consultation with	52
53	the Publication Committee). Following a thorough inves-	53
54	tigation, including a hearing of such charges and 20 days	54
55	advance notice to the accused, the Supreme Lodge may	55
56	discharge the accused from his/her office by a two-thirds	56
57	vote.	57
58		58
59		59

1	(n) Suspend local lodges for not performing their local	1
2	lodge duties and for irregularities deemed by the Supreme	2
3	Lodge to be detrimental to SPJST. In the event of suspen-	3
4	sion, and until the suspension is lifted by the Supreme	4
5	Lodge, one or more of the following shall be in effect:	5
6		6
7	(1) The loss of representation at regular and spe-	7
8	cial Conventions of SPJST.	8
9		9
10	(2) All official lodge records and papers shall be re-	10
11	linquished to the Supreme Lodge for examination.	11
12		12
13	(3) The name and number of the local lodge will be	13
14	dropped from the roster of the lodges.	14
15		15
16	(4) The loss of representation at district meetings and	16
17	other functions of SPJST.	17
18		18
19	(5) The loss of representation at all youth functions	19
20	on the district and state levels.	20
21		21
22	(6) No new applications for membership will be ac-	22
23	cepted.	23
24		24
25	(7) No transfers into the lodge will be accepted.	25
26		26
27	(8) All meetings and activities normally carried on	27
28	by such lodge will cease.	28
29		29
30	(9) No local lodge dues will be collected.	30
31		31
32	(o) Suspend or discharge local lodge officers and com-	32
33	mittees for irregularities in office detrimental to SPJST on	33
34	charges filed by members of the local lodge or the Su-	34
35	preme Lodge, and after 20 days notice to the accused and	35
36	due hearing thereon, by a vote of two-thirds of the Su-	36
37	preme Lodge.	37
38		38
39	(-) Determine the amount of application fee and rate of	39
40	interest on mortgage loans according to prevailing con-	40
41	ditions, and the demand for loans in the best interest of	41
42	SPJST.	42
43		43
44	<del>(p) Determine areas that can be outsourced or partnered</del>	44
45	<del>for increased efficiency.</del>	45
46		46
47	<del>(q) Select and give discretionary authority to an invest-</del>	47
48	<del>ment manager on recommendation of the Chief Financial</del>	48
49	<del>Officer and ratify the sale and purchase of bonds and</del>	49
50	<del>stocks by a majority vote.</del>	50
51	<del>(r) Ratify the sale and purchase of bonds and stocks by a</del>	51
52	<del>majority vote.</del>	52
53		53
54	<del>(r) Ratify the operating budget of the Home Office.</del>	54
55	<del>(u) Ratify the salary of Home Office employees, as pro-</del>	55
56	<del>posed by Supreme Lodge officers and Editor/Director of</del>	56
57	<del>Communication.</del>	57
58		58
59		59

*This is covered in job descriptions.*

1	(s) Assign <b>further additional</b> duties to any <b>voting</b> member	1
2	of the Supreme Lodge.	2
3		3
4	(t) Review proposed agenda items and agenda for the	4
5	Convention. The agenda will be constructed by the Su-	5
6	preme Lodge. All proposed agenda items must be sub-	6
7	mitted to the Supreme Lodge at least 60 days prior to the	7
8	start of the Convention to be included in the Convention	8
9	agenda.	9
10	<del>(a) Review proposed agenda items and agenda for the</del>	10
11	<del>Convention. The agenda will be prepared by the Supreme</del>	11
12	<del>Lodge officers. All proposed agenda items must be sub-</del>	12
13	<del>mitted to the Convention Committee at least 60 days prior</del>	13
14	<del>to the start of the Convention to be included in the Con-</del>	14
15	<del>vention agenda.</del>	15
16		16
17	(u) Review resolutions submitted for consideration of the	17
18	Convention and make recommendations to the Conven-	18
19	tion regarding such resolutions. Any proposed resolution	19
20	must be submitted to the Supreme Lodge at least 30 days	20
21	prior to the start of the Convention to be considered by	21
22	the Convention.	22
23		23
24	(v) Examine and pass upon the credentials of the Del-	24
25	egates to the Convention.	25
26		26
27	(w) Review the financial standing of the Society	27
28	annually and ensure that a financial report is prepared and	28
29	presented to the Convention.	29
30		30
31	(x) Present report at district meetings.	31
32		32
33	(y) Participate in lodge and district events to inform the	33
34	membership on matters pertaining to SPJST.	34
35		35
36	<b>Section 39. Supreme Lodge Chair.</b> The Supreme Lodge shall	36
37	elect a chair and vice chair for <b>one two-year term from among</b>	37
38	<b>its seven elected district directors. Multiple terms as chair or</b>	38
39	<b>vice chair are permissible; however, they may not be succes-</b>	39
40	<b>sive.</b> The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Supreme	40
41	Lodge and perform such other duties as may be designated by	41
42	the Supreme Lodge. The vice chair will preside in the absence	42
43	of the chair.	43
44	<del><b>Section 32. Supreme Lodge Chair.</b> The Supreme Lodge shall</del>	44
45	<del>elect a chair and vice chair for a term of one year from among</del>	45
46	<del>its seven elected district directors. The chair shall preside at</del>	46
47	<del>all meetings of the Supreme Lodge and perform such other</del>	47
48	<del>duties as may be designated by the Supreme Lodge. The vice</del>	48
49	<del>chair will preside in the absence of the chair.</del>	49
50		50
51	<b>Section 40. Regular Meetings.</b> The Supreme Lodge shall	51
52	meet quarterly during the third week or weekend in January,	52
53	April, July, and October. In case of necessity, the President has	53
54	the right to change the date of the meeting. Meetings are open	54
55	to SPJST members except during executive sessions concern-	55
56	ing personnel, disciplinary matters, litigation, or threatened lit-	56
57	igation.	57
58		58
59		59

*Reason:  
Supreme Lodge  
leadership rotation will  
encourage new leader-  
ship and engagement.*



1	<b>Section 41. <u>Special Meetings.</u></b> Special meetings of the Su-	1
2	preme Lodge may be called by the President, in case of ne-	2
3	cessity. In the event that two-thirds of the Supreme Lodge	3
4	members determine a necessity for a special meeting, and the	4
5	President refuses to call such a meeting, the two-thirds	5
6	members may, by written notice, call all Supreme Lodge	6
7	members to such a special meeting and hold the meeting. Two-	7
8	thirds of the Supreme Lodge <b>voting</b> members will constitute	8
9	a quorum at special meetings.	9
10		10
11	<b>Section 42. <u>Location.</u></b> Meetings of the Supreme Lodge shall	11
12	be held at the Home Office, unless the President or the Su-	12
13	preme Lodge designates an alternative location.	13
14		14
15	<b>Section 43. <u>Quorum and Voting.</u></b> Two-thirds of the Supreme	15
16	Lodge members shall constitute a quorum. The act of a ma-	16
17	jority of the members present at a meeting at which quorum	17
18	is present shall be the act of the Supreme Lodge, unless the	18
19	act of a greater number is required by the Charter of Incorpo-	19
20	ration, by-laws, or applicable law.	20
21		21
22	<b>Section 44. <u>Electronic Communication.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge	22
23	and any committee or sub-committee of the Supreme Lodge,	23
24	or any other meeting of SPJST at which written minutes are	24
25	kept, except the Convention, may meet by telephone confer-	25
26	ence, <b>online</b> , or other means of communication that allows all	26
27	participants to simultaneously communicate with each other.	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 45. <u>Action Without Meeting.</u></b> Any action required or	29
30	permitted to be taken by the Supreme Lodge or any committee	30
31	or sub-committee of the Supreme Lodge may be taken without	31
32	a meeting by written consent of all of its members then in serv-	32
33	ice. A written consent under this provision shall have the same	33
34	force and effect as a vote taken at a meeting.	34
35		35
36	<b>Section 46. <u>Minutes.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge will designate a	36
37	Home Office staff member to record minutes of all trans-	37
38	actions at all open Supreme Lodge meetings and special meet-	38
39	ings. The Chief Financial Officer ( <del>Secretary-Treasurer</del> ) will	39
40	maintain minutes and exhibits of the Supreme Lodge meetings	40
41	and Investment Committee meetings. Written consent may be	41
42	given electronically.	42
43		43
44	(a) The minutes will be printed in the <i>Věstník</i> within 30	44
45	days after each regular or special Supreme Lodge meeting.	45
46		46
47	(b) The minutes will include each item voted on at the	47
48	meeting with a record of how each Supreme Lodge	48
49	member voted on each issue. Matters concerning person-	49
50	nel, disciplinary matters, litigation, threatened litigation,	50
51	and marketing plans will not be included.	51
52		52
53		53
54		54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

1	<b>Section 47. <u>Committee Establishment.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge	1
2	may appoint <b>committees</b> to have such authority as the Su-	2
3	preme Lodge may delegate. Each committee shall consist of	3
4	three or more Supreme Lodge members. Additional committee	4
5	members may be appointed by the Supreme Lodge. A majority	5
6	of the members of each committee shall constitute a quorum	6
7	for the transaction of all committee business.	7
8	<del><b>Section 40. <u>Committee Establishment.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge</del>	8
9	<del>may appoint an audit committee and other committees of the</del>	9
10	<del>Supreme Lodge to have such authority as the Supreme Lodge</del>	10
11	<del>may delegate. Each committee shall consist of three or more</del>	11
12	<del>Supreme Lodge members. Additional committee members</del>	12
13	<del>may be appointed by the Supreme Lodge. A majority of the</del>	13
14	<del>members of each committee shall constitute a quorum for the</del>	14
15	<del>transaction of all committee business.</del>	15
16		16
17	<b>Section 48. <u>Audit Committee.</u></b> The Audit Committee shall be	17
18	responsible for the oversight of the auditors of the Society, the	18
19	audit of financial statements of the Society, review of invest-	19
20	ment transactions and performance of the investment portfolio,	20
21	operational procedures, and such other responsibilities des-	21
22	ignated to it from time to time.	22
23		23
24	<b>Section 49. <u>Communications Committee.</u></b> The Communica-	24
25	tions Committee shall be responsible for determining what	25
26	material proposed to be included in the <i>Věstník</i> may be harm-	26
27	ful to and against the best interests of SPJST.	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 50. <u>Governance Committee.</u></b> The Governance Com-	29
30	mittee will review submitted recommendations for changes to	30
31	the by-laws. The Governance Committee secretary shall for-	31
32	ward all signed by-law recommendations to the <i>Věstník</i> for	32
33	publication. The Governance Committee will consider, ar-	33
34	range, and recommend motions for amending by-laws of the	34
35	succeeding Convention; eliminate conflicts in the by-laws;	35
36	codify and rearrange the by-laws; and deliberate and decide	36
37	on all recommendations for amending the by-laws and, if nec-	37
38	essary, prepare and present its own recommendations for	38
39	changes to any articles. The Governance Committee will sub-	39
40	mit recommendations to the <i>Věstník</i> enabling publishing 30	40
41	days prior to the Convention. Immediately following the Con-	41
42	vention, the Governance Committee will arrange and compile	42
43	the newly-adopted by-laws with all changes and amendments.	43
44		44
45	(-) Working with the Vice President of Communications,	45
46	the Governance Committee will eliminate duplications,	46
47	remove conflicting articles, and recodify all by-laws, in	47
48	compliance with the Texas Department of Insurance. A	48
49	neat, readable proof copy with a complete index will be	49
50	forwarded to each member of the Committee for approval	50
51	and one copy to each Supreme Lodge member for com-	51
52	ments. Such comments shall be forwarded to the Com-	52
53	mittee within 10 days after receipt thereof and prior to	53
54	final approval by the Committee. The Supreme Lodge	54
55	will determine if copies will be printed or available digi-	55
56	tally and will provide copies to lodges and members, upon	56
57	request. A sealed package containing all of the Commit-	57
58	tee's records from the Convention will be forwarded to	58
59	the Supreme Lodge President. The sealed package may	59

1	be opened in case of necessity only in the presence of the	1
2	Supreme Lodge. The Home Office will provide assistance	2
3	as needed to accomplish this duty.	3
4		4
5	<b>Section 51. Vacancy.</b> In the event of a vacancy by the Vice	5
6	President of Sales and Marketing, Vice President of Com-	6
7	munications, Chief Financial Officer, or Controller, such va-	7
8	cancy will be filled by appointment by the President with	8
9	ratification by the Supreme Lodge.	9
10	<del><b>Section 41. Vacancy.</b> In the event of a vacancy by the Pres-</del>	10
11	<del>ident, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-</del>	11
12	<del>Treasurer), or Controller, such vacancy will be filled by</del>	12
13	<del>appointment by the Supreme Lodge.</del>	13
14		14
15	(a) In the event of a vacancy by the President, such va-	15
16	cancy will be filled by the Supreme Lodge.	16
17	(a) The office of President shall be temporarily filled by	17
18	the Vice President until a new President is appointed by	18
19	the Supreme Lodge.	19
20		20
21	(b) In the event of a vacancy by the <i>Věstník</i> Editor/Direc-	21
22	tor of Communication, such vacancy will be filled by ap-	22
23	pointment by the Supreme Lodge after consultation with	23
24	the Publication Committee.	24
25		25
26	(b) In the event of a vacancy by a district director, the po-	26
27	sition shall be filled by his/her <b>alternate</b> .	27
28		28
29	(d) In the event of a vacancy by a substitute director who	29
30	succeeded the director, the district president shall call a	30
31	meeting of the delegates of the previous regular Conven-	31
32	tion to a place centrally located for the purpose of electing	32
33	a new director and his/her substitute for the term to the	33
34	next Convention. This election shall be carried out within	34
35	30 days. The results of the election shall be announced to	35
36	the Supreme Lodge without delay.	36
37		37
38	<b>Section 52. Removal of Supreme Lodge President and Dis-</b>	38
39	<b>trict Directors.</b> A Supreme Lodge President or District Director	39
40	may be removed from the Supreme Lodge “for cause” by a	40
41	two-thirds affirmative vote of a majority of members of the	41
42	Supreme Lodge at a meeting called for that purpose. Ap-	42
43	pointed officers and the Supreme Lodge member whose status	43
44	is at issue shall not be entitled to vote in the matter. “For	44
45	cause,” for purposes of this section, shall include:	45
46	<del><b>Section 42. Removal of Supreme Lodge Members.</b> A Su-</del>	46
47	<del>preme Lodge member may be removed from the Supreme</del>	47
48	<del>Lodge “for cause” by a two-thirds affirmative vote of a ma-</del>	48
49	<del>jority of all members of the Supreme Lodge excluding the Su-</del>	49
50	<del>preme Lodge member whose status is at issue at a meeting</del>	50
51	<del>called for that purpose. “For cause,” for purposes of this sec-</del>	51
52	<del>tion, shall include:</del>	52
53		53
54	(a) Inability or failure to perform the duties and respon-	54
55	sibilities of a Supreme Lodge member;	55
56		56
57	(b) Engaging in conduct unbecoming of a Supreme	57
58	Lodge member;	58
59		59

1	(c) Absence from two Supreme Lodge meetings during	1
2	the course of a calendar year, without good cause;	2
3		3
4	(d) Breaching a fiduciary duty owed to SPJST, its	4
5	members, or beneficiaries;	5
6		6
7	(e) Materially violating these by-laws, the Charter of In-	7
8	corporation, or any code of ethics or conflict of interest	8
9	policy adopted by SPJST; or	9
10		10
11	(f) Ceasing to be a member of SPJST.	11
12		12
13	A determination of cause shall be made within the reasonable	13
14	discretion of the Supreme Lodge. All Supreme Lodge	14
15	members, upon termination of their tenures, must deliver to	15
16	their successors all property belonging to SPJST.	16
17		17
18		18
19	<b>ARTICLE X</b>	19
20	<b>SUPREME LODGE OFFICERS</b>	20
21		21
22	<b>Section 53. Officer Requirements.</b> To be a Supreme Lodge	22
23	officer, an individual must meet the following requirements:	23
24		24
25	(a) Be a member of SPJST for at least one year preceding	25
26	the appointment. Individuals who do not meet this one-	26
27	year requirement may be hired; however, they shall not	27
28	serve as a Supreme Lodge officer until they have been a	28
29	member for one year.	29
30	<del>(a) Be a member of SPJST for at least one year preceding</del>	30
31	<del>the election or appointment.</del>	31
32		32
33	(b) Be a citizen of the United States of America.	33
34		34
35	(c) Must have at least \$50,000 of SPJST life insurance or	35
36	if uninsurable, then an SPJST annuity in at least the	36
37	amount of \$20,000.	37
38		38
39	(d) Appreciate and promote the Czech language and cul-	39
40	ture and fluently speak the English language.	40
41		41
42	(e) Any other requirements that the Supreme Lodge may	42
43	prescribe that take into consideration the nature of the po-	43
44	sition and magnitude of the business and affairs of SPJST.	44
45	<del>(e) Any other requirements that the Supreme Lodge may</del>	45
46	<del>prescribe that take into consideration and magnitude of</del>	46
47	<del>the business and affairs of SPJST.</del>	47
48		48
49	<b>Section 44. Term.</b> The term of office for Supreme Lodge	49
50	President, Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer (Secre-	50
51	tary-Treasurer) and Supreme Lodge officers elected at the	51
52	32nd Convention is from July 1 of the Convention year to June	52
53	30 of the following Convention year.	53
54		54
55	(f) No officer can hold more than one office at a time,	55
56	and no officer can receive more than one compensation at	56
57	one time.	57
58		58
59		59

1	(g) No Supreme Lodge officer or his/her spouse can receive commissions for services as a sales agent.	1
2		2
3		3
4	(h) No Supreme Lodge officer may hold any position in the districts or lodges.	4
5		5
6		6
7	<b>Section 54. General Duties.</b>	7
8		8
9	(a) Coordinate and conduct workshops for the training of local lodge officers in the first quarter of each year.	9
10		10
11		11
12	(b) Submit a quarterly report of all services performed to the Supreme Lodge members prior to each Supreme Lodge meeting.	12
13		13
14		14
15		15
16	(c) Submit reports regularly to the <i>Věstník</i> .	16
17		17
18	<b>Section 55. President.</b> The President shall be appointed by the Supreme Lodge. The President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Society, shall have general supervision and direction of the day-to-day business and affairs of the Society, and shall perform all duties incumbent to the position and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Supreme Lodge from time to time. The President is the official head of SPJST and oversees all departments. The President is an ex officio member of all appointed committees within the Supreme Lodge. Subject to such rules and policies as may be prescribed by the Supreme Lodge, the President shall have authority to appoint and terminate such other officers, agents, and employees and to delegate authority to them.	18
19		19
20		20
21		21
22		22
23		23
24		24
25		25
26		26
27		27
28		28
29		29
30		30
31	<del>Section 46. President.</del> The President is the official head of SPJST and oversees all departments. The President is an ex officio member of all appointed committees within the Supreme Lodge. In addition to the Supreme Lodge officer requirements, the President must also have experience and knowledge in the fraternal life insurance field; demonstrated leadership capacity in the fraternal activities field; management skills; and the ability to communicate clearly and persuasively with others. Other requirements include:	31
32		32
33		33
34		34
35		35
36		36
37		37
38		38
39		39
40		40
41	(a) Bachelor's degree in marketing, communications, or business or equivalent work experience.	41
42		42
43		43
44	(b) Management and marketing experience.	44
45		45
46	<b>Section 56. Reasonable Compensation.</b> Reasonable compensation of the President shall be determined by the district directors. Reasonable compensation of all Supreme Lodge officers other than the President shall be recommended by the President and approved by the district directors. In its determination of reasonable compensation, the district directors or a committee delegated authority for officer compensation shall take into account, among others, the services rendered by the officer, the performance of the officer, the performance of the Society, market and industry standards, and compensation paid to officers of similarly situated fraternal benefit societies.	46
47		47
48		48
49		49
50		50
51		51
52		52
53		53
54		54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

1	<b><u>Section 47. Vice President of Sales and Marketing.</u></b> The Su-	1
2	preme Lodge Vice President shall assist the President in ac-	2
3	tivities promoting SPJST. In addition to the Supreme Lodge	3
4	officer requirements, the Vice President must also have ex-	4
5	perience and knowledge in the fraternal life insurance field;	5
6	demonstrated leadership capacity in the life insurance field;	6
7	marketing and management skills; and the ability to communi-	7
8	cate clearly and persuasively with others. Other requirements	8
9	include:	9
10		10
11	(a) Bachelor's degree in marketing, communica-	11
12	tions, or business or equivalent work experience.	12
13		13
14	(b) At least 5 years of life insurance experience.	14
15		15
16	(c) Management and marketing experience.	16
17		17
18	(d) Annuity certification.	18
19		19
20	<b><u>Section 47. Vice President.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge Vice Pres-	20
21	ident shall assist the President in activities promoting SPJST.	21
22	In addition to the Supreme Lodge officer requirements, the	22
23	Vice President must also have experience and knowledge in	23
24	the fraternal life insurance field; demonstrated leadership ca-	24
25	capacity in the life insurance field; marketing and management	25
26	skills; and the ability to communicate clearly and persuasively	26
27	with others. Other requirements include:	27
28		28
29	(a) Bachelor's degree in marketing, communica-	29
30	tions, or business or equivalent work experience.	30
31		31
32	(b) 5 to 10 years of life insurance experience.	32
33		33
34	(c) Management and marketing experience.	34
35		35
36	(d) Annuity certification.	36
37		37
38	<b><u>Section 48. Chief Financial Officer.</u></b> In addition to the Su-	38
39	preme Lodge officer requirements, the Chief Financial Officer	39
40	must have experience in corporate management and admin-	40
41	istration/accounting and knowledge in the mortgage lending	41
42	and loan origination field, investment management, property	42
43	management, and claims and annuity administration. Other re-	43
44	quirements include:	44
45		45
46	(a) Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, or	46
47	business or equivalent work experience.	47
48		48
49	(b) At least 5 years of progressively responsible	49
50	experience in the investment field.	50
51		51
52	<b><u>Section 48. Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer).</u></b> In	52
53	addition to the Supreme Lodge officer requirements, the Chief	53
54	Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer) must have experience	54
55	in corporate management and administration/accounting and	55
56	knowledge in the mortgage lending and loan origination field,	56
57	investment management, and claims and annuity administra-	57
58	tion. Other requirements include:	58
59		59



1	<del>—(a) Bachelor’s degree in finance, accounting, or</del>	1
2	<del>--business or equivalent work experience.</del>	2
3		3
4	<del>—(b) 5 to 10 years of progressively responsible</del>	4
5	<del>—experience in the investment field.</del>	5
6		6
7	<b>Section 49. Controller.</b> In addition to the Supreme Lodge of-	7
8	ficer requirements, the Controller must have experience and	8
9	knowledge in the accounting and information technology	9
10	fields. Other requirements include:	10
11		11
12	(a) Bachelor’s degree in finance, accounting, or	12
13	business or equivalent work experience.	13
14		14
15	(b) At least 5 years of progressively responsible	15
16	management experience in the accounting field.	16
17		17
18	<b>Section 49. Controller.</b> In addition to the Supreme Lodge of-	18
19	ficer requirements, the Controller must have experience and	19
20	knowledge in the accounting and information technology	20
21	fields. Other requirements include:	21
22		22
23	<del>—(a) Bachelor’s degree in finance, accounting, or</del>	23
24	<del>--business or equivalent work experience.</del>	24
25		25
26	<del>—(b) 5 to 10 years of progressively responsible</del>	26
27	<del>--management experience in the accounting field.</del>	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 50. Staff.</b> After consulting with the President, the	29
30	Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Vice President of Com-	30
31	munications, Chief Financial Officer, and Controller have the	31
32	authority to hire employees working directly under the respec-	32
33	tive officer.	33
34	<b>Section 50. Staff.</b> After consulting with the President, the	34
35	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer),	35
36	and Controller have the authority to hire employees working	36
37	directly under the respective officer.	37
38		38
39		39
40	<b>ARTICLE XI</b>	40
41	<b>SPJST ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>	41
42		42
43	<b>Section 57.</b> Convention Delegates shall serve as members of	43
44	the SPJST Advisory Council between conventions. SPJST	44
45	Advisory Council members shall serve on a volunteer basis	45
46	and meet annually each spring with the Supreme Lodge with	46
47	the objective of keeping the SPJST Advisory Council	47
48	members engaged and responsive in matters relating to the	48
49	growth and development of SPJST.	49
50		50
51		51
52	<b>ARTICLE XII</b>	52
53	<b>SUPREME LODGE DISTRICT DIRECTORS</b>	53
54		54
55	<b>Section 58. District Director Qualifications.</b> These qualifica-	55
56	tions shall reflect the complexity and magnitude of the busi-	56
57	ness and affairs of SPJST and shall therefore include expertise	57
58	in corporate governance, financial accounting, and insurance,	58
59	among others.	59

*Reason:  
Broadens the opportunity for lodge leaders to learn about and to express their views on a range of SPJST management areas, including financial performance, insurance and fraternal programming, and communications.*

1	(a) District directors are accountable to members and	1
2	owe duties of loyalty and care to SPJST. District directors'	2
3	performance should be evaluated through SPJST's long-	3
4	term performance, financial and otherwise.	4
5		5
6	(b) District directors must have high integrity and the ap-	6
7	propriate competence to represent the interests of all	7
8	members in achieving the long-term success of SPJST.	8
9	Ideally, in order to facilitate engaged and informed over-	9
10	sight of SPJST and the performance of management, a	10
11	subset of district directors will have professional experi-	11
12	ences directly related to SPJST. At the same time, ho-	12
13	wever, it is important to recognize that some of the best	13
14	ideas, insights, and contributions can come from district	14
15	directors whose professional experiences are not directly	15
16	related to SPJST.	16
17		17
18	(c) District directors should be business savvy and	18
19	member-oriented, and have a genuine passion for SPJST.	19
20		20
21	(d) District directors should have complementary and di-	21
22	verse skill sets, backgrounds, and experiences.	22
23		23
24	(e) District directors need to commit substantial time and	24
25	energy to the role.	25
26		26
27	<b>Section 59. District Director Requirements.</b> These qualifica-	27
28	tions shall reflect the complexity and magnitude of the busi-	28
29	ness and affairs of SPJST and shall therefore include expertise	29
30	in corporate governance, financial accounting, and insurance,	30
31	among others. To be a Supreme Lodge district director, an in-	31
32	dividual must meet the following requirements:	32
33		33
34	(a) Be a citizen of the United States of America at the	34
35	time of election.	35
36		36
37	(b) Be an active member for at least one year prior to the	37
38	time of election.	38
39		39
40	(c) Have SPJST life insurance in force or, if uninsurable,	40
41	have an SPJST annuity.	41
42		42
43	(d) Meet the lodge attendance requirements for delegates.	43
44		44
45	(e) Appreciate and promote the Czech language and cul-	45
46	ture and fluently speak the English language.	46
47		47
48	(f) Attend the Convention or have an excuse for not	48
49	being present that is acceptable by two-thirds of the del-	49
50	egates.	50
51		51
52	(g) Be capable of assuming the responsibilities as out-	52
53	lined herein and as established by SPJST from time to	53
54	time.	54
55		55
56	(h) Reside within the <del>bounds of director's</del> respective dis-	56
57	trict.	57
58		58
59		59

1		1
2	(i) Candidates seeking election for one of the seven	2
3	elected district director positions must <del>indicate</del> state their	3
4	intention to seek election and submit information to the	4
5	<del>Věstník</del> regarding their qualifications for a district director	5
6	position in accordance with the procedures established by	6
7	the Supreme Lodge at least 120 days prior to the Conven-	7
8	tion. The Supreme Lodge shall help identify and encour-	8
9	age well qualified candidates from each District to seek	9
10	election as a district director and alternate district director.	10
11	The Supreme Lodge shall review candidate information	11
12	and may gather additional background information and	12
13	shall submit the slate of candidates and qualification in-	13
14	formation to the an ad-hoc Credentials Committee com-	14
15	prised of Convention delegates who shall review and	15
16	provide the slate of candidates and information regarding	16
17	qualifications to the district delegates at the Convention.	17
18		18
19	<b>Section 60. <u>Term.</u></b> The terms of the elected district directors	19
20	shall be for four years and commence upon the close of the	20
21	Convention during which they are elected and terminate upon	21
22	the close of the following Convention. No district director can	22
23	hold any position in the SPJST Home Office or district.	23
24	<b>Section 52. <u>Term.</u></b> The term for directors is from July 1 of the	24
25	Convention year to June 30 of the following Convention year.	25
26	No director can hold any position in the SPJST Home Office	26
27	or district.	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 61. <u>General Duties.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge district di-	29
30	rectors will:	30
31		31
32	(a) Oversee the management and progress of SPJST.	32
33		33
34	(b) Oversee the compliance of all by-laws and decisions	34
35	of the Conventions and Supreme Lodge.	35
36		36
37		37
38	<b>ARTICLE XIII</b>	38
39	<b>VĚSTNÍK – OFFICIAL PUBLICATION</b>	39
40	<b>EDITOR/DIRECTOR-</b>	40
41	<b>OF COMMUNICATION-</b>	41
42	<b>AND VĚSTNÍK – OFFICIAL PUBLICATION</b>	42
43		43
44	<b>Section 54. <u>Qualifications.</u></b> In addition to the Supreme Lodge	44
45	officer requirements, the Vice President of Communications	45
46	must have experience editing and composing a newspaper;	46
47	possess journalistic qualifications; have knowledge of the fra-	47
48	ternal benefit system and English and Czech languages; and	48
49	be well-versed in media law, especially as it relates to privacy	49
50	concerns and libel.	50
51	<b>Section 54. <u>Qualifications.</u></b> In addition to the Supreme Lodge	51
52	officer requirements, the Editor/Director of Communication	52
53	must have experience editing and composing a newspaper;	53
54	possess journalistic qualifications; have knowledge of the fra-	54
55	ternal benefit system and English and Czech languages; and	55
56	be well-versed in media law, especially as it relates to privacy	56
57	concerns and libel.	57
58		58
59		59

1	<b>Section 55. General Duties.</b> The Vice President of Com-	1
2	munications will:	2
3	<del><b>Section 55. General Duties.</b> The Editor/Director of Com-</del>	3
4	<del>munication will:</del>	4
5		5
6	(a) Manage all aspects of the <i>Věstník</i> .	6
7		7
8	(b) Manage all aspects of the SPJST internet	8
9	website and social media.	9
10	<del>(b) Manage all aspects of the SPJST internet</del>	10
11	<del>website.</del>	11
12		12
13	(c) Coordinate public relations in the community and ac-	13
14	ross the state to improve SPJST's public image as directed	14
15	by the Supreme Lodge President.	15
16		16
17	(d) Submit a quarterly report of all services performed to	17
18	the Supreme Lodge members prior to each Supreme	18
19	Lodge meeting.	19
20		20
21	<del><b>Section 56. Term.</b> The Editor/Director of Communication's</del>	21
22	<del>position will be elected by the delegates at the Convention.</del>	22
23	<del>The term of office is from July 1 of the Convention year to</del>	23
24	<del>June 30, following the Convention. The Editor/Director of</del>	24
25	<del>Communication may not hold any position in the district or</del>	25
26	<del>serve as an agent for any other life insurance company or any</del>	26
27	<del>similar fraternal order.</del>	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 57. Staff.</b> After consulting with the President, the	29
30	Vice President of Communications has the right to hire em-	30
31	ployees working directly under the Vice President of Com-	31
32	munications.	32
33	<del><b>Section 57. Staff.</b> After consulting with the President, the Ed-</del>	33
34	<del>itor/Director of Communication has the right to hire employ-</del>	34
35	<del>ees working directly under the Editor/Director of</del>	35
36	<del>Communication.</del>	36
37		37
38	<del><b>Section 58. Supreme Lodge Discussions.</b> The Editor/Direc-</del>	38
39	<del>tor of Communication will be included in any Supreme Lodge</del>	39
40	<del>discussions involving the <i>Věstník</i>/Communication Depart-</del>	40
41	<del>ment.</del>	41
42		42
43	<b>Section 59. Dismissal.</b> The Communications Committee has	43
44	the obligation to see that the Vice President of Communica-	44
45	tions does not print articles inimical to the best interests of	45
46	SPJST. The Vice President of Communications may be dis-	46
47	missed for any of the following offenses:	47
48	<del><b>Section 59. Dismissal.</b> The Publication Committee has the</del>	48
49	<del>obligation to see that the Editor/Director of Communication</del>	49
50	<del>does not print articles inimical to the best interests of SPJST</del>	50
51	<del>and that he/she otherwise fulfills his/her obligation. The Edi-</del>	51
52	<del>tor/Director of Communication may be dismissed after first</del>	52
53	<del>being recommended for dismissal by a majority of the Pub-</del>	53
54	<del>lication Committee. Following a thorough investigation, in-</del>	54
55	<del>cluding a hearing of such charges and 20 days advance notice</del>	55
56	<del>to the accused, the Supreme Lodge may discharge the</del>	56
57	<del>Editor/Director of Communication from office by a two-thirds</del>	57
58	<del>vote. The authority of dismissal rests with the Supreme Lodge</del>	58
59	<del>whose decision is by two-thirds vote. The Editor/Director of</del>	59

1	Communication may be dismissed for any of the following of	1
2	fenses:	2
3		3
4	(a) Incompetence, which means he/she does not manage	4
5	the Society's communications satisfactorily in a dignified	5
6	and professional manner.	6
7	<del>(a) Incompetence, which means he/she does not manage</del>	7
8	<del>the Věstník satisfactorily in a dignified and professional</del>	8
9	<del>manner.</del>	9
10		10
11	<del>(b) Willfully refusing cooperation with the Publication</del>	11
12	<del>Committee.</del>	12
13		13
14	(b) Using the Věstník for personal promotion.	14
15		15
16	(c) Promoting ideas harmful to SPJST.	16
17		17
18	<b>Section 62.</b> Official Publication Věstník. SPJST shall have	18
19	an official publication. The name of the official publication	19
20	shall be Věstník. The Věstník will be published twice monthly	20
21	and in color.	21
22		22
23	<b>Section 63.</b> Subscriptions. A Věstník shall be sent to SPJST	23
24	members as shown on the records of SPJST, except that if	24
25	SPJST records show that two or more members have the same	25
26	mailing address, an official publication mailed to one of them	26
27	is deemed mailed to all of them at the same address unless a	27
28	separate copy is requested. Names and addresses of members	28
29	requesting the Věstník must be furnished to the Home Office.	29
30	Schools, colleges, and universities offering and instructing the	30
31	Czech language for credit will receive the Věstník free of	31
32	charge upon request.	32
33		33
34	<del><b>Section 62.</b> Věstník Content.</del> The Věstník shall contain ma-	34
35	terial grouped in sections, including original editorial articles,	35
36	various reports, a youth section, and a Czech heritage/cultural	36
37	section. A portion of the printed material shall be in the Czech	37
38	language.	38
39		39
40	(a) Letters should be of purely fraternal spirit, without	40
41	political, religious, or anti-religious inclinations.	41
42		42
43	(b) Each Věstník shall include the contact information for	43
44	Supreme Lodge members and Convention committee	44
45	members.	45
46	<del>(b) Each Věstník shall include the contact information for</del>	46
47	<del>Supreme Lodge members, Editor/Director of Communi-</del>	47
48	<del>cation, and all standing committee members.</del>	48
49		49
50	(c) The Věstník shall have lessons and articles in the	50
51	Czech language.	51
52	<del>(e) The Věstník shall have lessons in the Czech language.</del>	52
53		53
54	(d) Any notice, report, or statement required by law, in-	54
55	cluding notice of election, may be published in the Věstník.	55
56		56
57	(e) During the month of May, names and addresses of	57
58	district and local lodge secretaries will be published in the	58
59	Věstník.	59

1	(f) At least 30 days prior to the convention, the <i>Věstník</i>	1
2	will include pre-convention reports of the Supreme Lodge	2
3	officers and district directors and Convention Committee	3
4	and a list of delegates' names and lodge numbers.	4
5	<del>(f) At least 30 days prior to the convention, the <i>Věstník</i></del>	5
6	<del>will include pre-convention reports of the Supreme Lodge</del>	6
7	<del>officers and directors and standing committees and a list</del>	7
8	<del>of delegates' names and lodge numbers.</del>	8
9		9
10	(g) Any suggestions for improving SPJST communica-	10
11	tions should be referred to the Vice President of Com-	11
12	munications.	12
13	<del>(g) Any suggestions for the improvement of the contents</del>	13
14	<del>of the <i>Věstník</i> should be referred to the Editor/Director of</del>	14
15	<del>Communication or to the chair of the Publication Com-</del>	15
16	<del>mittee, and the committee will then direct the Editor/Di-</del>	16
17	<del>rector of Communication to make the changes</del>	17
18	<del>accordingly.</del>	18
19		19
20	<b>Section 63. - <u>Objectionable Material.</u></b> The Communications	20
21	Committee will make decisions concerning objectionable con-	21
22	tributions in the following manner:	22
23		23
24	(1) If the Vice President of Communications considers	24
25	any matter questionable or harmful to SPJST, he/she shall	25
26	send a copy of the material in question to each member	26
27	of the Communications Committee, who shall respond by	27
28	return mail. The Committee may consult with legal coun-	28
29	sel.	29
30		30
31	(2) If the material is considered acceptable by the major-	31
32	ity of the members of the Committee, the Vice President	32
33	of Communications will publish the article in its entirety.	33
34		34
35	(3) No letter may be published in its censored form with-	35
36	out consent of the writer. Objectionable material will be	36
37	returned to the writer by the Vice President of Communi-	37
38	cations. If the Vice President of Communications fails to	38
39	submit material turned down by him/her, the writer may	39
40	submit the letter to the Supreme Lodge President and the	40
41	decision of the Supreme Lodge President will override the	41
42	opinion of the Vice President of Communications.	42
43	<b>Section 63. - <u>Objectionable Material.</u></b> The Publication Com-	43
44	mittee will make decisions concerning objectionable contrib-	44
45	utions in the following manner:	45
46		46
47	<del>(1) If the Editor/Director of Communication considers</del>	47
48	<del>any matter questionable or harmful to SPJST, he/she shall</del>	48
49	<del>mail a copy of the material in question to each member of</del>	49
50	<del>the Publication Committee, who shall respond by return</del>	50
51	<del>mail. The committee may consult with legal counsel.</del>	51
52		52
53	<del>(2) If the material is considered acceptable by four</del>	53
54	<del>members of the committee, the Editor/Director of Com-</del>	54
55	<del>munication will publish the article in its entirety.</del>	55
56		56
57	<del>(3) No letter may be published in its censored form with-</del>	57
58	<del>out consent of the writer. Objectionable material will be</del>	58
59	<del>returned to the writer by the Editor/Director of Communi-</del>	59



1	ection. If the Editor/Director of Communication fails to	1
2	submit material turned down by him/her, the writer may	2
3	submit the letter to the Publication Committee Chair and	3
4	the decision of the Publication Committee will override	4
5	the opinion of the Editor/Director of Communication.	5
6		6
7	(-) The Vice President of Communications will outline	7
8	and report to the Convention the format, editorial pol-	8
9	icies, and general usefulness of the <i>Věstník</i> . This report	9
10	will be published in the <i>Věstník</i> 30 days prior to the Con-	10
11	vention.	11
12	(1) Outline and report to the Convention the format, edi-	12
13	torial policies, and general usefulness of the <i>Věstník</i> ,	13
14	working in collaboration with the Editor/Director of Com-	14
15	munication. This report will be published in the <i>Věstník</i>	15
16	30 days prior to the Convention.	16
17		17
18		18
19	<b>ARTICLE XII</b>	19
20	<b>STANDING COMMITTEES:–</b>	20
21	<b>BY-LAW, FINANCE, INSURANCE,–</b>	21
22	<b>AND PUBLICATION</b>	22
23		23
24	<b>Section 64. –Composition.</b> Each standing committee shall be	24
25	comprised of seven members, one elected by each district. The	25
26	committee members elected at the Convention will function	26
27	through the succeeding Convention.	27
28		28
29	<b>Section 65. –Committee Officers.</b> Each standing committee	29
30	shall convene immediately following the Convention and elect	30
31	a committee chair, vice chair, and secretary from its member-	31
32	ship.	32
33		33
34	<b>Section 66. –Eligibility.</b> Supreme Lodge members, their	34
35	spouses, and SPJST Home Office employees are not eligible	35
36	for membership on any standing committee, but they are free	36
37	to attend the committee meetings, make suggestions and rec-	37
38	ommendations, and assist the committees in every way pos-	38
39	sible. The committee has the right to deliberate and hold	39
40	executive sessions during which the persons mentioned in this	40
41	section will not be present.	41
42		42
43	(a) Committee members must attend their respective dis-	43
44	trict spring meetings. If two meetings are missed during a	44
45	four-year period, the substitute will be appointed to com-	45
46	plete the remainder of the term.	46
47		47
48	(b) In the event that neither the elected member nor	48
49	his/her substitute can serve on the committee for which	49
50	such member has been elected, the district delegates from	50
51	the preceding Convention shall elect another member	51
52	from the district membership to serve. The election proce-	52
53	dure will be determined by the district officers. The district	53
54	president shall notify the secretary of such standing com-	54
55	mittee and the Supreme Lodge of the results of the elec-	55
56	tion without delay.	56
57		57
58		58
59		59

1	<b>Section 67. - Quorum and Voting.</b> A majority of each standing	1
2	committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of	2
3	standing committee. The committee shall act by a majority of	3
4	committee members present.	4
5		5
6	<b>Section 68. - Electronic Communication.</b> Any meeting of	6
7	SPJST at which written minutes are kept, except the Conven-	7
8	tion, may meet by telephone conference or other means of	8
9	communication that allows all participants to simultaneously	9
10	communicate with each other.	10
11		11
12	<b>Section 69. - Compensation.</b> Committee members will receive	12
13	compensation for attending meetings as adopted by the pre-	13
14	ceding Convention.	14
15		15
16	<b>Section 70. - By-Law Committee.</b>	16
17		17
18	(a) Purpose. The By-Law Committee's purpose is to:	18
19		19
20	(1) Consider, arrange, and recommend motions for	20
21	amending by-laws of the succeeding Convention.	21
22		22
23	(2) Eliminate conflicts in the by-laws.	23
24		24
25	(3) Codify and rearrange the by-laws.	25
26		26
27	(4) Deliberate and decide on all recommendations for	27
28	amending the by-laws and, if necessary, prepare and	28
29	present its own recommendations for changes, ad-	29
30	ditions, or deletions of any articles.	30
31		31
32	(5) Submit recommendations to the <i>Věstník</i> for pub-	32
33	lishing 30 days prior to the Convention.	33
34		34
35	(6) Arrange and compile the newly adopted by-laws	35
36	with all changes and amendments immediately fol-	36
37	lowing the Convention. The By-Law Committee will	37
38	eliminate duplications, remove conflicting articles,	38
39	and recodify all by-laws, in compliance with the	39
40	Texas Department of Insurance.	40
41		41
42	(7) Submit a neat, readable, finished product with a complete	42
43	index to the publisher within 90 days after the Convention.	43
44		44
45	(8) Print the by-laws. The printer must forward one	45
46	copy of the proof to each member of the committee	46
47	for approval and one copy to each Supreme Lodge	47
48	member for comments. Such comments shall be for-	48
49	warded to the By-Law Committee within 10 days	49
50	after receipt thereof and prior to final approval by the	50
51	committee. The Supreme Lodge determines the	51
52	number of copies to be printed and furnishes copies	52
53	to lodges and members, upon request.	53
54		54
55	(9) Forward a sealed package containing all of the	55
56	committee's records from the Convention to the Su-	56
57	preme Lodge President. The sealed package may be	57
58	opened in case of necessity only in the presence of the	58
59	Supreme Lodge.	59

1	(10) The Home Office will provide assistance as	1
2	needed to accomplish this purpose.	2
3		3
4	(b) Meetings. The By-Law Committee convenes not later	4
5	than January of the Convention year. In the event additional	5
6	recommendations are made in the Convention, and if the	6
7	committee deems it advisable for the purpose of considering	7
8	and deciding on such recommendations, the committee will	8
9	convene during the Convention and present its recommen-	9
10	dations.	10
11		11
12	(c) By-Law Recommendations.	12
13		13
14	(1) Recommendations for changes to the by-laws	14
15	must be signed and submitted to any member of the	15
16	By-Law Committee not later than 60 days prior to the	16
17	Convention. Recommendations must be submitted in	17
18	the English language.	18
19		19
20	(2) The By Law Committee secretary shall forward	20
21	all signed by-law recommendations to the <i>Věstník</i> for	21
22	publication.	22
23		23
24	(3) Rejected recommendations can be presented by	24
25	a delegate in the Convention during deliberation of	25
26	the respective article.	26
27		27
28	<b>Section 71. Finance Committee.</b>	28
29		29
30	(a) Purpose. The Finance Committee's purpose is to:	30
31	(1) Review the prior year financial statement.	31
32		32
33	(2) Review all compensation and financial benefits	33
34	of Supreme Lodge members and Editor/Director of	34
35	Communication. Any increase in compensation must	35
36	be approved by the delegates of the 2016 Convention.	36
37		37
38	(3) Recommend whether a bonus will be paid to Su-	38
39	preme Lodge members and Editor/Director of Com-	39
40	munication. The Finance Committee will recommend	40
41	a formula as how the bonus is to be paid. No bonus	41
42	shall be paid without the consent of the Finance Com-	42
43	mittee.	43
44		44
45	(4) Recommend to the Convention per diem of del-	45
46	egates and committees; salaries of elected officials;	46
47	donations; allocations; and expenditures. Requests	47
48	must be signed and submitted to any member of the	48
49	Finance Committee not later than 60 days prior to the	49
50	Convention. Requests not submitted 60 days prior to	50
51	the Convention cannot be brought up for discussion	51
52	on the Convention floor. The Finance Committee rec-	52
53	ommendations shall be published in the <i>Věstník</i> 30	53
54	days prior to the Convention.	54
55		55
56	(b) Meetings. The Finance Committee shall meet an-	56
57	nually. The committee will meet as necessary during the	57
58	year of the Convention, after January 1.	58
59		59

1	<b><u>Section 72. - Insurance Committee.</u></b>	1
2		2
3	(a) <del>Purpose. The purpose of the Insurance Committee is</del>	3
4	<del>to:</del>	4
5		5
6	(1) <del>Outline and report to the Convention the growth</del>	6
7	<del>and progress of the Insurance Department.</del>	7
8		8
9	(2) <del>Provide input to the Supreme Lodge Vice Pres-</del>	9
10	<del>ident on products and innovative ideas.</del>	10
11	(3) <del>Represent SPJST by promoting insurance pro-</del>	11
12	<del>grams and products.</del>	12
13		13
14	(4) <del>Participate in lodge and district events to inform</del>	14
15	<del>the membership on matters pertaining to the Insur-</del>	15
16	<del>ance Department.</del>	16
17		17
18	(b) <del>Meetings. The Insurance Committee will meet as re-</del>	18
19	<del>quested by the Supreme Lodge Vice President. One meet-</del>	19
20	<del>ing must be held at least six months prior to the</del>	20
21	<del>Convention to consider by-law recommendations.</del>	21
22		22
23	<b><u>Section 73. - Publication Committee.</u></b>	23
24		24
25	(a) <del>Purpose. The purpose of the Publication Committee is to:</del>	25
26		26
27	(1) <del>Outline and report to the Convention the format,</del>	27
28	<del>editorial policies, and general usefulness of the</del>	28
29	<del>Věstník. This report will be published in the Věstník</del>	29
30	<del>30 days prior to the Convention.</del>	30
31		31
32	(2) <del>Determine what material proposed to be included</del>	32
33	<del>in the Věstník may be harmful to and against the best</del>	33
34	<del>interests of SPJST.</del>	34
35		35
36	(b) <del>Meetings. The Publication Committee will meet an-</del>	36
37	<del>nually. Special meetings will be held in exceptional cases</del>	37
38	<del>when problems cannot be settled by correspondence.</del>	38
39		39
40		40
41	<b>ARTICLE XIV</b>	41
42	<b>DISTRICTS</b>	42
43		43
44	<b>Section 64. <u>Composition.</u></b> Districts are subordinate bodies	44
45	under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge. SPJST is divided	45
46	into seven districts across the state of Texas in which lodges	46
47	are located. The districts are composed of the following	47
48	counties:	48
49		49
50	(a) DISTRICT ONE: Austin, Bastrop (except Lodge 18),	50
51	Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Cherokee, Fayette, Grimes,	51
52	Houston, Lee, Leon, Madison, Panola, Robertson, Rusk,	52
53	Trinity, Walker, and Washington.	53
54		54
55	(b) DISTRICT TWO: Bell, Blanco, Burnet, Coryell, Falls,	55
56	Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Lampasas, Llano, McCulloch,	56
57	Mason, Menard, Milam, San Saba, Travis, Williamson,	57
58	Lodge 18, Elgin (located in Bastrop County), and Lodge	58
59	200, Bruceville-Eddy (located in McLennan County).	59

1	(c) DISTRICT THREE: Anderson, Bosque, Bowie,	1
2	Camp, Cass, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton,	2
3	Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Franklin, Freestone, Grayson, Gregg,	3
4	Hamilton, Harrison, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Hopkins,	4
5	Hunt, Jack, Johnson, Kaufman, Lamar, Limestone,	5
6	McLennan (except Lodge 200, Bruceville-Eddy), Marion,	6
7	Montague, Morris, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rains,	7
8	Red River, Rockwall, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Titus,	8
9	Upshur, Van Zandt, Wise, and Wood.	9
10		10
11	(d) DISTRICT FOUR: Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bai-	11
12	ley, Baylor, Borden, Brewster, Briscoe, Brown, Callahan,	12
13	Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Col-	13
14	lingsworth, Comanche, Concho, Cottle, Crane, Crockett,	14
15	Crosby, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens,	15
16	Donley, Eastland, Ector, El Paso, Fisher, Floyd, Foard,	16
17	Gains, Garza, Glasscock, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Har-	17
18	deman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard,	18
19	Hudspeth, Hutchinson, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kent, Kim-	19
20	ble, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Loving, Lubbock,	20
21	Lynn, Martin, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Moore, Motley,	21
22	Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Pecos, Presidio,	22
23	Randall, Reagan, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Schleicher,	23
24	Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Sterling, Stephens, Stone-	24
25	wall, Sutton, Swisher, Taylor, Terrell, Terry, Throckmorton,	25
26	Tom Green, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, Wheeler, Wichita,	26
27	Wilbarger, Winkler, Yoakum, and Young.	27
28		28
29	(e) DISTRICT FIVE: Angelina, Brazoria, Chambers,	29
30	Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Jefferson,	30
31	Liberty, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange,	31
32	Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Tyler,	32
33	and Waller.	33
34		34
35	(f) DISTRICT SIX: Aransas, Calhoun, Colorado, De-	35
36	Witt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Ref-	36
37	ugio, Victoria, and Wharton.	37
38		38
39	(g) DISTRICT SEVEN: Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar,	39
40	Brooks, Cameron, Comal, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, Frio,	40
41	Guadalupe, Hays, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes,	41
42	Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick,	42
43	McMullen, Medina, Nueces, Real, San Patricio, Starr,	43
44	Uvalde, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata, and Zavala.	44
45		45
46	<b>Section 65. District Meetings.</b> Districts have the right to as-	46
47	semble for consultation, information, and administration	47
48	within the limits of the by-laws of SPJST.	48
49		49
50	(a) Members of every district must hold an annual busi-	50
51	ness meeting each year, which may be combined with so-	51
52	cial and youth activities.	52
53	<del>(a) Members of every district must hold at least one busi-</del>	53
54	<del>ness meeting each year, which may be combined with so-</del>	54
55	<del>cial and youth activities.</del>	55
56		56
57	(b) Every district formulates its own rules and regulations	57
58	that must not conflict with the by-laws of SPJST. Any time	58
59	a district desires to adopt a new activity program, which	59

1	is not provided for in SPJST's by-laws, it will present its	1
2	proposal to the district director, who in turn, will present	2
3	it to the Supreme Lodge for approval.	3
4		4
5	(c) All deliberations and minutes must be conducted in	5
6	the English language.	6
7		7
8	<b>Section 66.</b> District Officers. The following district officers	8
9	shall be elected during the <del>during the first meeting of the year:</del>	9
10	<u>annual meeting</u> : president; first vice president (to serve as fra-	10
11	ternal activities coordinator for the district unless the district	11
12	elects a fraternal activities coordinator as a separate position);	12
13	second vice president (optional); secretary; treasurer; fraternal	13
14	activities coordinator (optional); reporter (optional); district	14
15	youth counselor; assistant youth counselor (where applicable);	15
16	and flag bearer.	16
17		17
18	<b>Section 77.</b> <u>Duties of District Officers.</u>	18
19		19
20	(a) <u>President.</u>	20
21	(1) Preside at all district meetings utilizing basic par-	21
22	liamentary procedure and conduct business according	22
23	to an agenda.	23
24	(2) See that all by-laws, rules, and regulations are ob-	24
25	served by the members assembled.	25
26	(3) Appoint the majority of all appointed committees.	26
27	(4) Sign all letters and other documents.	27
28	(5) Represent the district in public relations and offi-	28
29	cial SPJST functions.	29
30	(6) Work with other district officers to coordinate dis-	30
31	trict activities.	31
32	(7) Perform all duties and obligations as set out by	32
33	the rules and regulations of the district.	33
34		34
35	(b) <u>Vice President.</u>	35
36	(1) Assist the president in meetings.	36
37	(2) Appoint the minority of members on all ap-	37
38	pointed committees.	38
39	(3) Serve as the fraternal activities coordinator for the	39
40	district if a separate position is not elected.	40
41	(4) Perform all duties and obligations as set out by	41
42	the rules and regulations of the district.	42
43	(5) Assume the president's duties in the event of in-	43
44	capacity, absence, resignation, or death.	44
45		45
46	(c) <u>Secretary.</u>	46
47	(1) Maintain a record of attendance at all meetings.	47
48	(2) Prepare and direct district correspondence.	48
49	(3) Maintain correspondence with the Home Office	49
50	on district changes and other important information.	50
51	(4) Maintain accurate minutes of all deliberations in	51
52	the meetings as provided in the constitution and by-	52
53	laws.	53
54	(5) Forward a list of district officers to the Chief Fi-	54
55	nancial Officer ( <del>Secretary-Treasurer</del> ) within 30 days	55
56	after the district election.	56
57	(6) Receive all mail and reply thereto at the request	57
58	of the president of the district.	58
59		59



1	(d) <u>Treasurer.</u>	1
2	(1) Receive all money.	2
3	(2) Pay all bills of the district.	3
4	(3) Receive written report from all committees	4
5	within 48 hours showing receipt and handling of all	5
6	funds.	6
7	(4) Render to the membership periodic reports of all	7
8	district assets and resources, monetary, and other.	8
9	(5) Submit his/her books, including all checks and	9
10	statements, to the auditing committee at the district	10
11	meeting. The books must be audited at least once per	11
12	year.	12
13		13
14	(e) <u>Fraternal Activities Coordinator.</u>	14
15	(1) Suggest, plan, and coordinate all fraternal activ-	15
16	ities for the district.	16
17	(2) Work with committee members to accomplish	17
18	fraternal activities.	18
19	(3) Keep and maintain accurate records of district	19
20	fraternal services.	20
21	(4) Work with the district officers to set goals.	21
22	(5) Comply with requests from the Home Office for	22
23	fraternal services and other reports on district fraternal	23
24	activities.	24
25		25
26	(f) <u>Reporter.</u>	26
27	(1) Write interesting articles and district news for the	27
28	<i>Věstník</i> and local newspapers.	28
29	(2) Photograph and record district events for poster-	29
30	ity and news articles.	30
31	(3) Submit event photographs to the <i>Věstník</i> and	31
32	local newspapers.	32
33	(4) Coordinate publicity for the district.	33
34		34
35	(g) <u>District Youth Counselor.</u> (Complete duties are	35
36	defined in the current SPJST Youth Club Hand-	36
37	book.)	37
38		38
39	(1) Organize and conduct district camp.	39
40	(2) Initiate and conduct all youth programs at district	40
41	meetings.	41
42	(3) Plan and coordinate at least one district-wide so-	42
43	cial for all youth members in the district per year, pro-	43
44	vided funds are available.	44
45	(4) Conduct annual district youth leader training.	45
46	(5) Organize and conduct District Youth Achieve-	46
47	ment Day.	47
48	(6) Visit each youth club in his/her district at least	48
49	once during the year.	49
50	(7) Communicate with youth leaders in the district	50
51	on a regular basis (at least once per quarter). The DYC	51
52	will conduct an orientation with a new youth leader.	52
53	(8) Publicize district youth events, including YAD	53
54	and camp, in the <i>Věstník</i> and local media outlets	54
55	(newspaper, radio, television, community bulletins,	55
56	internet), when possible.	56
57	(9) Submit an annual report to the State Fraternal Di-	57
58	rector and Supreme Lodge President no later than 30	58
59	days following the district's annual spring meeting.	59

1	(10) Submit quarterly reports, including youth club	1
2	contacts and district youth fund activity, to the State	2
3	Fraternal Director.	3
4		4
5	<b>Section 78. District Planning Meetings.</b> The district director	5
6	may attend meetings of the district officers in an advisory or	6
7	planning capacity but does not have a vote.	7
8		8
9	<b>Section 79. District Officer Resignation.</b> In the event of the	9
10	resignation of the president between district meetings, the first	10
11	vice president will automatically assume that office. Any other	11
12	positions vacated between district meetings shall be filled by	12
13	a person designated by a majority of the other district officers	13
14	who will then seek ratification of their appointment at the next	14
15	district meeting.	15
16		16
17	<b>Section 80. District Annual Allocation.</b> Each district will re-	17
18	ceive an allocation of \$4,000 per year from the Supreme	18
19	Lodge to be placed in the district's General Expense Fund.	19
20	This sum is to be used by the district to pay the lodge hosting	20
21	the district meeting \$1,000 per meeting with the balance being	21
22	used to defray the expenses of the district and to promote	22
23	growth for SPJST.	23
24		24
25	<b>Section 67. District Audit Committee.</b> The district must elect	25
26	or appoint an audit committee, consisting of three or more	26
27	members. If appointed, the president appoints the majority of	27
28	the committee, and the vice president appoints the minority.	28
29	This is to be done in the annual meeting. The duties of the	29
30	audit committee are to audit at least once a year the income	30
31	and expense of the operation of the district and the district	31
32	youth. This information will be reported to the district.	32
33		33
34	<b>Section 68. District Meeting Order of Business.</b>	34
35	(a) Convening of the meeting	35
36	(b) Pledge of Allegiance	36
37	(c) Welcome by host lodge president	37
38	(d) Roll call of officers	38
39	(e) Roll call of lodges	39
40	(f) Recognition of guests	40
41	(g) Reading of minutes	41
42	(h) Tribute to departed members	42
43	(i) Reading of 50- and 75-year and Age 96 members	43
44	(j) Treasurer's report	44
45	(k) District Youth Counselor's report	45
46	(l) Convention Committee report	46
47	(m) Supreme Lodge report	47
48	(n) District Director's report	48
49	(o) Old business	49
50	(p) New business	50
51	(q) Audit committee report	51
52	(r) Election of district officers	52
53	(s) Selection of site, time, and date of spring meeting	53
54	(t) Adjournment of the meeting	54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59

1	<b><u>Section 68. District Meeting Order of Business.</u></b>	1
2	(a) <del>Convening of the meeting</del>	2
3	(b) <del>Pledge of Allegiance</del>	3
4	(c) <del>Welcome by host lodge president</del>	4
5	(d) <del>Roll call of officers</del>	5
6	(e) <del>Roll call of lodges</del>	6
7	(f) <del>Recognition of guests</del>	7
8	(g) <del>Reading of minutes</del>	8
9	(h) <del>Tribute to departed members</del>	9
10	(i) <del>Reading of 50- and 75-year and Age 96 members</del>	10
11	(j) <del>Treasurer's report</del>	11
12	(k) <del>District Youth Counselor's report</del>	12
13	(l) <del>Reports of standing committee representatives (By-</del>	13
14	<del>Law, Finance, Insurance, and Publication)-</del>	14
15	(m) <del>Supreme Lodge report</del>	15
16	(n) <del>Director's report</del>	16
17	(o) <del>Old business</del>	17
18	(p) <del>New business</del>	18
19	(q) <del>Audit committee report</del>	19
20	(r) <del>Election of district officers</del>	20
21	(s) <del>Selection of site, time, and date of fall fun day/spring</del>	21
22	<del>meetings</del>	22
23	(t) <del>Adjournment of the meeting</del>	23
24		24
25		25
26	<b>ARTICLE XV</b>	26
27	<b>LOCAL LODGES</b>	27
28		28
29	<b><u>Section 69. Charter.</u></b> Lodges and youth clubs are subordinate	29
30	bodies under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge. Individual	30
31	local lodges must receive their charters from the Supreme	31
32	Lodge. Lodges are largely self-governing organizations but	32
33	shall comply with these by-laws, the current edition of "Rob-	33
34	ert's Rules of Order," Local Lodge Officers' Handbook, and	34
35	all other requirements adopted by the Supreme Lodge. A local	35
36	lodge may, upon adoption of a proper resolution by its mem-	36
37	bership, incorporate for fraternal, benevolent, and charitable	37
38	purposes and make contracts, purchases, mortgages, lease and	38
39	hold real and personal property necessary to carry out its pur-	39
40	poses under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act.	40
41		41
42	<b><u>Section 70. Rules and Regulations.</u></b> Lodges shall have the	42
43	right to make and adopt rules and regulations in conformity	43
44	with the Charter of Incorporation and by-laws of SPJST and	44
45	not in conflict with any regulations or requirements of the Su-	45
46	preme Lodge. Such laws, alterations, or amendments are to	46
47	take effect only upon the written consent of the Supreme	47
48	Lodge. Every lodge is authorized, at its will, to grant sick	48
49	benefits as often as it sees fit to do in accordance with its own	49
50	rules and regulations.	50
51		51
52	<b><u>Section 71. Charter Withdrawal.</u></b> The Supreme Lodge may	52
53	withdraw the charter of any lodge in the event the Supreme	53
54	Lodge determines that withdrawal is in the best interest of	54
55	SPJST. The Supreme Lodge shall provide for the disposition	55
56	of property of lodges that have been suspended or dissolved	56
57	in a manner consistent with the purposes of lodges.	57
58		58
59		59

1	<b>Section 72. New Lodges.</b> A newly established lodge is free	1
2	to adopt any name with Supreme Lodge approval. Prior to	2
3	granting permission to designate a proposed lodge in an area,	3
4	the Supreme Lodge shall review and consider the potential	4
5	need for the area, and the proximity of existing lodges.	5
6		6
7	(a) The application for permission to organize a new	7
8	lodge must be forwarded to the Supreme Lodge on an ap-	8
9	propriate form listing the names of not less than 20 re-	9
10	spectable persons who were not members of SPJST at the	10
11	time of application but who have applied for insurance	11
12	and have been accepted as members in anticipation of	12
13	forming a new lodge.	13
14		14
15	(b) The Supreme Lodge will then send a representative	15
16	to the new lodge for the purpose of organizing the lodge,	16
17	electing officers, and giving basic lodge organizational in-	17
18	struction and general information about SPJST.	18
19		19
20	(c) After a new lodge has sufficient members, other than	20
21	transfers and juveniles, it must, after one year of its organ-	21
22	ization, be formally chartered in accordance with the	22
23	wishes of the members and the Supreme Lodge ritual.	23
24		24
25	(d) If 20 members cannot be secured immediately, a pro-	25
26	posed lodge can be designated and members can be accu-	26
27	mulated over a period of up to 365 days into the proposed	27
28	lodge in process of being formed. The Supreme Lodge has	28
29	the authority to extend this period. If a lodge is not organ-	29
30	ized within the period authorized, the Supreme Lodge will	30
31	assign any members in the proposed lodge to another	31
32	lodge of the member's choice or to the nearest SPJST	32
33	lodge.	33
34		34
35	<b>Section 73. Mergers.</b> Two or more lodges wishing to merge	35
36	or consolidate may do so if notice is given to the membership	36
37	of both lodges in the <i>Věstník</i> at least twice before the meeting	37
38	at which consolidation is to be considered. Each member who	38
39	has attained the age of 16 years will be mailed a written notice	39
40	that a merger will be voted upon at such meeting. The merger	40
41	can become effective only if a majority of the members present	41
42	of each merging lodge vote in favor of the merger.	42
43		43
44	<b>Section 74. Lodge Meetings.</b> Local lodges must conduct	44
45	monthly meetings unless they have permission from the Su-	45
46	preme Lodge to meet every three months so as to remain in	46
47	good standing and have authority to elect delegates to the Con-	47
48	vention. Meetings are conducted on the day and hour specified	48
49	by the regulations of the local lodge.	49
50		50
51	(a) Presence of five members of a local lodge in good	51
52	standing constitutes a quorum for valid transaction of all	52
53	business of the local lodge, according to the by-laws and	53
54	rules.	54
55		55
56	(b) Discussions of political and religious matters of any	56
57	kind are not allowed in lodge meetings. The president of	57
58	the lodge is required to stop such discussions.	58
59		59

1	(c) Each member has the right to attend meetings of other	1
2	lodges; however, he/she does not have the right of deliberation, unless called upon by the president.	2
3		3
4		4
5	(d) Officers and committees are installed in the regular	5
6	meeting following the annual meeting or at a time deemed	6
7	most expedient to the lodge.	7
8		8
9	(e) All deliberations and minutes <del>may</del> <b>will</b> be conducted	9
10	in the English language.	10
11		11
12	<b>Section 75. Annual Meeting.</b> The annual meeting is to be	12
13	held in November or December, or the first meeting thereafter.	13
14	The election of nominated candidates is held during the annual	14
15	meeting at which time every member has the right to vote for	15
16	any other candidate on his/her ballot. Whenever a lodge deems	16
17	it necessary, with the consent of two-thirds of the members	17
18	present, it may nominate candidates for officers, delegates,	18
19	and committees in the meeting preceding the annual meeting.	19
20		20
21	<b>Section 76. Lodge Dues.</b> Every local lodge determines its	21
22	own local dues, if any, at annual meetings. Every lodge has	22
23	the right to levy special dues and assessments, if any, on its	23
24	members when the regular assessments and funds of the lodge	24
25	are not sufficient to cover the sick benefits and other purely	25
26	lodge purposes and requirements. These assessments also	26
27	apply to social members. Members who have their certificates	27
28	paid up in due course, according to the terms thereof and who	28
29	wish to remain active members, must pay the local lodge dues	29
30	and assessments, if any, as prescribed by the lodge to which	30
31	they belong, payable annually. Dues are to be paid to the treasurer before or at the end of the regular business meeting.	31
32		32
33		33
34	<b>Section 77. Suspension of Membership.</b> Members may be	34
35	suspended from local lodge membership but will not lose their	35
36	insurance benefit except for nonpayment of premiums or if it	36
37	occurs within the contestable period of the benefit contract	37
38	and is for material misrepresentation in the application for	38
39	membership or insurance.	39
40		40
41	<b>Section 78. Lodge Officers.</b> The following officers will be	41
42	elected: president, vice president (to serve as fraternal activities coordinator for the lodge unless the lodge elects a fraternal activities coordinator as a separate position), second vice president (optional), secretary, treasurer, fraternal activities coordinator (optional), reporter (optional), and youth leader (optional). Lodges will also elect or appoint a flag bearer (optional), assistant youth leader(s) (optional), and parliamentarian (optional).	42
43		43
44		44
45		45
46		46
47		47
48		48
49		49
50		50
51	(a) The offices of the local lodge president and secretary	51
52	cannot be combined, but each other office may be combined with other offices.	52
53		53
54		54
55	(b) Election of officers is by ballot whenever more than	55
56	one candidate is nominated for the same office. A majority	56
57	of votes decides. Officers are elected for one year or until	57
58	their successors are elected. All officers elected take office	58
59	on January 1, except lodges holding annual meetings in	59

1	January, in which case such officers take office immedi-	1
2	ately following election.	2
3		3
4	(c) All outgoing local lodge officers must turn over all	4
5	records, reference material, booklets, etc., and money to	5
6	their successor in good order at the end of their term.	6
7		7
8	<b>Section 79.</b> <u>Board of Trustees.</u> In case of necessity and if the	8
9	size and volume of business warrants it, a lodge may elect a	9
10	board of trustees. The board of trustees may consist of as many	10
11	members as the lodge deems expedient. The board of trustees	11
12	is responsible for all lodge property and gives a current ac-	12
13	count of that property to the members.	13
14		14
15	<b>Section 80.</b> <u>Candidate Eligibility.</u> In nominating a candidate	15
16	for local lodge office, only those members who attend the	16
17	lodge functions and meetings on a regular basis should be	17
18	elected. A lodge may require in its rules and regulations that a	18
19	member must have attended a majority of the meetings for the	19
20	year of the election in order to be elected as an officer. An ex-	20
21	ception to the attendance requirement exists where an office	21
22	has not been filled prior to the election. A member on suspen-	22
23	sion, for whatever reason, will not be elected to a position of	23
24	responsibility in the lodge. Any member of the local lodge who	24
25	desires to serve as a lodge officer who is an underwriter of any	25
26	insurance company or an agent (underwriter) of any other fra-	26
27	ternal life insurance society may be elected but must first dis-	27
28	close this information prior to the election.	28
29		29
30	<b>Section 81.</b> <u>Dissolution.</u> In the event of dissolution of a	30
31	lodge, after the payment of all legally binding debts, the re-	31
32	maining assets and funds of the lodge, if any, shall never inure	32
33	to the benefit of any member of the lodge and no funds or	33
34	property of the lodge shall be distributed among or revert to	34
35	any member. Nothing herein will prevent transferring such	35
36	funds or property to another duly chartered SPJST local lodge,	36
37	or from one duly chartered SPJST lodge merging with another	37
38	duly chartered SPJST lodge.	38
39		39
40	(a) No lodge can be dissolved as long as 20 members are	40
41	still in favor of its further existence.	41
42		42
43	(b) In case a lodge is dissolved, it is the duty of the last	43
44	officers to deliver all books and papers belonging to the	44
45	lodge to the Home Office.	45
46		46
47	<b>Section 82.</b> <u>Insurance.</u> All lodges are encouraged to secure	47
48	and maintain liability insurance in the minimum amount of	48
49	\$300,000 and workers' compensation insurance (if the lodge	49
50	has any employees) and have the carrier/insurer furnish proof	50
51	of such coverage to the Home Office. This also includes those	51
52	lodges that do not own their lodge facility.	52
53		53
54		54
55		55
56		56
57		57
58		58
59		59



1	<b>ARTICLE XVI</b>	1
2	<b>BENEFIT CERTIFICATES</b>	2
3		3
4	<b>Section 83. Contract.</b> The certificate of membership and in-	4
5	surance or annuity, together with any riders or endorsements	5
6	attached to it, the application, the declaration of insurability	6
7	(if any) signed by the applicant, the Charter of Incorporation,	7
8	by-laws of SPJST, and Operations Manual and all amend-	8
9	ments to them, constitute the entire contract when it is issued.	9
10	Any subsequent changes, additions or amendments to the	10
11	Charter of Incorporation or by-laws shall be binding upon the	11
12	applicant member, certificate owner, beneficiaries and other	12
13	persons affected, and shall govern and control in all respects,	13
14	except that no changes shall destroy or diminish benefits	14
15	promised in the certificate when it was issued. <del>If SPJST's re-</del>	15
16	<del>serves for any class of SPJST's benefit certificates becomes</del>	16
17	<del>impaired, the Supreme Lodge Board of Directors may require</del>	17
18	<del>the certificate holders to pay SPJST an equitable proportion</del>	18
19	<del>of the deficiency as determined by the Supreme Lodge Board</del>	19
20	<del>of Directors. The aggregate amount for the impaired reserves</del>	20
21	<del>may not exceed the total amount required to comply with sec-</del>	21
22	<del>tion 885.408 of the Texas Insurance Code.</del>	22
23		23
24	<b>Section 84. Terms.</b> Any person upon whose life a certificate	24
25	is issued prior to attaining the age of 16 years shall be bound	25
26	by the terms of the application and certificate and by all the	26
27	laws and rules of SPJST to the same extent as though the age	27
28	of 16 years had been attained at the time of application.	28
29		29
30	<b>Section 85. Beneficiaries.</b> Benefit certificates may be made	30
31	payable to such person or persons, entity, or interest as may	31
32	be permitted under the rules and regulations of SPJST and ap-	32
33	plicable <del>state</del> laws.	33
34		34
35	(a) <del>In the event a named beneficiary predeceases the in-</del>	35
36	<del>sured or is otherwise not legally entitled to receive the cer-</del>	36
37	<del>tificate proceeds, the certificate proceeds shall be paid per</del>	37
38	<del>stirpes to the family members of the insured in the follow-</del>	38
39	<del>ing succession, as applicable, (1) the surviving spouse; (2)</del>	39
40	<del>children; (3) grandchildren; (4) parents; (5) brothers and</del>	40
41	<del>sisters; (6) grandparents; and (7) estate of the deceased.</del>	41
42	(a) <del>In the event a named beneficiary predeceases the in-</del>	42
43	<del>sured or is otherwise not legally entitled to receive the cer-</del>	43
44	<del>tificate proceeds, the certificate proceeds shall be paid per</del>	44
45	<del>stirpes to the family members of the insured in the follow-</del>	45
46	<del>ing succession, as applicable, (1) the surviving spouse; (2)</del>	46
47	<del>children; (3) grandchildren; (4) parents; (5) brothers and</del>	47
48	<del>sisters; (6) grandparents; (7) other relatives in accordance</del>	48
49	<del>to the laws of descent and distribution of Texas. In the</del>	49
50	<del>event it is determined that the deceased insured has no liv-</del>	50
51	<del>ing relatives, after a reasonable search, the certificate pro-</del>	51
52	<del>ceeds shall be paid to the estate of the insured.</del>	52
53		53
54	(b) A beneficiary shall not have or acquire any claim	54
55	against SPJST whatsoever until the insured dies unless	55
56	otherwise provided by law.	56
57		57
58	(c) If a member moves from his/her last known address	58
59	and his/her absence cannot be accounted for, for a period	59

1	of seven years, his/her beneficiary will be paid the pro-	1
2	ceeds accruing under the certificate (Section 133.001,	2
3	Civic Practice and Remedies Code or its successor).	3
4		4
5	<b>Section 86. Reserves.</b> If SPJST's reserves for any class of	5
6	SPJST's benefit certificates becomes impaired, the Supreme	6
7	Lodge Board of Directors may require the certificate holders	7
8	to pay SPJST an equitable proportion of the deficiency as de-	8
9	termined by the Supreme Lodge Board of Directors. The ag-	9
10	gregate amount for the impaired reserves may not exceed the	10
11	total amount required to comply with section 885.408 of the	11
12	Texas Insurance Code. If such payment is not made, either:	12
13	<del><b>Section 86. Reserves.</b> If the reserves as to all or any class of</del>	13
14	<del>certificates become impaired, the Supreme Lodge may require</del>	14
15	<del>that there shall be paid by the owner to SPJST the amount of</del>	15
16	<del>the owner's equitable proportion of such deficiency as ascer-</del>	16
17	<del>tained by the Supreme Lodge. If such payment is not made,</del>	17
18	<del>either:-</del>	18
19		19
20	(a) it shall stand as indebtedness against the certificate	20
21	and draw interest not to exceed the rate specified for cer-	21
22	tificate loans; or	22
23		23
24	(b) in lieu of or in combination with, the owner may accept	24
25	a proportionate reduction in benefits under the certificate.	25
26		26
27	<b>Section 87. Certificate Loans.</b> The policies and procedures	27
28	for certificate loans shall be governed by the terms of the in-	28
29	surance certificate contract and laws of the State of Texas. Cer-	29
30	tificate loans are administered in accordance with policies and	30
31	procedures determined by the Supreme Lodge and fully in	31
32	compliance with the certificate contract.	32
33		33
34	<b>Section 88. Assignments.</b> No assignment of the certificate	34
35	shall be binding upon SPJST until the original or copy is filed	35
36	with SPJST at the Home Office and the Home Office shall	36
37	have made written acknowledgment thereof. SPJST assumes	37
38	no responsibility for the validity of any assignment and any	38
39	claim hereunder by an assignee shall always be inferior to	39
40	those of SPJST to secure any indebtedness against this certif-	40
41	icate, whether such indebtedness shall be created before or	41
42	after any assignment.	42
43		43
44	<b>Section 89. Change of Beneficiary.</b> Any member desiring to	44
45	change his/her beneficiary may do so.	45
46		46
47	(a) The request for change of beneficiary must be com-	47
48	pleted by the member on a form in use by SPJST. Change	48
49	of beneficiary forms must be filed with SPJST at the	49
50	Home Office. A person whose designation as a beneficiary	50
51	is revocable may not have or obtain a vested interest in	51
52	the proceeds before the certificate pays out.	52
53		53
54	(b) No beneficiary change shall take effect unless re-	54
55	ceived by the Home Office during the lifetime of the in-	55
56	sured. When it is received, any change shall take effect as	56
57	of the date the request for beneficiary change was signed,	57
58	as long as the request for change was mailed or actually	58
59	delivered to the Home Office while the insured was alive.	59

1	Such beneficiary change shall be null and void where	1
2	SPJST has made a good faith payment of the proceeds or	2
3	has taken other action before receiving the change.	3
4		4
5		5
6	<b>ARTICLE XVII</b>	6
7	<b>ANNUITY CERTIFICATES</b>	7
8		8
9	<b>Section 90.</b> <u>Eligibility Requirements.</u> SPJST members (life	9
10	insurance certificate holders) are eligible and may purchase	10
11	an annuity with a \$100 minimum contribution.	11
12		12
13	<b>Section 91.</b> <u>Exceptions.</u>	13
14		14
15	(a) Any individual under 70 years of age must apply for	15
16	an SPJST life insurance certificate, but if rated above stan-	16
17	dard, the individual may become a member with the pur-	17
18	chase of an annuity in an amount of \$1,000 minimum.	18
19		19
20	(b) Any individual under 70 years of age regardless of in-	20
21	surability may become a member with the purchase of an	21
22	annuity in an amount of \$5,000 minimum.	22
23		23
24	(c) Any individual over 70 years of age regardless of in-	24
25	surability may become a member with the purchase of an	25
26	annuity in an amount of \$1,000 minimum.	26
27		27
28		28
29	<b>ARTICLE XVIII</b>	29
30	<b>MORTGAGE LOANS</b>	30
31		31
32	<b>Section 92.</b> The Supreme Lodge sets policies and procedures	32
33	on Mortgage Loans.	33
34	The Supreme Lodge is fully authorized to set policy and	34
35	procedure in connection with members' applications for loans	35
36	on real estate. No one individual or corporation may have total	36
37	loans exceeding \$500,000. This limitation does not apply to	37
38	SPJST lodge buildings and 501(c)(3) organizations. No district	38
39	director shall be permitted to evaluate a mortgage loan if	39
40	he/she is related to the applicant either by blood, marriage, or	40
41	business connections, or if he/she has any direct or indirect in-	41
42	terest in the loan to be made.	42
43		43
44		44
45	<b>ARTICLE XIX</b>	45
46	<b>INDEMNIFICATION</b>	46
47	<b>Section 93.</b> Indemnification. To the extent permitted by law,	47
48	SPJST does hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless each	48
49	Supreme Lodge member <del>and Editor/Director of Communica-</del>	49
50	<del>tion</del> serving SPJST against liability for any claims or causes	50
51	of action which may be made against any of the above stated	51
52	individuals, of any kind or nature, for such acts or omissions	52
53	which would arise in the performance of their duties. SPJST	53
54	shall agree to pay any damages on behalf of any of the above	54
55	stated individuals for which they may be held liable. SPJST	55
56	shall agree to pay any and all expenses that may be incurred	56
57	by any of the above stated individuals, including, but not lim-	57
58	ited to payment of reasonable attorney fees for defense of any	58
59	claims or cause of action made whatsoever.	59

*Editor/Director of  
Communication title  
will be Vice President  
of Communications and  
be a non-voting  
member of the Supreme  
Lodge.*

1	<b>Section 94.</b> Insurance. SPJST shall maintain insurance on	1
2	each Supreme Lodge member <del>and Editor/Director of Com-</del>	2
3	<del>munication</del> against liability for acts or omissions in the per-	3
4	formance of their duties as determined by the Supreme Lodge.	4
5		5
6		6
7	<b>ARTICLE XX</b>	7
8	<b>FUNDS AND INVESTMENTS</b>	8
9		9
10	<b>Section 95.</b> There shall be established and maintained by	10
11	dues and assessments collected from members and from all	11
12	other income of the Society, a fund or funds for the payment	12
13	of death and other benefits and for the accumulation of re-	13
14	serves on certificates as provided by law and/or the benefit	14
15	certificates, and for the expense of management and extension	15
16	of the Society.	16
17		17
18	<b>Section 96.</b> The Supreme Lodge shall have supervision over	18
19	the operations of the funds of the Society which shall be in-	19
20	vested in accordance with the investment policies adopted by	20
21	the Supreme Lodge and all applicable laws.	21
22		22
23		23
24	<b>ARTICLE XXI</b>	24
25	<b>INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS</b>	25
26		26
27	<b>Section 97.</b> If any section of these by-laws should not be ex-	27
28	PLICIT, or in case of uncertainty or dispute as to its intent or	28
29	meaning, the Supreme Lodge shall have the power to decide	29
30	upon such situation; and its decision shall remain in force until	30
31	such decision or section is duly amended.	31
32		32
33		33
34	<b>ARTICLE XXII</b>	34
35	<b>RULES OF PROCEDURE</b>	35
36		36
37	<b>Section 98.</b> If the Charter of Incorporation or by-laws of	37
38	SPJST are silent as to any procedural aspect of any action or	38
39	meeting hereunder, the procedures of the <del>current</del> latest edition	39
40	of “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall control such procedure.	40
41		41
42		42
43	<b>ARTICLE XXIII</b>	43
44	<b>WAIVER</b>	44
45		45
46	<b>Section 99.</b> No subordinate body, nor any of its subordinate	46
47	officers or members, shall have the power or authority to	47
48	waive any of the provisions of the by-laws of the Society.	48
49	Such provisions shall be binding on the Society and every	49
50	member and beneficiary of a member.	50
51		51
52		52
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1	<b>ARTICLE XXIV</b>	1
2	<b>AMENDMENTS</b>	2
3		3
4	<b>Section 100.</b> <u>Repeal/Amend.</u> These by-laws may be repealed	4
5	or amended in whole or in part by a two-thirds majority vote	5
6	at any regular or special Convention.	6
7		7
8	<b>Section 101.</b> Between meetings of the Convention, the Su-	8
9	preme Lodge may by two-thirds vote of all Supreme Lodge	9
10	members, amend these by-laws in any way necessary to clarify	10
11	or give effect to Convention enactments, to remove or revise	11
12	contradictions or ambiguities, or to make these Bylaws con-	12
13	form to the laws of the State of Texas.	13
14		14
15	<b>Section 102.</b> <u>Effective Date.</u> Amendments to these by-laws	15
16	shall take effect upon their adoption, unless another time is	16
17	specified, and shall be submitted to Texas Department of In-	17
18	surance. All amendments to the Charter of Incorporation or	18
19	by-laws of SPJST or a synopsis thereof shall be published in	19
20	the <i>Věstník</i> within the time required by the laws of the State	20
21	of Texas. The Chief Financial Officer shall file with Texas De-	21
22	partment of Insurance a certified copy of each amendment not	22
23	later than the 90th day after the date of enactment of the	23
24	amendment. A printed copy of the by-laws, as amended, that	24
25	is certified by the Chief Financial Officer is prima facie ev-	25
26	idence that the by-laws were legally adopted.	26
27	<del><b>Section 109.</b> <u>Effective Date.</u> Amendments to these by-laws</del>	27
28	<del>shall take effect on July 1 following the Convention at which</del>	28
29	<del>they were adopted. All amendments to the Charter of Incor-</del>	29
30	<del>poration or by-laws of SPJST or a synopsis thereof shall be</del>	30
31	<del>published in the <i>Věstník</i> or mailed directly to members within</del>	31
32	<del>the time required by the laws of the State of Texas. The Chief</del>	32
33	<del>Financial Officer (Secretary-Treasurer) shall file with Texas</del>	33
34	<del>Department of Insurance a certified copy of each amendment</del>	34
35	<del>not later than the 90th day after the date of enactment of the</del>	35
36	<del>amendment. A printed copy of the by-laws, as amended, that</del>	36
37	<del>is certified by the Chief Financial Officer (Secretary-Treas-</del>	37
38	<del>urer) is prima facie evidence that the by-laws were legally</del>	38
39	<del>adopted.</del>	39
40		40
41	<b>Section 103.</b> <u>Power to Correct Typographical Errors.</u> The	41
42	Convention directs the Supreme Lodge Officers to correct ty-	42
43	pographical errors that might appear in the foregoing by-laws	43
44	and to renumber the articles, sections, subsections, and/or sub-	44
45	paragraphs in codifying the same so as to place them in proper	45
46	order but without changing the context, intent, and purpose	46
47	thereof. Should any article, section, or part of these by-laws	47
48	be held invalid for any reason whatsoever by any court of	48
49	competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the re-	49
50	mainder or any part thereof.	50
51		51
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56		56
57		57
58		58
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1	<b>ARTICLE XXV</b>	1
2	<b>RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES</b>	2
3		3
4	<b>Section 104.</b> The purpose of this article is to provide a method	4
5	for fair resolution of disputes consistent with the fraternal na-	5
6	ture of SPJST. Should a formal complaint be brought against	6
7	any member(s), committee member(s), or officer(s), the pro-	7
8	visions contained in this article shall be followed as these	8
9	procedures have been structured to reflect the spirit of the dis-	9
10	ciplinary process as detailed in the current edition of “Robert’s	10
11	Rules of Order.”	11
12		12
13	(a) Local lodges of SPJST and their officers and	13
14	members, as well as members of the Supreme Lodge,	14
15	shall guide themselves according to all applicable laws	15
16	and by-laws of SPJST; otherwise, they are subject to pen-	16
17	alty for violation and non-observance of them. Punish-	17
18	ments that a lodge can impose generally fall under the	18
19	headings of corrective actions, censure, suspension, or ex-	19
20	pulsion. Members may be suspended from membership	20
21	for the following reasons, but will not lose their insurance	21
22	benefit except for nonpayment of premiums and dues:	22
23		23
24	1. Members found to be guilty of immoral acts;	24
25	2. Members convicted of felonious acts;	25
26	3. Members derelict in their responsibilities;	26
27	4. Members guilty of improper conduct and habit-	27
28	ually failing to adhere to the by-laws, rules and	28
29	regulations in the meeting; and	29
30	5. Members whose actions are considered inju-	30
31	rious to SPJST or its purposes.	31
32		32
33	(b) Formal disciplinary procedures should be regarded as	33
34	a drastic step reserved for serious situations or those po-	34
35	tentially so. In the event that a grievance cannot be re-	35
36	solved informally, SPJST provides an orderly,	36
37	confidential, and progressive procedure to deal with any	37
38	serious differences of opinion which cause a member to	38
39	believe that they have been dealt with unjustly.	39
40		40
41	(c) The grievance must be submitted in writing and	41
42	signed by the person(s) making the charge. The grievance	42
43	should be specific and should identify a desired outcome.	43
44	Anonymous or unsigned grievances will not be consid-	44
45	ered. The grievance should be addressed to the lodge pres-	45
46	ident — or if the lodge president is being cited — to the	46
47	lodge vice president; and so on. Grievances dealing with	47
48	matters on a district level or state level are to be directed	48
49	directly to the Office of the Supreme Lodge President —	49
50	or if the Supreme Lodge President is being cited — to the	50
51	Supreme Lodge Chairman. The procedural process is es-	51
52	entially the same as outlined throughout this section.	52
53		53
54	(d) The lodge president shall appoint a Lodge Grievance	54
55	Committee of at least three members who are not directly	55
56	involved or named in the grievance. The lodge president	56
57	shall serve as a non-voting member of the Grievance	57
58	Committee. In the event that the grievance involves the	58
59	lodge president, the committee shall be appointed by the	59



1	vice president or another lodge officer not cited or affected	1
2	directly by the grievance. The Lodge Grievance Commit-	2
3	tee may be a standing committee of the lodge; otherwise,	3
4	the Lodge Grievance Committee shall be designated at the	4
5	next lodge meeting following the written filing of the	5
6	grievance.	6
7		7
8	(e) The Lodge Grievance Committee will be instructed	8
9	to make a determination that the allegations cited against	9
10	the member are well-founded. In the event that the alle-	10
11	gations are determined well-founded, the Lodge Griev-	11
12	ance Committee shall address the matter, including any	12
13	corrective actions which are deemed necessary, discretely	13
14	with the member in question.	14
15		15
16	(f) The severity of the action taken or recommended by	16
17	a Lodge Grievance Committee should depend upon the	17
18	nature and severity of the offense. Under most circum-	18
19	stances, it is recommended that upon first offense, that the	19
20	Lodge Grievance Committee issue a discrete written	20
21	warning to the accused, detailing the offense and the cor-	21
22	rective action(s); moreover, SPJST seeks to ensure that a	22
23	lodge doesn't expel anyone from membership for reasons	23
24	of race, religion, gender, or disability.	24
25		25
26	(g) If the problem persists following this issuance of	26
27	written warning — or if the individual cited protests the	27
28	findings of the Lodge Grievance Committee — then the	28
29	Lodge Grievance Committee may reconvene to reconsider	29
30	the matter and — if deemed necessary — request that the	30
31	accused member be brought before the general member-	31
32	ship at a regularly scheduled lodge meeting for a trial to:	32
33		33
34	(1) consider evidence and determine innocence	34
35	or guilt by a two-thirds vote of eligible voting	35
36	members present; and	36
37		37
38	(2) consider and vote upon disciplinary action(s)	38
39	recommended by the Grievance Committee,	39
40	subject to an affirmative vote by two-thirds of	40
41	the voting members present.	41
42		42
43	(h) In the event of a finding of guilt by the lodge, the cited	43
44	member may appeal, in writing, to the Supreme Lodge.	44
45	Such an appeal must be made within 15 days after receipt	45
46	of notice of action by the Grievance Committee; likewise,	46
47	the aggrieved member, if not satisfied with the Grievance	47
48	Committee's ruling or sentencing, may appeal to the Su-	48
49	preme Lodge in the same manner as the accused member.	49
50		50
51	(i) The appeal will be added to the agenda of the next	51
52	regular meeting of the Supreme Lodge.	52
53		53
54	(j) The Supreme Lodge shall investigate thoroughly all	54
55	facts pertinent to the ruling of the Grievance Committee.	55
56	To facilitate in this process, the lodge Grievance Commit-	56
57	tee will furnish a transcript of all prior proceedings on the	57
58	matter to the Supreme Lodge President.	58
59		59

1	(k) The Supreme Lodge shall uphold, reject, and/or	1
2	amend the ruling of the Grievance Committee, and this	2
3	decision shall stand.	3
4		4
5	(l) All grievance proceedings under the by-laws shall be	5
6	held in executive session, and the name of the member	6
7	under investigation shall not be disclosed in any public	7
8	communication or to any person other than to persons	8
9	whose testimony is necessary in connection with the initial	9
10	proceedings and/or subsequent lodge intercession. All	10
11	communications concerning disciplinary proceedings are	11
12	to be marked “Confidential” and all disciplinary files are	12
13	to be maintained in strict confidence.	13
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