

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE GREATER NEW HAVEN MAGIC SOCIETY

Amended and approved 3 April 2017:

This document replaces any previous constitution, bylaws, or similar documents of IBM Ring 59 and/or SAM Assembly 15.

ARTICLE I, NAME

Section I-1. This organization shall be known as The Greater New Haven Magic Society (hereinafter "Society").

Section I-2. The location of record shall be New Haven, CT.

Section I-3. The Society operates on a Calendar year, i.e. January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE II, Affiliations

Section II-1. The Society is affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Magicians as Ring 59 (hereinafter "IBM") and the Society of American Magicians as Assembly 15 (hereinafter "SAM"). The identities and rich traditions of each are essentially retained in the new merged organization. IBM Ring 59 is known as the Frederick Eugene Powell Ring in honor of the famous stage magician (1856 - 1938) who spent his later years in New Haven. SAM 15 is known as the P & L Assembly honoring "'Petrie-Lewis Manufacturing Company'" located in New Haven, from 1919 to 1968.

ARTICLE III, OBJECTIVES

Section III-1. The Society's primary purpose is to join together for mutual benefit, amateur and professional magicians, collectors of magical items and books, dealers in magical supplies, and those involved in related prop-based entertainment, to promote Fellowship, Entertainment, and Education of its members and to encourage high standards and ethical principles of magic enthusiasts.

Section III-2. The Society's secondary purpose is to promote magic and related arts to the general public. This includes magic, ventriloquism, sketch art, and allied fields.

ARTICLE IV, MEMBERSHIP

Section IV-1. There shall be three classes of Membership: Active, Junior, and Honorary. Application for Active or Junior membership must be made on an approved Society membership form and be signed by the applicant. The application must be endorsed by two Active or Honorary members of the Society attesting that the applicant is of good character and worthy of membership. The current membership fees established by the Board of Directors (hereinafter "BOD") will accompany the application (see Dues). Applications for Active or Junior membership may be reviewed by the Membership Committee prior to submission to the BOD who shall review and make recommendation to Society members at the following Business Meeting. In order to introduce themselves to Society members an Applicant will present a 10 minute presentation or lecture about their area of interest at a regular or business meeting of the Society, following which the applicant may be accepted by a 2/3 majority of voting members present. If an applicant is not accepted, any fees or dues paid will be promptly refunded. Honorary members do not need to submit an application or give a presentation; but upon nomination by the BOD must be approved in like manner by Society voting members.

Section IV-2. An Active member must be at least 18 years of age, be a member of IBM and/or SAM, pay annual dues no later than 1 February of the current year, and attend at least 5 meetings, and/or BOD meetings, and/or Society events each year. An Active member may vote on Society matters, may serve as an officer, and may sponsor new members.

Section IV-3. A Junior member must be at least 10 years of age and less than 18 years of age, be a member IBM and/or SAM, pay annual dues no later than 1 February of the current year, and attend at least 3 meetings, and/or BOD meetings, and/or Society events each year. Upon reaching the age of 18, Junior members immediately become Active members with all privileges and obligations. A Junior member may NOT vote on Society matters, may NOT serve as an officer, and may NOT sponsor new members. Junior members are permitted and encouraged to serve on Society Committees.

Section IV-4. Honorary membership may be awarded by the BOD to an individual who has attained distinction in the Magical Arts or who has been a member for at least 20 consecutive years and served at least one year as an officer. Honorary members are not required to attend any meetings, pay dues or be members of IBM or SAM. Honorary

members may attend meetings including BOD meetings and they may sponsor new members. Honorary members may NOT vote on Society matters and may NOT serve as an officer.

Section IV-5. All Active and Junior Society members must be members of either or both the IBM or SAM and remain in good standing. Each must validate their own membership in such organization annually by submitting a copy of a membership card or similar documentation to the Society Secretary who will record this validation in Society records.

Section IV-6. As a condition of membership all Society members shall pledge to be bound by both the IBM's Code of Ethics and the SAM's Code of Ethics. (See each organization's web site for the current versions.)

Section IV-7. A guest who is not a member of the Society may attend up to three regular meetings during any 24 month period. Thereafter he/she must join the Society in order to continue to attend meetings.

Section IV-8. Members may be suspended or expelled from membership or removed from the executive offices of the Society for any conduct which is not in the best interest of the Society; violation of the IBM or SAM Code of Ethics; or violating this Constitution and By-laws. The decision to expel, suspend, or remove from office rests on first, a recommendation by the BOD to do so, followed by a three fourths majority vote of the membership at a meeting in which the membership is notified of the issue at least one month prior to the voting. Members identified for expulsion, suspension, or removal from office will be formally notified and be given due opportunity to meet with the BOD and/or membership prior to any vote on such an action.

ARTICLE V, DUES

Section V-1. The BOD shall establish annual dues for all membership classes except Honorary during the annual budgetary review. Any changes in rate will be published by mail, email and/or the website by December 1 prior to applying the revised dues. Dues shall be payable before 1 January for the following calendar year. Any member who has not paid his dues on or prior to the January meeting shall receive a notice by first class mail indicating that he/she is in arrears. The notice shall be sent by the Treasurer within 10 days of the January meeting. A second notice shall be sent to all members who

remain delinquent after the February meeting. All members, except Honorary members, delinquent as of the close of the March meeting are dismissed and will be required to follow reinstatement proceedings to continue membership. Dues apply equally to all members.

Section V-2. Any member joining the Society after the first quarter, will pay dues on a quarterly prorated basis, i.e. Those joining in the second quarter will pay 75% of the annual dues amount; those joining in the third quarter will pay 50% of the annual dues amount; and those joining in the fourth quarter will pay 25% of the annual dues amount.

Section V-3. Any member who becomes in arrears may be subject to late payment fees, and if for a period of greater than three months shall, subject to decision by the BOD, forfeit him/her membership, years of continuous membership, and be subject to reinstatement only upon making application as a new member.

ARTICLE VI, OFFICERS

Section VI-1. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a BOD comprised of the following elected Officers and Directors: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and three (3 at large) Directors. Terms of office for officers shall be for one (1) year. The terms for the At Large Directors shall be up to three (3) years. The President shall not hold office for more than three consecutive terms (years).

Section VI-2. It shall be the duty of the President to: be the Chief Executive Officer of the Society, guiding it with the due council with the BOD; preside at all regular and BOD meetings of the organization; and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. The President will serve as the Chief Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with this Constitution and Bylaws as well as IBM and SAM rules.

Section VI-3. The President shall, after due council with the BOD, appoint standing and ad hoc positions and committees as necessary to carry out the Society's activities and functions. It is mandatory that the President upon assuming office promptly assign the following positions and committees:

VI-3a A Scribe, who shall submit monthly reports and other articles to The Linking Ring and MUM.

VI-3b A Sergeant of Arms who will be responsible for any Society equipment not specifically held by other officers or committees. He/she will welcome and orient visitors and determine if they are qualified to attend meetings or events. If not qualified to be in attendance the Sergeant of Arms will show respect and consideration as they are removed.

VI-3c An Historian, who shall maintain the historical archives and critical permanent records of the Society.

VI-3d A Webmaster, who will be responsible maintaining the Society Web site.

VI-3e One or more Official Representatives of SAM and/or IBM whose name may be used on submissions to these organizations. This is only needed if the President or Secretary is not a member of both IBM and SAM.

VI-3f An Auditing Committee, which shall audit the books of the treasurer at the end of the fiscal year and provide a written record of their audit to the Society's BOD.

VI-3g A Membership Committee, which shall encourage and promote the Society to prospective members.

VI-3h A Budget Committee, which shall present a proposed annual budget to the BOD within forty-five days after the start of the fiscal year.

VI-3i Nominating Committee comprised of at least three members who will develop a proposed list of qualified and willing members to serve the following year as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. At least one name for each position will be nominated. Nominee names will be given to the current President prior to October 15 for immediate distribution to all voting members. The Society will vote at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted if there is a second and that nominee, in person or in writing, agrees to serve. New officers will be inducted at the December meeting or banquet. They will assume office on January 1 of the following year.

Section VI-4. The Vice President shall assist the President in the duties of that office, and in the absence of the President shall serve as the Society's presiding officer. The Vice President may serve as an ex officio member of committees in substitution for the President and assume other duties delegated to him/her. The Vice President will serve on the Budget Committee and jointly with the Secretary maintain the Policy and Program Manual, if one is maintained.

Section VI-5. The Secretary shall keep a true record of all meetings, files of significant correspondence related to the Society, execute in a timely manner the Society correspondence including submission of required reports and requested information to the executive office and officers of the IBM and SAM, maintain current records of members and publish a member directory at least annually, collect and record member dues and promptly turn over receipts to the Treasurer, and perform other duties as delegated by the BOD. The Secretary in conjunction with the Vice President is responsible for updating annually the Society's Policy and Program Manual, if one is maintained.

Section VI-6. The Treasurer shall oversee all deposits and receipts of money of the Society and shall assure prompt payment of all properly approved Society obligations. The Treasurer shall maintain accurate accounting records of all receipts and disbursements and report the status of these against the Society's budget to the BOD on a schedule specified by the BOD. The Treasurer will also Chair the Budget Committee and review the Society's financial accounts and recommend alternative banking facilities and investments

Section VI-7. The official business of the Society shall be administered by the BOD. They shall consider and take action on any proposals submitted to it by members of the Society. They may act upon such proposals or prepare from them a suitable motion to be presented for consideration at any business meeting of the Society.

Section VI-8. In the case of death, resignation, or inability of any officer to serve, the President shall appoint a successor. Such successor will serve until the next annual election.

Section VI-9. The BOD shall investigate all grievances arising from conduct unbecoming a Society officer or member. They may present proposals to the membership for action to expel, suspend, or remove from office members for such conduct.

ARTICLE VII, FINANCIAL, COMMITMENTS, & SECURITY BONDS

Section VII-1. No officer or other member of the Society shall make any expenditure or enter into any contract that becomes a financial obligation of the organization, unless the expenditure or contract has been approved by the BOD either as a special commitment or as part of its annual budget. Committee Chairs of major functions, e.g. public shows and banquets, shall submit a budget to the BOD for the approval prior to commitment of funds.

Section VII-2. An emergency fund in an amount agreed upon by the BOD shall be established for the President's use to cover unforeseen expenses. Payments made from this fund must be reported to the BOD who may sustain it at the authorized level. Approval for payment of an extraordinary expense beyond the limit of the fund shall be authorized only upon the prior approval of the BOD.

Section VII-3 Fiduciary Bonding. BOD may, at their discretion, waive the requirement for a Fiduciary Bond for the Treasurer. If a Fiduciary Bond is required by the BOD, the Treasurer shall be personally responsible for the premium for this bond, unless the BOD decides to subsidize its cost.

ARTICLE VIII, METHOD OF ELECTION

Section VIII-1. The BOD will annually recommend candidates for nomination for the elected offices of the Society. This shall be completed by 60 days prior to the date of the annual election, the first regular meeting in September. Such recommendations shall not exceed two candidates for each office and shall be published to members by e-mail at least sixty days prior to the election. In addition any qualified member may be nominated for offices of the Society by petition, provided said petition is submitted to the Society Secretary before September 1 and is signed by two Active or Honorary members.

Section VIII-2. Thirty days prior to the annual election an official ballot containing the names of all qualified nominees shall be distributed by mail or e-mail to each Active

member. Ballots shall be marked and returned in person or by US mail no later than the date designated and in an envelope marked "Election Ballot." These will be delivered to a Ballot Committee, consisting of three members appointed by the BOD. The Ballot Committee shall secure and count all ballots and report the results to the BOD within one week after the election. The decision of the Ballot Committee shall be final in instances involving the validity or questionable marking of a ballot. Election to all offices shall be by a simple majority of the ballots cast. Nominees named for elective offices, which are uncontested, shall be elected without balloting.

Section VIII-3. The BOD shall when establishing the rules and timetables for the conduct of the election be guided by the principle that all qualified members should have the privilege of voting.

Section VIII- 4. Elected officers assume their responsibilities after the first regular meeting in December.

ARTICLE IX, MEETINGS

Section IX - 1. The Society shall hold its regular meetings on the first Monday of the month. At the discretion of the BOD, meeting dates that conflict with holidays or other events may be canceled or moved to a different date. The BOD may shift the meeting night to accommodate special events and it may add additional meetings for lectures and other magic or social activities. Meetings will focus on fellowship, entertainment and education and may include announcements of upcoming events and member announcements.

Section IX -2. BOD meetings will be held as necessary for the smooth running of the Society, but at least 4 (four) times a year and at a location and schedule determined by the President. Any Active, Junior or Honorary member can attend to propose or discuss business but only BOD Members can vote at such meetings. The President will call a BOD meeting when requested by three BOD members.

Section IX -3 Business Meetings will be scheduled by the BOD only as necessary to deal with Society business. Typically such meetings will be embedded in regular meetings and last only as long as needed and only for specific topics.

Section IX-4 Voting rights for general meetings are extended to all paid-up Active members of the Society including the President. Voting rights for BOD meetings are extended to all office holders who are also paid-up Active members of the Society including the President. In the event of a tie vote the measure fails.

Section IX -5 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern Society business meetings when not in conflict with the Society Constitution and Bylaws or Connecticut State laws covering this organization.

Section IX -6 The BOD may maintain a Policy and Program Manual as needed to provide working guidelines for the officers and membership. The Policy and Program Manual, if any, will be updated annually and will be based on BOD decisions that delegate responsibilities and create actions that maintain direction and focus to Society activities and policies.

ARTICLE X, QUORUM

Section X-1. At least 4 (four) members of the BOD must be present at any BOD meeting to constitute a quorum.

Section X -2. At least 5 (five) or 20% of the Active members, whichever is greater, must be present at any business meeting to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI, AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

Section XI-1. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be approved at any regular or special business meeting of this organization by a three-fourths vote of the members present, provided that the proposed amendment or amendments have been posted and/or read at the two immediately previous regular Society meetings, or provided that such proposed amendment or amendments have been distributed to the membership and received three-fourths votes of those votes cast by mail or e-mail ballot.

ARTICLE XII, GOVERNING BODIES

Section XII-1. Any provisions within the Society Constitution and By-laws that are in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the IBM, SAM and/or laws covering the State of Connecticut will be superseded by the rules and laws issued by the latter governing bodies. The BOD will move promptly to amend this document to bring it into agreement with the aforementioned government bodies.