



# THE BURNING ISSUES



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## NOTICE TO BVMA MEMBERSHIP

**Annual BVMA Delegates' Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 10th, 2004**  
**12:00 pm (Hall opens at 11:00 am)**  
**St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge**  
**Johnstown, NY**

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The annual BVMA Delegates meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2004. This has been changed from January 17th in order not to conflict with other organizations' meetings.

The meeting will be held at the St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge in Johnstown, NY. The hall opens at 11 AM, with the meeting itself kicking off at 12:00 sharp.

Each unit must notify the Secretary with the names of their two representatives (and email address as well if applicable) who will be attending ASAP (this helps get an accurate count for handouts, makes roll call go quicker, etc). Please get this to Dean Barnes, BVMA Secretary at:

Dean Barnes  
100 Hoffman St.  
Kingston, NY 12401

Or email to: [thetavernkeeper@hotmail.com](mailto:thetavernkeeper@hotmail.com).

There are several issues that require your deliberation before voting on at the meeting. Please review these and discuss with your delegates/unit before the meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Changes..... 2  
Nominations ..... 3  
Rate of Annual Dues ..... 3  
Annual Membership Meeting..... 3

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## Notice of Proposed Bylaws Changes

There are four bylaws amendments being proposed, listed below.

1) **Proposed Change: Combine Executive Secretary & Recording Secretary Positions** (revision to Article V, Sections 1, 1(D), and 1(E).)

Article V. Officers of the Association

Section 1

The Officers of the Association shall include the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the Executive Secretary, ~~the Recording Secretary~~ and the Treasurer, all of whom are to be elected by the Board of Directors from its own number at the Board's Annual Meeting. Officers will hold office for one year, or until their successors are chosen.

**(D) Executive Secretary:** The Executive Secretary shall keep the minutes and attendance of all meetings of the Executive Board, **the Board of Directors and Association membership meetings.** He shall give and serve all notices required by law, or the by-laws; shall be the Custodian of the records of the Association, and perform all duties incident to the office of Executive Secretary. As well as such other duties that may be delegated to him by the Board of Directors. ~~During the absence or disability of the Executive Secretary, the Recording Secretary shall assume said duties.~~

~~**(E) Recording Secretary:** The Recording Secretary shall write such letters for the Association as directed by the Chairman; shall perform all duties incident to the office of Recording Secretary. He shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Board of Directors and shall keep the minutes of all Board of Directors and Association membership meetings. In the absence or disability of the Recording Secretary, the Executive Secretary shall assume said duties.~~

2) **Proposed Change: Establishment of Provost Corp / Safety Guidelines become official policy** (revision to Article X, Section 2, and addition of Article X(A))

Article X. Brigade Structure

Section 2

Each military Brigade, Congressional or Crown, will have a Brigade Staff which is appointed at the discretion of the Brigade Commander.

These ranks or appointments are for BVMA field operations only and hold no jurisdiction over individual unit non-field policy.

**Each Brigade will appoint a provost corps to be charged with enforcement of BVMA and site event guidelines. The Provosts will be responsible to the Executive Board.**

**New Article X (A)**

**The Safety Standards and Guidelines for Black Powder Use, adopted at the March 2003 Membership meeting, and as may subsequently be amended, are the official policy of the BVMA.**

**Each Member Unit of the BVMA is to designate a safety officer, and report same to the Executive Secretary prior to the delegates meeting each year.**

**Each Brigade will appoint a safety officer, to be charged with enforcement of the BVMA Safety Guidelines. The Brigade Safety Officer will report directly to the Brigade Commander.**

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**Proposed Bylaws Changes** (*cont'd from p. 2*)

**3) Proposed Change:** *Change the date of the annual Delegate Meeting to the 2nd Saturday in January (instead of the 3rd) (revision to Article VII, Section 2)*

**4) Proposed Change:** *Do away with the Board Members-at-Large (Article IV, Section 2 (B))*

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**Executive Board Nominations**

The following names have been put forward for nomination to the Executive Board for 2004:

Chair: John Osinski, 2nd Regt., Albany County Militia  
Deputy Chair: Jim Stevens, Ten Broeck's Coy., Butler's Rangers  
Executive Secretary: Dean Barnes, 1st Ulster County Militia  
Recording Secretary: Dean Barnes, 1st Ulster County Militia  
Treasurer: Teresa Gage, Behind the Lines

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

**Rate of Annual Dues**

Annual membership dues need to be raised to cover the cost of insurance for the Association. The suggested rate for 2004 is \$10, and will be voted on at the meeting.

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**Annual Membership Meeting**

The Annual Membership meeting will tentatively be held on Saturday, March 20th at St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge. Although the meeting is normally held on the 4th Saturday in March, the Lodge was not available this year on that date. We will confirm the date at the Delegates' meeting. In recent years, this has been a rather long business meeting, with a luncheon and a speaker. Many members have expressed a desire to have the meeting be more of a social function. So this year we are proposing something new: have the business meeting in the late afternoon (perhaps 4 or 5 pm) for one hour, then proceed to the social function, with hors d'oeuvres and 18th century dancing. The cost should remain in the same range as the usual luncheon. More details will follow at the Delegates Meeting.

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**Directions to St. Patricks Masonic Lodge**

From the NYS Thruway (I90), take exit 28, the Fonda/Johnstown exit. At the exit ramp, take a left going towards Fonda/Johnstown. Follow the river going west. Make a right turn onto 30A North (also called State Street) - you'll see on the right at that intersection first a car dealership, then a gas station (Robin Station) - Take a left onto Rt. 67 W/ Main St., then take a right at the light (Stewarts will be on your right) onto North Perry Street. The St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge is on the right - red brick with white pillars.

Or, if not coming from the Thruway, take either Rt. 67 or Rt. 29 into Johnstown. As you enter Johnstown, Rt 67 & 29 converge on Main street, turn right onto North Perry St - the St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge is on the right - red brick with white pillars.

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