



Constitution and By-Laws

.... OF

Ruth Lodge No. 7

G. U. O. B. and S.

.... OF

Good Hope

of America.



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**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF RUTH
LODGE, NO. 7, G. U. O. OF B. AND S. OF
GOOD HOPE OF AMERICA.**

Revised, 1919

PREAMBLE.

In order that uniformity may be insured in the administration of the privileges, honors and benefits of this Lodge, which is within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the G. U. O. of B. & S. of Good Hope of America, without whose sanction and control no Lodge of Good Hope can exist; therefore, we ordain and promulgate the following laws for our government:

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. This Lodge shall be called and known as Truth Lodge, No. 7, of the G. U. O. of B. & S. of Good Hope of America, and shall be constituted by thirteen members. Seven members shall constitute a quorum. But as long as seven financial members hold together this Lodge cannot be dissolved; and shall possess full power of a Subordinate Lodge, holding a valid charter duly granted and presented by the Grand Lodge of G. U. O. of B. & S. of Good Hope of America. Its meetings shall be held twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month, at Good Hope Hall. Its standing fund shall be \$300. Its hours of meeting shall be 7.30 o'clock P. M., from October to April and 8 o'clock P. M. from April to October.

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. The officers of this Lodge shall be as follows: W. S., V. S., Treasurer, Financial and

Recording Secretary, Chaplain, Marshal, Right and Left Conductors, Right and Left Supports, Inside and Outside Guards. All of whom shall be elected the first meeting in April and October and installed the second meeting in April and October.

Sec. 2. The duties of the various officers: W. S. shall preside over the meetings of the Lodge, decide all questions, conduct the meetings of the Lodge in a business-like way, appoint the majority of all committees, keep in his possession the bank books, as well as the rituals of the Lodge, have bank books and rituals at the Lodge at each and every meeting, visit all sick and disabled members within twenty-four hours after receiving legal notice, appoint stewards to attend to sick and perform such other duties as may be incumbent on the officers. Failure on his part to be present at the meetings of the Lodge, regular or special, without sickness or death in the family or absent from city, shall be fined 50 cents. He shall receive his monthly dues as a remuneration for his services.

Sec. 3. V. S. shall work in harmony with the W. S., and at his absence appoint some qualified brother to fill his chair—a P. W. S., if possible. She must do all in her power to promote the interest of the Lodge and appoint a minority committee. Failure on her part to be present, without a lawful excuse, shall be fined 50 cents. She shall receive her monthly dues as a remuneration for her services.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall hold all the money belonging to the Lodge not otherwise provided for; shall honor all orders properly signed by the W. S. of the Lodge with the seal of the Lodge on said order; shall present all papers, monies or anything in his or her possession that will aid the Auditing Committee to get to the true standing of the Lodge; shall visit all sick, and do all he can to promote the

interest of the Lodge. He shall receive his monthly dues as remuneration for his services. He shall be fined 50 cents for being absent without he gives a lawful excuse.

Sec. 4. The Financial Secretary shall keep a true and impartial account between the Lodge and members, notify each member of their becoming unbeneficial, prepare the semi-annual and annual return sheets for the Grand Lodge, present their books, papers or other matter that may be in their hands to the Auditing Committee when required by the Lodge; impose a tax of six cents on each notice forwarded to members notifying them of their becoming unbeneficial, three (3) cents for the Secretary's services and three (3) cents for the Lodge; and perform such other duties as may involve upon the officers. For the faithful performance of his duties he shall receive \$1 per month. He shall be fined 50 cents for being absent without a lawful excuse.

Sec. 5. The Recording Secretary shall properly record the transactions of the Lodge, assist the Financial Secretary in the performance of his or her duty if required. For the faithful performance of his duty he or she shall receive \$1 a month, and fined 50 cents for being absent without lawful excuse.

Sec. 6. The Chaplain shall open and close the Lodge with devotional exercises, shall obligate all candidates and do all in his power to promote the interest of the Lodge and Order.

Sec. 8. The Marshal shall aid the W. S. in keeping order and decorum, take charge of the Lodge on public occasions and do all he can to keep peace during the meetings of the Lodge.

Sec. 8. The Conductors shall collect monies from the members during the calling of the financial roll,

assist in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Lodge and perform such other duties as may be incumbent upon the officers.

Sec. 9. The Supports shall wait on the W. S. at his command and do all they can to advance the interest of the Lodge.

Sec. 10. The Guards shall keep a vigilant watch and permit no one to enter, except such as have proper pass and regalia, according to their rank, and must not leave the door unless relieved.

ARTICLE III.

Section 1. The W. S., V. S. and Treasurer shall constitute a standing committee, whose duty it shall be to visit and keep a close oversight of all sick members under the notice of the Lodge. The W. S. or V. S. receiving sick notice from a member shall, within twenty-four hours, visit said member. He shall, as soon as practicable, confer with the Financial Secretary and ascertain the standing of said member if said member is entitled to receive benefits. The W. S. shall appoint a steward to look after said member and pay their sick dues, seven days from the date of receiving the notice.

Sec. 2. A Steward appointed to look after a sick member shall visit said member at least once a week, other than date of payment of dues, unless otherwise provided for.

Sec. 3. If in the judgment of the standing committee and the Steward a member is feigning sickness or drawing dues for illegal cause, they shall, after consultation with themselves, call in a regular practicing physician and have said member examined at the expense of the Lodge.

Sec. 4. Members desiring to draw benefits from this Lodge must furnish and forward to the W. S. or V. S. a certificate from a regular practicing physician, and must furnish such like certificate each

and every week they receive benefits and must confine themselves to their bed and room, unless permitted to leave by the W. S. or V. S. of the Lodge.

Sec. 5. Sick benefits will not exceed 16 weeks a year. Members shall not receive more than eight weeks at \$4 per week, and eight weeks at \$2 per week. Should a member receive sixteen weeks' aid to any twelve calendar months, as aforesaid, they shall not be eligible to draw further benefits until twelve months from date of last week's aid paid.

Sec. 6. Sick benefits will not be paid for confinement or female complaint, nor for such ailments as are brought on by a member through negligence or carelessness or bad conduct.

Sec. 7. Members under the notice of this Lodge and drawing benefits from said Lodge, who may be detected in gambling or frequenting taverns or bawdy houses, or giving any attention to his or their business directly or indirectly, whatever their occupation may be, shall, upon proof of same, be expelled.

Sec. 8. Members allowing their dues, fines and taxes to amount to \$1.51 shall be unbeneficial and must appear in open Lodge and pay in full. Such member will not be entitled to sick benefits until thirty days after they have squared their accounts with the Lodge. Members allowing their dues, fines and taxes to amount to \$3 shall be unbeneficial for death benefits. Such member must appear in open lodge and pay such dues; 30 days after such dues have been paid in open lodge, such member will be entitled to receive death benefits.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. Members distant from the Lodge and desiring aid from the Lodge shall forward a regular attending physician's certificate each and every week

during their inability or as long as they are entitled to draw aid. The expense for forwarding such money shall be taken from said member's aid and balance forwarded to the member.

Sec. 2. No person shall be admitted to membership in this Lodge for a less sum than \$6. However, if in the judgment of the Lodge it will be for its own best interests, it may permit members to pay said entrance fee on instalment, becoming beneficial when said entrance fee is paid. Must be vouched for by one or more. Half of entrance fee must accompany application. Six black ballots are required to reject any applicant.

Sec. 3. No female can become a member of this Lodge who is under 18 years of age. No male person can become a member of this Lodge who is under 21 years of age. No person can become a member of this Lodge who is over 46 years of age. However, persons over 46 years of age, who seem to be in good health, may be accepted by the Lodge. Such person must pay 50 cents a year for every year over 46 years, and under 55 years. No one can become a member who is over 55 years.

Sec. 4. No person will be admitted to membership in this Lodge who do not possess a good, moral character. Any person applying for membership in this Lodge and receiving six black ballots shall be declared rejected. Such fees as have been paid shall be refunded.

Sec. 5. Any person elected to membership in this Lodge and failing to appear for initiation within two months, unless absent from the city, forfeits all claims against this Lodge. Such person desiring to join this Lodge must apply as before.

All members shall pay 50 cents monthly contributions and such fines and tax as may be legally imposed.

Sec. 6. It shall be discretionary with the Lodge in cases of urgent necessity that it may accept application, elect and initiate all in the same meeting.

Sec. 7. At the death of a member who is beneficial, \$50 shall be paid to the legal representative. If necessity requires, the Lodge to engage an undertaker, then the Lodge shall see that the undertaker is paid to the extent of \$40. If the undertaker's bill is less than \$40, then the difference between the undertaker's bill and \$50 shall be paid to the legal representative. If no representative appears, then such amount shall be retained by the Lodge until the legal representative does appear. Then such moneys as have been retained by the Lodge, on the account of such death benefit as are referred to in the foregoing of this section, shall be paid over to said representative, they having given satisfactory proof to the Lodge that they are the legal representatives referred to.

Sec. 8. At the death of a member each member shall be taxed 25 cents, the same to go into the treasury of the Lodge.

Sec. 9. The Financial Secreary shall deduct from the sick and death benefits all that is due the Lodge by the member who is to be benefited.

Sec. 9. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of the addresses of each member and members. Failure to furnish the Secretary notice of a change of residence shall be fined 10 cents for every month said notice is neglected.

ARTICLE V. -

Section 1. *The duty of the officers of this Lodge*

shall be such as are prescribed by the installation ceremonies, and the by-laws of this Lodge.

Sec. 2. No member shall be elected to office in this Lodge who is not qualified in their degree and square on the books.

Sec. 3. Members accepting an elective office and failing to attend for installation shall be fined 50 cents. If not paid, shall be added to their dues, unless they furnish a lawful excuse.

Sec. 4. Any officer being absent for three successive meetings, unless in case of sickness or absence from the city, their seat shall be declared vacant and a successor elected to serve the remainder of the term, who shall be entitled to the full honors of the office.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the last officers to prepare and forward to the Grand Lodge immediately the result of the election, and a regular report of the work of the term, including names of initiations, admissions by card from other Lodges, rejections, withdrawals and expulsions and the causes thereof, and of those deceased, the whole number in membership, amount of receipts, the whole amount expended in relief and the number relieved.

Sec. 2. This Lodge shall, with the foregoing returns, transmit to the Grand Secretary whatever amount may be due the Grand Lodge. For neglect of the above duties a fine of \$1 will be imposed on the Financial Secretary and W. S. each.

ARTICLE VII.

Section I. Any member accused of any gross offense against this Lodge shall be entitled to and receive a fair trial. No member of this Lodge shall be placed

on trial for any offense except the charges be duly made out in writing and shall be accepted by the Lodge.

Sec. 2. The charges shall be written down and specifications made without any preface whatever, stating the time, when and place where the offense was committed and the party accused shall be put in possession of a copy of the charges and specifications at least six days previous to trial.

Sec. 3. The charges and specifications shall be referred to a committee of five members in good standing in the Lodge, who shall report at a subsequent meeting when the case may be tried; and in all cases the accuser and accused shall be summoned before the committee and be allowed counsel, if they wish, who shall be a member of the Lodge, and the Lodge shall have power to vary the penalty. At any time during the progress of the trial, if the accused be not satisfied with the decision of the Lodge, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 4. Any member who shall wilfully and maliciously bring charges against a member which they are unable to prove, shall be fined or suspended, as the Lodge may determine; if fined, \$5.

Sec. 5. If a member shall violate any of the By-Laws or resolutions of this Lodge at any regular meeting, no written charges or committee will be needed. The W. S. shall have power to impose the law, unless such member is exempted by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Sec. 6. Any member wishing to withdraw from this Lodge shall be entitled to and receive a card of clearance, if square on the books. Any member from a sister Lodge depositing a card of clearance in this Lodge shall be balloted upon the same as a new member upon the report of a committee, and if elected, shall be admitted by a payment of the sum of \$6.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1. All taxes must, together with the fines, be paid at the end of thirty days, or they will be added to their monthly contributions as a valid part.

Sec. 2. All funerals shall be under the direction of the W. S. or any other officer appointed by him. At the death of a member \$50 will be allowed to defray the funeral expenses; if buried by another association the same amount will be paid to the family or legal representative, or whomsoever he or she may will to have it; provided they do not owe over \$3. Any member owing \$3, it shall be deducted from the death benefit. On the demise of a member each member of the Lodge shall be taxed 25 cents to reimburse the funds of the Lodge.

Sec. 3. At the death of a member the brothers shall wear dark pants, black necktie, hat and vest and white gloves; the sisters shall wear black dress with black capes, also white collar, black bonnet trimmed with white strings and white gloves.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. Any member of this Lodge guilty of habitual drunkenness or committing adultery or using profane language in the Lodge, which shall constitute immoral conduct, shall be expelled from the Lodge and notice shall be sent to the Grand Secretary as per general law.

Sec. 2. Should any member be accessory to any imposition, aid or abet any other member in practising a fraud upon this Lodge, shall be considered an imposter and shall be expelled.

ARTICLE X.

Section 1. Any member who shall wilfully betray the secrets of this Lodge shall, on trial and conviction

thereof, be expelled; and notice shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, and such persons shall forever be ineligible to membership into this Lodge.

ARTICLE XI.

Section 1. Should the circumstances of a sick member require it the W. S., where it is a male member, shall begin with himself, and thereafter appoint two members as they stand on the roll to sit up with the member each night, as long as required; provided such an appointment is not made where a member is laboring under a contagious disease; also, if a female, the V. S. shall begin with herself and thereafter appoint two sisters to attend each night as long as required, such persons being duly notified twenty-four hours by the W. S. and V. S., and failing to perform the said duties, shall be fined 50 cents each for every twenty-four hours' neglect.

Sec. 2. Any member failing to attend the funeral of a deceased brother or sister after being notified twenty-four hours, shall pay a fine of \$1. unless a constitutional excuse be given.

ARTICLE XII.

Section 1. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, as long as there are competent numbers, enough to fill each office separately, and at no time shall the office of a Treasurer and Financial Secretary be held by one person.

Sec. 3. No member shall be allowed to leave the lodge while in session without permission from the W. S. and for violation shall pay a fine of 25 cents.

Sec. 3. Any member wishing to speak on any subject under discussion must stand and respectfully address the W. S. and avoid all personal reflections upon the Lodge or its members under a fine of 25 cents.

Sec. 4. No member will be allowed the privilege of the floor for more than three times on the same subject and shall not be allowed more than five minutes at a time. While a member is in possession of the floor, no officer or member will be allowed to speak, interrupt or molest such member in any way, except on a point of order or corrections until the time specified has expired. Any member so interrupting will be fined 12 cents.

Sec. 5. No member shall be permitted to vote or to speak upon any subject unless clothed with proper regalia, and if an officer at their proper station; no member from a sister Lodge will be allowed to speak on any subject under discussion except by permission of the W. S., and the consent of the Lodge.

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. No meeting can be held nor can any business be legally transacted unless a quorum be present. The Lodge being opened in due form by the W. S. and Chaplain, it shall remain in session until 10.30 o'clock P. M., unless otherwise provided.

Sec. 2. Extra meetings shall be called by the W. S. at the request of seven members in writing, or in his wise judgment if it is necessary.

ARTICLE XIV.

Section 1. No alterations, amendments or additions or suspensions shall be made to any part of this Constitution except presented in writing and then laid upon the table for one month previous to being enacted and, if adopted by two-thirds of the members present in thirty days thereafter, shall become a law.

Sec. 2. Any elected officer failing to enforce the general law submitted by the Grand Lodge shall be fined the sum determined in the judgment of the Lodge.

Sec. 3. This Lodge shall re-elect its officers as often as they deem proper.

Sec. 4. Any member appealing from this Lodge to the Grand Lodge shall give notice in writing thirty days before such notice is forwarded or presented to the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 5. Any member appointed to attend on a committee and not attending to the business for which they were appointed shall pay a fine of 50 cents, unless sick or absent from the city. All committees for special purposes shall report their proceedings at the next stated meeting succeeding their appointment, except when a definite time has been given. All reports must be signed by a majority of the committee and produced in writing.

ARTICLE XV.

Section 1. This Lodge may adopt such By-Laws as they may deem proper from time to time; provided they do not conflict with any part of this Constitution, and the Grand Lodge General Laws.

Sec. 2. This Lodge shall elect a representative to represent it in the Grand Lodge, semi-annually, the first meeting in the month of April and October. Such person so elected must either be a Past W. S. or Past V. S. of this Lodge. Such persons shall receive such compensation as the Lodge may decide proper from time to time.

ARTICLE XVI.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Banking Committee to assemble around the table on each and every stated meeting night and receive the money from the Conductress, when the roll is being called.

Sec. 2. Monies placed in hands of Banking Committee shall be put in bank forthwith and bank book returned and placed in the hands of the W. S. within forty-eight hours after the close of the Lodge. Failing or neglecting in their duty shall be fined \$2.50, unless personal sickness.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the W. S. to have the bank book present at each stated meeting of the Lodge, and place the book in the hands of the committee, if there is any money to be deposited in the bank, and for refusing or neglect of duty shall be fined \$2.50.

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1. Any person appointed to attend the sick by the W. S. or V. S., and such person or persons failing to attend as often as the Constitution requires, at least once a week, and such person reporting to the Lodge falsely, and the same is proven by one or more persons, members of Good Hope, in good standing, the committee or persons reporting wrongfully shall be expelled without motion or debate on such a question, after being proven satisfactorily to the Lodge by majority of the members present at a regular meeting. The Sick Committee appointed by the W. S. or V. S. failing to see the sick member under their charge once a week shall be fined 50 cents, without personal sickness.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Section 1. At the death of a member the W. S. shall have power to appoint eight members as a committee to attend the funeral; also he shall hire two hacks, using eight members, and any member failing to attend a funeral after being notified within twenty-four hours, shall be fined \$1, unless constitutional excuse be given.

Sec. 2. No member shall be permitted to remain in the ante-chamber when they can enter the Lodge room under the penalty of 25 cents.

Sec. 3. Any member taken sick distant from the Lodge, in another State, city or county, shall send a certificate once a week from an attending physician.

Sec. 4. Any Steward or standing committee having proof that a member is not sick—by a physician—their aid shall be stopped immediately and said member shall be dealt with according to law.

ARTICLE XIX.

Section 1. Any person making application to become a member of this Lodge before they can be received they shall be free from all bodily infirmities that would render them burdensome to the Lodge. The applicant shall also be of good, moral character and shall be able to earn a decent living. The committee appointed by the Lodge shall inquire into all the qualifications of the applicants before they can be admitted, and shall make their report to that effect before the applicant is balloted upon. All committees appointed to inspect the applicant and report favorable of any applicant for membership, who may be laboring under any of the above disabilities shall be fined \$3 or more for the offense.

Sec. 2. There shall be an Auditing Committee of three appointed every quarter to audit all books and papers, including the Financial Secretary's books and Treasurer's books and orders and bank books, stock certificates and bond certificates and such other papers as may be necessary to get a correct account and standing of the Lodge. Every member of this Lodge must attend once a month, unless excused by the Lodge.

Every member not excused by the Lodge and failing to attend their Lodge on election and installation of officers shall be fined 25 cents for each neglect.

Sec. 3. The committee shall make their report to this Lodge as whatever condition they are found in.

Sec. 4. All reports of committee shall be submitted in writing with the names of the committee signed.

Sec. 5. Any member of Ruth Lodge found guilty of immoral conduct that may prove injurious to themselves or to the Lodge, and found guilty, shall pay the sum of \$5 or no more than \$10. Refusing to pay the said fine shall be suspended from all rights and benefits until the said fine is paid by the member or remitted by the Lodge.

Sec. 6. No member shall be put on trial without first receiving a copy of the charges preferred against them six days previous to trial, after being duly notified and fail to appear, they shall be notified again, and failing then to appear, they shall be proceeded against the same as if present.

Sec. 7. Any member leaving the Lodge in a disorderly manner shall be fined 25 cents.

Sec. 8. No member shall use indecent or improper language in this Lodge.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.



1. Opening.
2. Roll of Officers.
3. Reading of the Minutes of the last meeting.
4. Absentees' Roll.
5. Report of Standing Committee.
6. Report of Sick Committee.
7. Report of Committee on Candidates.
8. Balloting for Candidates.
9. Report of Special Committee or Representatives.
10. Initiation.
11. Proposal of Candidates.
12. New Business.
13. Deferred Business.
14. Communications.
15. Bills Presented.
16. Applications for Cards or Degrees.
17. Financial Roll.
18. Receipts of Evening.
19. Closing Tabernacle.

JOHN M. ROBERTS, Chairman;
 O. T. KNOX,
 MARIETTA STEWART,
 SARAH WARDEN,
 Committee.

Officers shall be elected on the first regular meeting of October and April, and shall be installed on the second monthly meeting in the months of October and April.

Art. 2, Sec. 5, must read: Present their books and papers or other matters that may be in their possession to the auditing committee when required.

Ar. 4, Sec. 3. Such persons applying, if accepted by the Lodge, must pay 25 cents for each year over 46 years to 55 years of age.

Art. 4, Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to deduct from the first week's aid such monies that are due the Lodge by the member applying for sick benefits.

Art. 7, Sec. 3. The W. S. shall appoint a committee of three Past Officers to investigate the charge and report to the Lodge.