

2017 GRAND LODGE LEGISLATION

CARRY-OVER LEGISLATION FROM 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 16-04: ALLOWS ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION TO BALLOT SECRECY

The proponents of this Resolution seek to allow an exception to the rule on ballot secrecy when reporting, preparing, investigating and/or adjudicating charges of alleged unmasonic conduct relating to a ballot.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, Section 804.450 of the *California Masonic Code*, in the case of an unfavorable ballot, only allows a member to divulge his vote on a ballot, or to assign reasons for such vote, if it be known, to the Master for the purpose of correcting a mistake; and

WHEREAS, unmasonic conduct under *California Masonic Code* Section 1401.010, subsection G.3.g includes improper use of ballot; and

WHEREAS, there have been Masonic trials in which instances of improper use of the ballot box have been alleged against Wardens and Masters, but the charges could not be proven because of Section 804.450.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 804.450 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§804.450. BALLOT SECRECY.

Except for the three officers whose duty it is to examine the ballot box, no one is entitled to know the number of votes cast for or against an applicant. There shall be no discussion regarding an unfavorable ballot. No member of a Lodge shall be required, requested, or allowed to divulge his vote upon a ballot, or to assign reasons for such vote, if it be known, except to the Master for the purpose of correcting a mistake. The foregoing notwithstanding, such discussion or disclosure is permitted when reporting, preparing, investigating and/or adjudicating charges of alleged unmasonic conduct relating to a ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Robert L. Sills, PM, No. 520

s/ Jeffrey L. Bear, PM, No. 520

s/ R. Stephen Doan, PM, No. 369

s/ Robert E. Scott, PM, No. 293

RESOLUTION NO. 16-07: ALLOWS FOR ALTERNATE APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The proponents of this Resolution seek to allow Lodges the option of distributing the minutes prior to the Stated Meeting and then approving them as previously distributed.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, accurate records are essential to the documentation of a Lodge's history; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary and Master of a Lodge have a shared fiduciary responsibility to maintain the recordings of all Lodge proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the brethren approve the minutes taken and the Master attests to that approval; and

WHEREAS, providing minutes prior to a meeting for approval later as previously distributed can provide a more thorough review of the contents of the minutes; and

WHEREAS, meetings that are more interesting will engage members; and

WHEREAS, Stated Meetings can be programmed to take greater advantage of increased attendance to cover topics of broader interest or to add additional features in limited time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 805.230 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§805.230. DUTIES OF SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- A. Record all proceedings at each meeting proper to be written, under the direction of the Master, and to transcribe the same in a minute book to be kept for that purpose, and at the next Stated Meeting to either read the minutes to the Lodge and, for approval or to present the minutes for approval as previously distributed if such minutes have been made available at, or near, the Tiler's Register for at least 60 minutes prior to such Stated Meeting with any confidential portions redacted. Minutes may not be approved as previously distributed if any member requests that the minutes be read aloud. If any member shall request that the Minutes be read aloud, such request is not subject to discussion, debate or a vote of the Lodge. After such minutes they are have been approved, they shall be presented by the Secretary to present them to the Master for his attestation signature. After approval no change may be made except by appropriate motion properly recorded;
- B. Present to the Lodge at each August Stated Meeting, a statement of income from dues, fees and contributions and the payment of receipts to the Secretary and a comprehensive statement of membership activity transactions, on a form promulgated by the Grand Master, for the six months ending on the preceding June 30th, and at each February Stated Meeting similar statements for the twelve months ending on the preceding December 31st. The Secretary shall submit a copy of these twelve month statements to the Inspector of the district to which the Lodge is assigned on or before the following March 15th. The Secretary shall also submit a copy of the Treasurer's twelve month statement to the Inspector of the district to which the Lodge is assigned and to the Grand Master on or before the following March 15th;
- C. Prepare and transmit a copy of such record, or of any part thereof, to Grand Lodge, when required;
- D. Receive all monies due the Lodge, and pay the same monthly or more frequently as necessary, to the Treasurer; or shall deposit the same not less frequently than monthly to the credit of the Treasurer of the Lodge, in some bank or trust company designated by the Lodge, taking duplicate deposit tags or receipts therefor, one to be immediately delivered to the Treasurer, the other to be kept by the Secretary as a voucher;
- E. Keep the seal of the Lodge and affix it with his attestation to all papers issued under its authority or in obedience to all the requirements of this Code;
- F. Transmit a Certificate of Election, accompanied by a copy of the dispensation, if required, when the election is held at a time other than that prescribed, to the Grand Secretary, immediately after each election in the Lodge;
- G. Transmit reports to the Grand Secretary in such form and with such frequency as the Grand Secretary shall determine, but in no event more frequently than monthly nor less frequently than annually;
- H. Transmit with the annual report to the Grand Secretary the number of life members, the amount of the fund thus created, and the manner in which the fund is invested;
- I. Transmit with the annual returns to the Grand Secretary the names, dates of initiation, passing and raising, and the dates of death of all permanent members of Grand Lodge;
- J. Report all rejections for the degrees, demits, withdrawals, expulsions, suspensions, and restorations to the Grand Secretary, immediately after their occurrence, in the forms provided;
- K. Promptly notify an applicant who is not elected in writing of his rejection, and refund all those fees and contributions paid which are refundable under this Code;
- L. Send the required notification to those Masons of the Lodge who are delinquent in their dues and notify all Masons of the Lodge at least annually of the consequences of not being in good standing;
- M. Keep, in such form as may be provided, the following books of the Lodge;
 - 1. A minute book, in which he shall record all the transactions of the Lodge proper to be written of all Stated and Special Meetings;
 - 2. A book of Bylaws, for the signatures of the members in the order of their admission, in which he shall see that each member signs his name in full, or if such member cannot sign his full name, then his mark attested to by two members of the Lodge other than the Secretary. All entries shall be in ink or other permanent writing;

3. A roll book, in which he shall record, upon pages alphabetically arranged, the:
 - a. Full name or names of all Masons of the Lodge;
 - b. Dates of their initiation, passing, raising, or affiliation;
 - c. Name, number and location of the Lodges of which those affiliated last were Masons;
 - d. Age and occupation of each when received; and
 - e. Dates of their withdrawal, expulsion, suspension, death, or restoration;
 4. A register, to be kept in the Tiler's room, in which all Masons of the Lodge and all visiting Masons of other Lodges shall record their names, and the names, numbers, and locations of their respective Lodges, before entering the Lodge. All entries shall be in ink or other permanent writing; and
 5. A set of such account books as may be necessary to present clearly:
 - a. The account of each Mason with the Lodge;
 - b. The receipts of the Secretary which provide a clear and permanent record of all monies received and from whom received with accounts outstanding, if any;
 - c. His payments to the Treasurer;
- N. Preserve the *California Masonic Code* which may from time to time be published, together with all the printed proceedings; and
- O. Perform such other duties, appertaining to his office, as the Bylaws of the Lodge or this Code may require or the Lodge may direct.

The Secretary shall receive such compensation for his services as the Lodge may direct.

All Lodge records more than 5 years old may be copied in permanent, retrievable electronic format and the originals thereof may then be discarded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 807.000 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§807.000. STATED MEETINGS.

A Lodge shall hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each calendar month, on the date (other than a Sunday) and at the time established in its Bylaws. The foregoing notwithstanding, Lodges whose Bylaws provide for meetings fixed by the phase of the moon shall hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each lunar month, and Mountain Range Lodge No. 18, Harmony Lodge No. 164 and Truckee Lodge No. 200 shall only be required to hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each of 10 calendar months during the year, as it may provide in its Bylaws.

A Lodge may be opened for a Stated Meeting prior to the time fixed in its Bylaws. However, no business shall be transacted prior to such time.

The Inspector or Grand Master may grant a dispensation to change the date of a Stated Meeting, as provided Section 405.060 of this Code.

In the event that the Master of a Lodge determines that inclement weather, including ice, snow, and flood conditions, existing on the day established in the Bylaws of the Lodge for its Stated Meeting, makes it hazardous for members of the Lodge to attend the meeting, he may, with the consent of the Inspector of the district to which the Lodge is assigned, postpone the Stated Meeting to the same day of the week next following the week scheduled for the Stated Meeting. The Master shall notify, to the extent possible, all members of the Lodge residing within fifty miles of the meeting place of the Lodge of the date of the postponed Stated Meeting.

Should a Stated Meeting be postponed, the business transacted at the postponed Stated Meeting shall be limited to approving the reading of the minutes of the last Stated and subsequent Special Meetings, ~~action thereon~~, payment of the invoices of the Lodge, and such other business of an important nature as determined by the Master to require immediate consideration. No other new business shall be considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 807.030 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§807.030. ORDER OF BUSINESS AT STATED MEETINGS.

The order of business at every Stated Meeting of the Lodge shall be as follows:

- A. Approval ~~Reading~~ of the minutes;
- B. Reports of investigating committees;
- C. Balloting;
- D. Reception of applications;
- E. Miscellaneous and unfinished business; and
- F. Conferring of degrees.

All official communications from the Grand Master or Grand Secretary shall be read at the Stated Meeting next following their receipt, or at a time otherwise directed therein. No such communication shall be published unless specifically authorized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee on Ritual is authorized with the consent of the Grand Master to make appropriate changes in the Grand Lodge Monitor to reflect the foregoing resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ Jeffrey Schimsky, PM, No. 674
s/ M. Shawn Donohugh, PM, No. 332
s/ Chris Holme, PM, No. 542
s/ Justin Daza-Ritchie, PM, No. 677

RESOLUTIONS FOR 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-01: MODIFIES POSITION OF CANDIDATE’S HANDS DURING 3RD DEGREE OBLIGATION

The proponents of this Resolution seek to modify the position of the candidate’s hands during the 3rd Degree obligation so that it more closely aligns with the current third degree due-guard.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, in ancient times, the position of the candidate’s hands while taking the 3rd Degree obligation was different from that which is practiced in California today; and

WHEREAS, the due-guard more accurately represents what should be the position of the candidate’s hands during the 3rd degree obligation; and

WHEREAS, it is the proponents desire to return the candidate’s hands during his obligation to the ancient position to conform them to the current due-guard; and

WHEREAS, as this resolution contains reference to our esoteric work, any questions about this resolution can be addressed by either the proponents or members of the Ritual Committee who have been so advised and are prepared to explain and/or demonstrate the intent of the esoteric portions of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ritual be amended to provide that the position of the candidate’s hands during his obligation be that which will be displayed by the proponents on the overhead screens during the Annual Communication.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ Harold A. Macy, PM, No. 769
s/ Vernon M. Dandridge, PM, No. 614
s/ E. Dale Armstrong, PM, No. 303

Amendment to the Ritual.
5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.
Harold A. Macy and Vernon M. Dandridge are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-02: REQUIRES SENIOR DEACON OF NEW LODGE TO QUALIFY IN RITUAL

The proponents of this Resolution seek to require the Senior Deacon of a new Lodge to qualify in the Ritual work of his office.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, currently under Section 801.030 of the *California Masonic Code*, the proposed Master and Wardens named in a petition submitted to the Grand Secretary to form a new Lodge are required to be certified by an Inspector chosen by the Grand Master to be proficient in the work and lectures of the three degrees of Masonry; and

WHEREAS, under that same section of the *California Masonic Code* there is no requirement that the proposed Senior Deacon of a new Lodge be certified by an Inspector chosen by the Grand Master to be proficient in the work of the three degrees; and

WHEREAS, under Section 805.550 of the *California Masonic Code*, in order to be installed as the Senior Deacon of a Constituent Lodge, a certificate of proficiency in the Senior Deacon's work in all three degrees and the Senior Deacon's Lecture in the Fellow Craft Degree shall be presented to the Installing Officer prior to Installation; and

WHEREAS, a new lodge issued a dispensation by the Grand Master is a Masonic Lodge for all purposes, including the conferring of the three degrees of Masonry; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain consistency in the quality of the performance of the Ritual in California Lodges, and consistency in the *California Masonic Code*, the Senior Deacon of a new Lodge should qualify in the Ritual work of his office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 801.030 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§801.030. INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE.

The petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge shall be accompanied by:

- A. A recommendation from the Inspector of the district in which the nearest or most convenient Lodge is situated (if in a city or town where more than one Masonic district exists, then from a majority of such Inspectors), setting forth that:
 - 1. The petitioners are all Master Masons in good standing;
 - 2. The establishment of the new Lodge is in accordance with the principles of Masonry and contributes to the good of the order; and
 - 3. A safe and suitable room is available for tiled Lodge meetings; and
- B. A certificate from an Inspector whom the Grand Master selects, declaring that the proposed Master and Wardens:
 - 1. Have received Certificates of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree;
 - 2. Are fully competent to properly confer the three degrees of Masonry and to deliver the lectures of the three degrees; and
 - 3. Are proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge; and
- C. A certificate from an Inspector whom the Grand Master selects, declaring that the proposed Senior Deacon is fully competent to properly give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees and the Senior Deacon's lecture of the Fellow Craft Degree.

The Grand Master may grant a dispensation in the absence of an Inspector's recommendation under paragraph A.2 above if, after full investigation, he deems such action to be for the best interests of Masonry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 801.065 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§801.065. ISSUANCE OF CHARTER.

A Lodge under dispensation may petition Grand Lodge for a Charter at any time. The petition shall be considered at the next Annual Communication. Upon such a petition, Grand Lodge may order the issuance of a Charter to the Lodge, and assign it a name and number on the Grand Lodge registry, if:

- A. The Lodge is found qualified;
- B. The Inspector assigned to the Lodge has certified that the Master and Wardens are qualified to give the work and lectures in the three degrees, have each received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree and are each proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge; ~~and~~
- C. The Inspector assigned to the Lodge has certified that the Senior Deacon is qualified to give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees and the Senior Deacon's lecture of the Fellow Craft Degree;
and
- ~~D~~. The Lodge is clear of all indebtedness.

The Charter shall be issued as of the closing date of the Annual Communication at which it was granted. The Lodge shall be duly constituted within 90 days after the issuance of its Charter, or its Charter shall be forfeited. Once constituted, the Lodge shall be a Masonic Lodge for all purposes and thus shall have all the rights and privileges thereof and be governed by all the provisions of this Code governing chartered Lodges.

If Grand Lodge grants the petition and orders the issuance of a Charter to the Lodge, the Lodge's Dispensation shall be revived and the Grand Secretary shall return it, together with the Bylaws, books of records and returns to the Lodge which presented them. The Lodge may then proceed to work under the revived dispensation, unless legally revoked, until duly constituted.

If Grand Lodge does not order the issuance of the Charter, it may in the alternative continue the consideration of the petition one time to the next Annual Communication, in which event the Dispensation shall be revived and the Grand Secretary shall return it, together with the Bylaws, books of records and returns to the Lodge which presented them. The Lodge may then proceed to work under the revived dispensation, unless legally revoked, until the first day of the next Annual Communication.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ John L. Wasson, PM, No. 87
s/ Gary R. Quintrell, PM, No. 106
s/ Halby O. Garrison, PM, No. 79

Amendment to the Ordinances.
5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.
John L. Wasson and Gary R. Quintrell are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-03: WITHDRAWN

RESOLUTION NO. 17-04: INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL APPOINTED OFFICERS

The proponents of this Resolution seek to include in the Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges the installation of those additional officers that the Lodge may deem proper to appoint, in addition to the traditional lodge appointed officers.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, *California Masonic Code* Section 805.010 allows a lodge, in addition to the traditional officers of a lodge, to appoint, "other officers as the Lodge may deem proper to appoint;" and

WHEREAS, *California Masonic Code* Section 805.510 requires lodge officers to be installed as soon as is practical after their election or appointment using the Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges; and

WHEREAS, the current Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges does not provide for the installation of such additional officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges be amended by the Ritual Committee with the consent of the Grand Master to provide for the installation of such other officers as the Lodge may deem proper to appoint in addition to the traditional lodge appointed officers, with the following form offered for their consideration:

If the Master appoints an officer whom the lodge has deemed proper to appoint that is not specified in the Installation Ceremony, the officer shall be installed in the following manner.

The officer shall be placed in the lineup after the Stewards. If there is more than one such officer, the Master shall determine their order.

The officer will be installed with the following ritual.

I.O. Brother Master of Ceremonies, you will present the *(insert the title of the additional officer here)*.

M.C. Worshipful Sir, I present to you for installation, Brother _____, who has been appointed *(insert the title of the additional officer here)* of this lodge.

I.O. Brother _____, you have been appointed *(insert the title of the additional officer here)* of this lodge and you will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

M.C. *advances to the table and picks up the jewel. Holding it in both hands, he steps directly in front of and faces the officer. After investing the officer with his jewel, M.C. returns to the left side and one-half step behind the officer.*

I.O. It is your duty to observe the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master and perform such other duties as may be required. You will now repair to your proper place.

The officer is conducted to his chair via the South or North side of the Altar, whichever is most practical. Upon arriving at his chair, he turns right about, bows to M.C. and takes his seat. M.C. returns to his station.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ James L. Ridley, PM, No. 338
s/ Victor M. Ropac, Sr., PM, No. 259
s/ Kirk R. Weiss, M, No. 476

Amendment to the Ritual.
5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.
James L. Ridley and Victor M. Ropac, Sr. are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-05: MAKES ALL MASTER MASONS VOTING GRAND LODGE MEMBERS AND ALLOWS A LODGE TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM COST FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The proponents of this Resolution seek to make all California Master Masons in good standing voting members of Grand Lodge and to reduce by 20% the statutory minimum cost to purchase a life membership.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, making all California Master Masons voting members of Grand Lodge would encourage more interest and visitation at the Annual Communication; and

WHEREAS, making all California Master Masons voting members of Grand Lodge would fulfill what we tell Master Masons in our third degree, to obtain the rights and privileges of a Master Mason; and

WHEREAS, a twenty percent discount on the purchase of a life membership would provide an incentive to purchase a Life Membership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 20.000 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§20.000. MEMBERS.

- A. Grand Lodge shall be composed of a Grand Master (whose manner of address shall be Most Worshipful), a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior Grand Warden, and a Junior Grand Warden (whose manner of address shall be Right Worshipful), a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Secretary and a Grand Lecturer (whose manner of address shall be Very Worshipful), a Grand Chaplain (whose manner of address shall be Very Reverend), the Assistant Grand Lecturers, a Grand Orator, an Assistant Grand Secretary, a Grand Marshal, a Grand Standard Bearer, a Grand Sword Bearer, a Grand Bible Bearer, a Senior Grand Deacon, a Junior Grand Deacon, a Senior Grand Steward, a Junior Grand Steward, a Grand Pursuivant, a Grand Organist, a Grand Tiler, and, at the discretion of the Grand Master, an Assistant Grand Organist and an Assistant Grand Tiler (whose manner of address shall be Worshipful), together with all of the Past Grand Officers and Past Masters of this Jurisdiction, ~~and~~ the Master and Wardens of the several chartered and duly constituted Lodges (except Research Lodges, Historic Lodges or the Grand Master's Lodge) of this Jurisdiction or the representatives thereof duly elected, and all other members in good standing of a chartered and duly constituted Lodge in this Jurisdiction. A Past Grand Officer is someone who has been regularly elected by the members of Grand Lodge and installed as one of the first seven Grand Lodge officers listed above and who has served his full term in that office; and
- B. Members of Grand Lodge shall meet in Communications to conduct whatever business may properly come before them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 403.030 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§403.030. ATTENDANCE.

Any Master Mason who is a member of ~~a Constituent Lodge or~~ a lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge may be present during any Annual, Special or Ceremonial Communication.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 403.075 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§403.075. VOTES.

Except as provided in Sections 403.080 and 403.085 of this Code, the following shall each be entitled to one vote only:

- A. Elective and appointive Grand Lodge Officers except the Grand Tiler and the Assistant Grand Tiler;
- B. Past Grand Officers;
- C. Masters, Senior Wardens and Junior Wardens of chartered Lodges; and
- D. All members of Grand Lodge not described above ~~Past Masters collectively of each chartered Lodge.~~

If neither the Master nor either of the Wardens of a Lodge has registered, the elected representative of the Lodge may cast the votes of Master and Wardens of the Lodge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 403.080 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§403.080. CUMULATIVE VOTING.

If one or more of the Master and Wardens of a Lodge has not registered, or has registered and is not present, the senior such officer registered, in addition to his own vote, may also cast the vote of the absentee or absentees. If an incumbent officer of Grand Lodge or a Past Grand Officer is also a Master, Warden or elected representative of a Lodge, he may cast all votes to which such positions entitle him, ~~but he shall not be entitled to cast the vote afforded the Past Masters of a Lodge. If the elected representative is a Past Master but not an incumbent officer of Grand Lodge or a Past Grand Officer, he may also cast the~~ member's vote described in Section 403.075.D of this Code ~~afforded the Past Masters of a Lodge.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 809.320 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§809.320. LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

A Lodge may adopt a standing resolution providing for a life membership plan, which shall forever exempt a member making the required payment into the plan from the payment of dues in the Lodge. The resolution may be adopted, amended or revoked at any Stated Meeting by a majority vote of the members present. Any such action must be presented, in writing, at a preceding Stated

Meeting and written notice must be given to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed action and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The plan must provide that a life membership shall be granted upon payment of:

- A. A sum of money which is equal to or greater than 17.6 ~~22~~ times the Lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership; or
- B. A sum of money equal to the Lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership multiplied by the factor indicated opposite the member's age in the following schedule:

- Age 49 and under, a factor equal to or greater than 19.2 ~~24~~ times annual dues;
- 50 to 54 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 16 ~~20~~ times annual dues;
- 55 to 59 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 14.4 ~~18~~ times annual dues;
- 60 to 64 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 12.8 ~~16~~ times annual dues;
- 65 to 71 inclusive, a factor equal to or greater than 11.2 ~~14~~ times annual dues; and
- Age 72 and over, a factor equal to or greater than 9.6 ~~12~~ times annual dues.

The resolution shall take effect only upon its approval by the Grand Master.

The Secretary shall send to each life member at his last known address, annually, a Life Membership Dues Card for the next calendar year.

A life membership is an executed contract. A life member has no interest in the Lodge's Life Membership Fund, except in the case of a rescission of his life membership with his consent and the consent of the Lodge or as elsewhere provided in this Code.

Upon the rescission of a life membership with the consent of the Lodge and the life member, the life member shall be paid an amount in cash equal to the lesser of the original sum of money paid to purchase his life membership or his share of the fair market value of the Life Membership Fund at the time of the rescission, as determined by the Grand Treasurer. In making this determination, the Grand Treasurer shall compute the interest of each living life member in the Lodge's Life Membership Fund and the interest of the Lodge in it, on a just and equitable basis.

The Grand Secretary shall provide the form of contract to be used by the Lodge when a life membership is purchased (other than as a memorial). Such contract must be signed by the member for whom the life membership is being purchased, the Lodge Master and the Lodge Secretary, affixed with the seal of the Lodge. The original shall be kept as part of the member's permanent membership record. A copy of the signed contract shall be provided to the member.

A life member who has been suspended or expelled and who shall thereafter become restored or elected to membership in a Lodge in which a life membership was once held shall also be restored as a life member of that Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ Michael E. Roberts, PM, No. 480
s/ Vic C. Vickers, PM, No. 61
s/ Earl D. Love, Jr., SW, No. 122

Amendment to the Constitution and Ordinances.
5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.
Michael E. Roberts and Vic C. Vickers are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-06: ALLOWS BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED IN ANY DEGREE

The proponents of this Resolution seek to allow Lodges to conduct business in any degree.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, lodges, under section 807.020, must conduct all business in a Lodge of Entered Apprentices, except installing officers, conferring degrees and conducting examinations in the Candidate's Lectures; and

WHEREAS, no Masonic Education of the esoteric work of the Second and Third Degrees may be presented at a Stated Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the presiding officer should have the flexibility to determine the appropriate degree for what business is intended; and

WHEREAS, Lodges should be able to open in any degree, which would allow them to continue to be proficient in the ritual of opening the Second and Third Degrees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 402.040 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§402.040. RESTRICTIONS ON CONFERRING DEGREES.

No Constituent Lodge shall confer:

- A. Any degree on Sunday;
- B. Degrees upon more than five candidates at any one meeting;
- C. More than one degree upon a candidate at any one meeting;
- D. Any of the degrees upon more than one candidate at a time;
- E. More than five degrees in any one day;
- ~~F. A degree where the Lodge has been called up or down for the purpose of examination;~~
- ~~FG.~~ A degree without completing it at the time it is conferred, except because of an objection to the candidate or an emergency over which Lodge officers have no control; or
- ~~GH.~~ A degree or any part of a degree prior to the time fixed for convening a meeting therefor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 807.020 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§807.020. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO MEETINGS.

- A. Sunday Meetings. No Stated or Special Meetings of a Lodge shall be held on Sunday except for the annual Installation of Officers or funeral services. If the Stated Meeting of a lunar Lodge falls on a Sunday, the Stated Meeting shall be held on the following day.
- B. Lodge in Which Work May Be Done. ~~Examinations in the Candidate's Lecture of a degree and the conferring of that degree shall be done in a lodge of that degree. All other business may be conducted in a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons, a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons or a Lodge of Master Masons at the option of the presiding officer. At the discretion of the presiding officer, a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons may be called up to a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons and then to a Lodge of Master Masons for any purpose but shall thereafter similarly be called down to a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons before closing. At the discretion of the presiding officer, a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons may be called down to a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons or called up to a Lodge of Master Masons for any purpose but shall thereafter be back to a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons before closing. At the discretion of the presiding officer, a Lodge of Master Masons may be called down to a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons and then to a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons for any purpose but shall thereafter similarly be called up to a Lodge of Master Masons before closing. Work to be Done in Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons.~~ All business, except examinations in the Candidate's Lecture of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees, the conferring of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees, and the consideration of relief of a worthy Mason, shall be done in a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. At the option of the retiring Master, the Lodge may be opened either on the First Degree or on the Third Degree for the purpose of installing officers. A Lodge of Master Masons may be called down for examinations in the Candidate's Lecture of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees. A Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons may be called down for examinations in the Candidate's Lecture of the Entered Apprentice degree. At a Stated Meeting, the Lodge may be called up for examinations in the Candidate's Lecture of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees.
- C. Quorum. A Lodge shall not be opened, nor shall any work be done or business transacted, except by, or in the presence of, and under the continual direction of the Master, the ranking Warden, the Grand Master or the Grand Master's designated representative. No Lodge shall transact any business with fewer than five members of the Lodge present except the conferring of degrees. The Tiler is present while he is at his post in the Tiler's room.
- D. Presence of Charter. No meeting shall be conducted by a Lodge unless the Charter of the Lodge (or, in the case of a Lodge under dispensation, the Dispensation) is present. A photocopy of the Charter may be made under the direction of the Grand Secretary at the request and expense of the Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall attach thereto a certificate with the seal of

Grand Lodge affixed that the copy is a true copy of the Lodge's Charter. The copy may be used by the Lodge instead of the original Charter at any time.

- E. Presence of Flag. The Flag of our country shall be displayed at all meetings of a Lodge. At the annual election of officers, and at such other meetings as may be deemed desirable by the Master, the Flag shall be formally presented at the Altar and received in the manner prescribed in the Ritual. The Altar of a Lodge shall not be decorated with any flag.
- F. No Smoking. Smoking (including the use of electronic smoking devices) is forbidden in the Lodge room at all times when the Lodge is in session.
- G. No Adjourned Meetings. There shall be no adjourned meeting. Each meeting of a Lodge must be closed when the business proposed for transaction has been concluded, but in no event later than the close of the day on which it was opened.
- H. Good Standing Requirement. No member may make a motion, second a motion, speak on a motion, vote on a motion, recommend anyone for membership or ballot on membership at a Lodge meeting unless he is then a member in good standing of that Lodge. He must present a current dues receipt to the Tiler to demonstrate that he is a member of the Lodge in good standing or be verified by the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary or Assistant Secretary as a member of the Lodge in good standing. If a member is present who is not in good standing, any question or action to be decided hereunder by a majority or greater vote of the members present shall be decided by a majority or greater vote of the members present who are in good standing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the *Monitor and Officers Manual* be amended by the Ritual Committee with the consent of the Grand Master to implement the foregoing resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ Jack R. Levitt, PM, No. 35
s/ John L. Cooper, III, PM, No. 467
s/ Frederick L. Sorsabal, PM, No. 26

Amendment to the Ordinances.
5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.
Jack R. Levitt and John L. Cooper, III are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-07: CLEANS UP AND CLARIFIES PORTIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA MASONIC CODE

The proponents of this Resolution seek to clean up and clarify portions of the California Masonic Code.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, periodically users of the California Masonic Code identify places where the language should be cleaned-up or clarified; and

WHEREAS, this resolution addresses those places found since the adoption of Resolution 13-15.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 405.060 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§405.060. POWER OF INSPECTOR TO GRANT DISPENSATIONS.

Upon a written application as provided below, the Inspector, on behalf of the Grand Master, may grant dispensations for:

- A. Holding elections for a Lodge officer or officers at times other than the prescribed time, except for the purpose of filling a vacancy, in which case no dispensation is required. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after a majority vote by ballot;
- B. Changing the date and/or time of a Stated Meeting on such notice to the members of the Lodge as the Inspector or Grand Master may require. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after majority vote by ballot;
- C. ~~Receiving and acting upon applications for degrees of a man who belongs or whose spouse belongs to a uniformed service of the United States as provided in Section 804.225 of this Code. The Lodge shall give at least 10 days written notice to each of its members of the meeting at which a ballot on any application for such dispensation will be taken and the purpose thereof. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after unanimous vote by ballot;~~

~~If the dispensation is issued, the application for degrees shall be processed as provided in Section 804.285 and following of this Code for regular applications;~~

C.D. Wearing Masonic Clothing and Masonic Regalia in public processions and parades. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after majority vote by ballot; and

D.E. Authorizing the Lodge to hold a Special Meeting in a building (other than the one housing its meeting place) or at a place in the open. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Master of the Lodge. No Lodge vote is required.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Stephen Doan, PM, No. 369
Jeffery L. Bear, PM, No. 520
Jack R. Levitt, PM, No. 35

Amendment to the Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

R. Stephen Doan and Jeffery L. Bear are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-08: REDUCES REQUIRED NUMBER OF STATED MEETINGS FOR BIG BEAR AND RIM OF THE WORLD LODGES

The proponents of this Resolution seek to allow Big Bear and Rim of the World Lodges to hold no more than ten Stated Meetings annually.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of California:

WHEREAS, Big Bear Lodge and Rim of the World Lodge both experience harsh winters, both in terms of the weather and capability of members to attend Stated Meetings; and

WHEREAS, January and February are particularly difficult due to the snow, ice and cold weather; and

WHEREAS, additionally, illnesses and a loss of members who get out of town during the winter leaves it very difficult to get enough to attend a Stated Meeting to even have a quorum let alone the necessary officers needed to open lodge; and

WHEREAS, said lodges would like the option of holding only ten Stated Meetings a year as is already established in CMC section 807.000 for three other lodges which have similar winter harshness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 807.000 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§807.000. STATED MEETINGS.

A Lodge shall hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each calendar month, on the date (other than a Sunday) and at the time established in its Bylaws. The foregoing notwithstanding, Lodges whose Bylaws provide for meetings fixed by the phase of the moon shall hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each lunar month, and Mountain Range Lodge No. 18, Harmony Lodge No. 164, ~~and~~ Truckee Lodge No. 200, Big Bear Lodge No. 617 and Rim of the World Lodge No. 711 shall only be required to hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each of 10 calendar months during the year, as it may provide in its Bylaws.

A Lodge may be opened for a Stated Meeting prior to the time fixed in its Bylaws. However, no business shall be transacted prior to such time.

The Inspector or Grand Master may grant a dispensation to change the date of a Stated Meeting, as provided Section 405.060 of this Code.

In the event that the Master of a Lodge determines that inclement weather, including ice, snow, and flood conditions, existing on the day established in the Bylaws of the Lodge for its Stated Meeting, makes it hazardous for members of the Lodge to attend the meeting, he may, with the consent of the Inspector of the district to which the Lodge is assigned, postpone the Stated Meeting to the same day of the week next following the week scheduled for the Stated Meeting. The Master shall notify, to the extent possible, all members of the Lodge residing within fifty miles of the meeting place of the Lodge of the date of the postponed Stated Meeting.

Should a Stated Meeting be postponed, the business transacted at the postponed Stated Meeting shall be limited to the reading of the minutes of the last Stated and subsequent Special Meetings, action thereon, payment of the invoices of the Lodge, and such other business of an important nature as determined by the Master to require immediate consideration. No other new business shall be considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 802.020 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§802.020. LODGE BYLAWS.

The following Uniform Code of Bylaws shall be adopted by and become the Bylaws of every Constituent Lodge:

THE UNIFORM CODE OF BYLAWS OF LODGES

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

Section 1. This Lodge shall be known by the name of _____ Lodge No. _____, of Free and Accepted Masons of California.

**ARTICLE II
MEETINGS OF THE LODGES**

Section 1. The stated meetings of this Lodge shall be held on the _____ in each month*, at _____ o'clock ____m., except as follows. During the months of _____, the Stated Meeting shall be held at _____ o'clock ____m. In any month when the regular meeting date shall fall on _____ or _____, legal holidays, or during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the Stated Meeting shall be held on the _____ of _____ month at ____m. A particular stated meeting date may be changed due to a religious observance by a majority vote of the Lodge at a Stated Meeting held either in the second or third month immediately preceding the month in which such religious observance occurs, in the manner provided for in the *California Masonic Code*. Such change of meeting date need not be approved by Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. Notice of the date change shall be given to the Grand Master and the members of the Lodge not less than three weeks before the meeting date fixed in the Bylaws. This change of date shall not be an amendment to these Bylaws.

* Requires appropriate revision for lunar Lodges and for Mountain Range Lodge No. 18, Harmony Lodge No. 164, ~~and~~ Truckee Lodge No. 200, Big Bear Lodge No. 617 and Rim of the World Lodge No. 711.

Section 2. The Lodge may hold such special meetings in addition to its stated meeting on such dates (other than Sundays) and at such times as it determines or the Master shall direct.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ Chester C. Olson, PM, No. 436
s/ D. Lynn Parker, PM, No. 842
s/ Joseph C. Grubb, Jr., PM, No. 711
s/ John Channon, PM, No. 259

Amendment to the Ordinances.
5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.
Chester C. Olson and D. Lynn Parker are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.