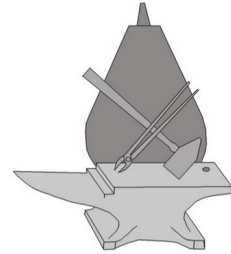


# Alabama Forge Council

Established 1985



January 18, 2025

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL (A Not For Profit Organization)

### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this not for profit organization shall be Alabama Forge Council. Dependent organizations of Forges will constitute the Alabama Forge Council.

The logo for this organization is shown at the top of this page.  
The name of the newsletter shall be **BITUMINOUS BITS**.

### ARTICLE II ADDRESS

The address of the principle office of the organization will be the address of the Executive Secretary/Treasurer, currently 111 Yorkshire Drive, Athens, AL 35613.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**ARTICLE III  
PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES**

The organization is organized exclusively for educational purposes (within the meaning of the term "educational" as used in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code including for such purpose the following:

To actively expose the public and blacksmithing enthusiasts to the art and craft of blacksmithing in its many forms by sponsoring and conducting educational seminars, workshops, conferences, slide programs, forge demonstrations and training programs utilizing various presentation media, and by the production of printed matter in the form of newsletter, magazine articles, blacksmith journals, training matter and newspaper articles.

To disseminate information concerning sources of blacksmith literature, material and equipment to the blacksmithing community.

To act as the point of contact in the State of Alabama concerning the art and craft of blacksmithing.

And to serve as the state center of information concerning the art and craft of blacksmithing for architects, engineers, interior designers, schools, museums, and other interested groups, and the general public.

**ARTICLE IV  
NOT FOR PROFIT**

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing and distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**ARTICLE V**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

a. **Qualifications.** Subject to age requirements in the following paragraph, any person, firm, corporation or organization in the art and craft of blacksmithing allied hereto, and accepting the purposes and bylaws of this organization may become a member, by written application on forms provided, accompanied by payment of one year's dues, to the President or Executive Secretary/Treasurer.

Members of the AFC must be at least 19 years old. Children under the age of 19 may attend and participate in meetings if their parents who are members also attend and closely supervise their children.

b. **Categories.** There shall be the following two categories of individual membership:

Forge members are those who are also a member of a dependent forge referred to in Article I.

Members at large are those who are not a member of a particular forge.

c. **Resignation.** Any member may withdraw from the organization after fulfilling all obligations to it by giving written notice of such intention to the Executive Secretary/Treasurer. A lack of payment of dues by two months following expiration of his annual membership period will be considered a request for resignation and the member will be dropped from the organization.

d. **Suspension.** A member may be suspended for a period or expelled for cause such as violation of any of the bylaws or code of ethics of the organization. Suspension or expulsion shall be by a two thirds vote of the membership of the Board of Directors, provided that a statement of the charges shall have been mailed by registered mail to the member under charges at his last recorded address at least fifteen (15) days before final action is taken thereon. This statement shall be accompanied by a notice of the time and place where the Board of Directors is to take action. The member shall be given an opportunity to present a defense at the time and place mentioned in such notice. The action of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding upon the association and the suspended or expelled member. Said member suspended or expelled shall forfeit any and all rights of membership, including membership to a Forge, or on the board of directors or any committee and dues paid.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**SECTION II. FORGE MEMBERSHIP**

**a. Interim Forge.** An Interim Forge may be formed in the State of Alabama in a location where a Forge does not exist. Three individual members in good standing are required. An application for Interim Forge status will be submitted to the President. The application will include the Forge name, area of influence, and Forge officers (Forgemaster, Secretary/Treasurer, and Board Member). Within thirty days after receipt of application the President will approve or disapprove the Interim Forge's application.

**b. Forge Status.** An Interim Forge will be elevated to Forge status by the President upon the demonstration of conducting monthly meetings for a period of at least six months following approval of Interim status, and having a minimum of five individual members.

**c. Forge Conduct.** All Forges shall accept the purposes of this Constitution and Bylaws and ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and conduct their operations within these rules.

**d. Forge dissolution.** A Forge which becomes inactive (does not have meetings, or does not participate in the Council's activities) or whose membership is less than five (5) will be considered to be on probation for one year. At the end of one year, the Forge under probation may be reinstated to full Forge status, paragraph b. of this section, or may be dissolved within the Alabama Forge Council. When a Forge falls below the criteria for full Forge status the President will notify the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will take the necessary actions following the guidelines in paragraph d. of this section. The members and Forgemaster of the Forge under consideration will be given every opportunity and aid by the Alabama Forge Council to attain full Forge status. A two-thirds vote by the Board of Directors is required for Forge probation and Forge dissolution. Upon Forge dissolution, the Board of Directors will purge the dissolved Forge from the Council rolls.

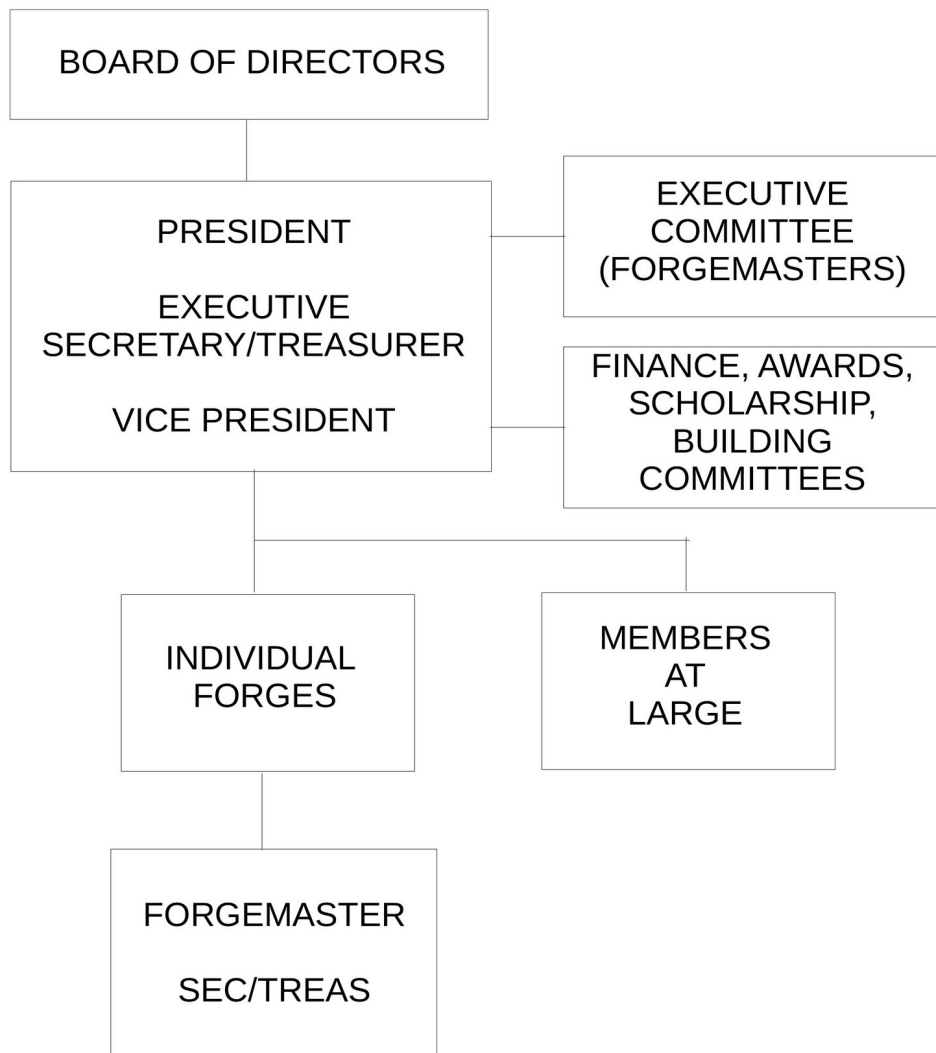
**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**ARTICLE VI**

**ORGANIZATION YEAR**

The fiscal and elected term year of the organization shall begin on January 1 and end of December 31 of that year.

**ARTICLE VII  
ORGANIZATION CHART**



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**ARTICLE VIII  
DUES**

**SECTION 1. ANNUAL DUES.**

The Board of Directors may determine from time to time the amount of initiation fee, if any, and annual dues payable to the organization by members.

**SECTION 2. PAYMENT OF DUES.**

Dues shall be payable in advance at the time of membership application. Said dues shall cover membership for one (1) calendar year and six issues of **BITUMINOUS BITS**.

**ARTICLE IX  
MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1. FORGE MEETINGS**

Individual Forge meetings are to be conducted monthly. The meetings should consist of a short business meeting, demonstration, presentation, or open forge time, and should encourage group participation in blacksmithing.

**SECTION 2. JOINT MEETINGS**

Each Forge is encouraged to host a joint meeting, demonstration, or hammer-in at least once a year. The AFC may provide funds for expenses and honorarium for guest demonstrator, maximum amounts to be set by the President.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall disburse such funds with the concurrence of the President that an appropriate program has been planned early enough that all AFC members will have the opportunity to learn of the event in advance. Publication of the event in the **Bituminous Bits** one-week prior, or written notification of all Forgemasters at least 6 weeks prior is required.

**SECTION 3. AREA EVENTS**

Each Forge will participate in area events to promote the art and craft of blacksmithing.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**SECTION 4. ANNUAL FORGE MEETING**

There shall be an annual meeting conducted by each Forge each year for the election of Forge officers. These meetings will be conducted prior to the Council annual meeting. Election results shall be reported to the Executive Secretary/Treasurer.

**SECTION 5. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

There shall be an annual meeting of the Alabama Forge Council to plan the next year's activities. The annual meeting shall include elections of President, Vice President, and Executive Secretary/Treasurer when the terms of office expire.

**SECTION 6. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Executive Council meetings may be called by the President or Forgemasters as required.

**SECTION 7. BOARD MEETINGS**

Board meetings will be held annually or may be called at the request of a Board member or the President.

**SECTION 8. QUORUM**

The presence in person or by proxy of a majority of the members entitled to vote shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, whether individual Forge, Executive Council, Board of Directors, or general membership.

**SECTION 9. PROXIES**

Every member entitled to vote at any meeting may vote in proxy. A proxy shall be in writing and revocable at the pleasure of the member executing it. Unless the duration of the proxy is specified, it shall be invalid after eleven months from the date of its execution.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**OF**  
**ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL**  
(A Not For Profit Organization)

**SECTION 10. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business at all meetings of the organization, Board of Directors, and Executive Council shall include the following topics when applicable:

- a. Calling of the roll
- b. Proof of notice of meeting or waiver of notice
- c. Reading of the minutes from last meeting
- d. Received communications
- e. New Business
- f. reports of officers
- g. Reports of committees
- h. Unfinished business
- i. Election of Officers

Any questions as to priority of business shall be decided by the Chair without debate.

All proceedings shall be in accordance with current revision of **Roberts Rules of Order**.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**ARTICLE X  
DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY**

The property, affairs, activities and concerns of the Alabama Forge Council shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the following members:

President of Alabama Forge Council  
Immediate Past President of Alabama Forge Council  
Member of each Forge (3 year term. The terms should be staggered to maintain continuity).  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer (non voting)  
Vice President (non voting)

**SECTION 3. BOARD ELECTIONS**

The Forge members of the Board are to be elected annually by the members of each individual Forge.

The President, Vice President, and Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected to 3-year terms by majority vote of board members present or represented by proxy.

The President serves as Chairman of the Board.

**SECTION 4. DUTIES**

The Board of Directors shall be the overall governing or control authority of the organization. In particular, the Board of Directors shall exercise control of the organization with respect to policy, major undertakings, bylaw changes, and financial matters.

**SECTION 5. MEETINGS**

The Board will meet at the Annual Conference and as often as needed to conduct the required business.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL  
(A Not For Profit Organization)**

**ARTICLE XI**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1. DEFINITION:**

The Executive Council shall consist of the President , and Forgemasters. The Vice President is a non-voting member.

**SECTION 2. COUNCIL OPERATION**

The operation of the Alabama Forge Council shall be conducted by the President and Forgemasters (vice-presidents responsible for each region) in accordance with the bylaws and with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 3. ELECTIONS**

Eliminated.

**Section 4. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The president is responsible for the operation of the organization and coordination with the Board of Directors. Each Forgemaster is responsible for the operation of each Forge in accordance with this charter. Each Forgemaster has a vote on the propositions to be submitted to the Board of Directors (a majority vote required)by the Executive Council.

The Executive Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for the collection and dispersal of funds in accordance with the approval of the Board of Directors. He shall keep the minutes of all organizational meetings including the Board meetings. He shall be responsible for the publishing and transmittal of the newsletter.

The Vice President becomes President if for any reason the President cannot complete the term of office. In this event the Vice President serves as President until new officer elections can be held at the next Annual Meeting.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**OF**  
**ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL**  
(A Not For Profit Organization)

**ARTICLE XII**  
**ORGANIZATION**

This organization may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of all members of the organization. Upon the dissolution of the organization, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed by the Superior Court of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*