

2025 GRAND LODGE RESOLUTIONS
GRAND MASTER SALAZAR’S DECISIONS

Grand Master Salazar’s Decision No. 1
Esoteric or Secret Portion of the Ritual

I have been asked to clarify the meaning of the phrase “esoteric or secret portion” of the Ritual as referenced in the *California Masonic Code (CMC)*. Understanding the secrets of Freemasonry is crucial, as each of us has taken an obligation to safeguard them. It is deemed unmasonic conduct to reduce them to writing. To address this question, I have collaborated with the Executive Committee, the Ritual Committee, and the Jurisprudence Committee to develop a comprehensive answer, which is provided in the form of Grand Master’s Decision No. 1.

Prior to 1988, the Ritual was transmitted orally, “from mouth to ear,” with no written document containing the complete Ritual. This oral tradition was regarded as emphasizing the experiential nature of, and safeguarding, the secrets of Freemasonry. Recognizing the need for a standardized approach, the Grand Lodge adopted a resolution in 1988 permitting the use of a cipher — later specifically, the Allen cipher, produced by Allen Publishing Company in Virginia and utilized widely in the United States since at least 1907. In 1991, the Grand Lodge adopted the version titled “King Solomon and His Travelers,” a cipher book that includes both plain English portions and ciphered portions of the Ritual.

There is no clear delineation within the cipher that separates what is considered secret and what is not. While one might assume that anything encoded or in cipher is automatically secret, that is not the case. For example, when an officer is asked whether a candidate is prepared, the first response is in plain English, while the second is in cipher—yet both are the same words. By a careful examination of the cipher, however, we can discern that portion which is esoteric or secret. Every word in cipher is represented either by a few letters of the word or a symbol or code for that word. Critically, however, I note that the words, grips and tokens which we consider modes of recognition are not in the cipher, in code or otherwise, except in one instance. While the due guards and signs (and a token in the one instance) are referenced using a few letters of each word in a phrase, those letters are not sufficiently descriptive of how the sign is made for the reader to render the sign. The steps and the Points of Fellowship are necessarily explained in more detail in the cipher, but they are also modes of recognition, which are secret.

It is therefore my decision that the signs, words or modes of recognition in our Ritual – which means our due guards, signs, words, grips, tokens, steps, and the Points of Fellowship – are the “esoteric or secret portion” of the Ritual.

This interpretation aligns with our longstanding understanding of Masonic secrets and the principle that their safeguard is fundamental to our integrity and obligations, and any unauthorized disclosure—written or otherwise—would compromise the very essence of Freemasonry.

If you agree with this interpretation of our law, I ask you to vote “yes” for Grand Master’s Decision No. 1.

If you approve this decision, the following narrative will be added to the appendix of the *California Masonic Code* in which the Grand Master’s interpretative decisions are recorded:

Interpretation of Section 1401.010.G.7 of the *California Masonic Code*.

Esoteric or Secret Portion of the Ritual
(2025 G.M. Decision No. 1)

The signs, words or modes of recognition in our Ritual – which means our due guards, signs, words, grips, tokens, steps, and the Points of Fellowship – are the “esoteric or secret portion of the Ritual,” the disclosure of which in any form not approved by Grand Lodge would constitute a violation of our obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason to protect the secrets of Freemasonry and therefore unmasonic conduct under Section 1401.010.G.7 of the Code.

Grand Master Salazar’s Decision No. 2
Installation of Lodge Officers Not Included in the Ritual

Section 805.010 of our *California Masonic Code* requires each Lodge to elect certain officers (the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary). It also requires each Lodge to appoint certain officers (the Chaplain, Senior and Junior Deacons, Marshal, Senior and Junior Stewards, and Tiler). Section 805.010 also allows each Lodge to appoint additional officers, “as the Lodge may deem proper.”

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Section 805.510 of our Code mandates that Lodge officers, whether elected and appointed, must be “installed using the Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges.” Our Grand Lodge’s Installation Ceremony, however, only provides for the installation of those officers (listed above) that are required by the Code to be elected or appointed. The Installation Ceremony does not address the installation of other appointed officers “deemed proper” by the Lodge and as permitted by Section 805.010.

How then shall a Lodge install officers that are not specifically addressed in the Installation Ceremony? To put this question another way: how do we harmonize Section 805.010 of the Code (that permits appointment of additional officers) with Section 805.510 (that requires officer installation via the Installation Ceremony)?

It is my decision that it is permissible for a Lodge to install Lodge officers that are not specifically required by the Code or named in the Installation Ceremony. In such cases, the Installing Officer shall satisfy himself that the installation follows as closely as reasonably practicable the spirit, principles and ceremony of the Installation Ceremony.

This decision ensures that both Sections 805.010 and 805.510 continue to have force and meaning without overstepping the other.

If you agree with this interpretation of our law, I ask you to vote “yes” for Grand Master’s Decision No. 2.

If you approve this decision, the following narrative will be added to the appendix of the *California Masonic Code* in which the Grand Master’s interpretative decisions are recorded:

Interpretation of Sections 805.010 and 805.510 of the *California Masonic Code*.

Installation of Officers Not Included in Ritual
(2025 G.M. Decision No. 2)

It is permissible for a Lodge to install Lodge officers that are not specifically required by the Code or named in the Installation Ceremony. In such cases, the Installing Officer shall satisfy himself that the installation follows as closely as reasonably practicable the spirit, principles and ceremony of the Installation Ceremony.

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Grand Master Salazar's Recommendation No. 1 Updates Grand Lodge Committee Membership, Duties and Tenure

During my service as Grand Master and in other Grand Lodge leadership roles, I have worked closely with our Grand Lodge Committees. These committees are governed by the *California Masonic Code (CMC)*, and I have identified several important updates to the Code to better align it with current committee practice and purpose.

Section 406.000 of the Code requires that at least 70% of Grand Lodge committee members be drawn from the Grand Lodge membership – defined as current and Past Grand Officers, Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters. It also imposes a five-year term limit for committee chairs.

Recognizing the unique functions of certain committees, the Code exempts the following committees from these requirements: Audit, Freemason Magazine, Compensation, Ritual, and the Executive Committee.

Clarification for Freemason Magazine Committee

Although the Freemason Magazine was converted from a constitutional board to a committee and appropriately exempted under Section 406.000, the section of the Code specifically addressing this committee's assigned duties reimposed term limits. Given the publication's long- standing editorial stability – having only four Editors in Chief over 70 years – this inconsistency should be corrected to reflect both historical practice and intent. I recommend amending the section of the Code addressing the duties of Freemason Magazine to clearly reaffirm this committee's exemption from term limits.

Exemption for Investment Committee

Like the Audit Committee, the Investment Committee relies on the expertise of Masons with professional financial and investment management experience. Many qualified brothers in these fields are not members of Grand Lodge. To preserve access to this critical talent pool, I recommend the Investment Committee be added to the list of exempted committees in Section 406.000.

Update to Finance Committee Duties

The Finance Committee is currently charged with administering all Grand Lodge retirement plans. This responsibility was rendered obsolete in 2007 when Grand Lodge terminated its defined benefit retirement plan and, instead, sponsored for its employees a 401(k)- plan administered by a third-party provider. I recommend removing this outdated duty from the Finance Committee's responsibilities.

If you adopt this recommendation, the following changes would be made to the Code.

Section 406.000 would be amended to read as marked:

§406.000. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

Members of committees shall be members of Grand Lodge or Master Masons who are members in good standing in Constituent Lodges (other than Research Lodges or Historic Lodges) whose special talents, in the discretion of the Grand Master, are considered to be desirable or required for the accomplishment of the mission of the committees. At least seventy percent of the total number of members on each committee shall be members of Grand Lodge.

If a member has served as chairman of the committee for five consecutive years, he shall be ineligible for reappointment as chairman of that committee until the lapse of one year. If a member has served on a committee for nine consecutive years, including service as chairman, he shall be ineligible for reappointment to that committee until the lapse of one year.

To each committee having a membership of seven or more there shall be appointed each year at least one brother who was not a member the preceding year. To each committee having a membership of less than seven there shall be appointed in alternate years at least one brother who was not a member the preceding year.

In addition to the regular membership of all committees, the Grand Master, under special or demanding circumstances, may appoint as a consultant to a committee any member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge (other than Research Lodges or Historic Lodges). The

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Grand Master may remove a consultant at any time. Consultants shall perform services, render advice, and attend committee meetings, as may be directed by the Chairman of the committees to which they are assigned, but shall have no vote.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to the Committee on Audit, the Committee on the California Freemason, the Committee on Compensation, the Executive Committee, the Investment Committee or the Committee on Ritual.

Section 406.020 would be amended to read as marked:

§406.020. CALIFORNIA FREEMASON.

The Committee on the California Freemason shall consist of the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Editor-in-Chief of the California Freemason. It shall publish and distribute the California Freemason. The Editor-in-Chief of the California Freemason and one Associate Editor, or more as the Grand Master determines, shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master. ~~If the Editor in Chief or any Associate Editor has served for nine consecutive years, he shall be ineligible for reappointment until the lapse of one year.~~

Section 406.035 would be amended to read as marked:

§406.035. FINANCE.

The Committee on Finance shall consist of not less than three nor more than seven members. It shall:

- ~~A.~~ ~~Administer all retirement plans on behalf of the Grand Lodge of California, of which the Grand Lodge is the administrator of record. The Finance Committee shall perform all the duties and responsibilities and exercise all powers of the retirement plan committee under any such plan;~~
- AB. Advise and assist the Grand Lodge and its entities regarding their financial matters, when requested;
- BC. Assist in the preparation of and monitor compliance with the Grand Lodge Budget to the extent provided in Section 407.050 of this Code;
- CD. Review the proposed annual Grand Lodge Budget and recommend to Grand Lodge whether to adopt the Budget as presented prior to the vote; and
- DE. Upon receipt from the Grand Secretary of proposed resolutions and recommendations to be considered at the next Annual Communication, review them and prepare an estimate of the cost impact of each, if adopted, and transmit, at least 75 days prior to the commencement date of the next Annual Communication, a report of such cost estimates to the Grand Secretary.

Amendment to Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Grand Master Salazar's Recommendation No. 2
Eliminates Code Provisions Relating to Officers Associations

Over time, provisions of the *California Masonic Code (CMC)* may become obsolete or unnecessary. In such cases, it is best to eliminate these provisions so that the Code contains only the operative terms needed for the good governance of our Fraternity. One example is Part 10 ("Officers Associations") of the Code and its related provisions.

Part 10 (Section 1000.000) of the Code authorizes, and sets out limitations with respect to, the organization by Inspectors of officers associations for the purpose of instruction in lodge affairs. Section 405.030 of the Code lists the organization of Officers Associations as a duty of Inspectors. Today, Officers Associations are extremely rare. Inspectors utilize other, less formal methods to assist in their instruction in the administration of Lodges.

While I have no objection to the formation of Officers Associations, I no longer perceive the need for the Code to mandate and regulate them. Therefore, I propose deleting Part 10 of the Code (as well as related provisions) to streamline the Code and keep it current with

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modern practices. If adopted, this Code change will not prevent an Inspector from forming an Officers Association if he believes it will facilitate his instruction.

If you adopt this recommendation, the following changes would be made to the Code.

Section 405.030 would be amended to read as marked:

§405.030. DUTIES.

It shall be the duty of the Inspector to:

- A. Hold schools of instruction and instruct the officers of the Lodges in the Ritual;
- B. Require any Master of a Lodge in his district to convene his Lodge for inspection, and report to the Grand Master the failure of any Master to do so;
- ~~C. Cause to be organized within his district an Officers' Association and to supervise meetings of such an association for the purpose of instruction in those portions of this Code which relate to the government of the Lodge, for instruction in the proper administration of the affairs of the Lodges and such other matters as may be for the welfare of the Craft.~~

~~It shall be the duty of the officers of his district to attend such meetings and failure, without due cause, of an officer to attend as required may constitute grounds for the Inspector to withhold a certificate of advancement where applicable or to request that the Master remove said officer;~~
- CD. Appoint in each Lodge within his district an Officers' Coach, who shall be a qualified Past Master of a Constituent Lodge, and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Inspector. The Officers' Coach shall assist in teaching the Ritual to the officers of the Lodge, and assist in preparing them to qualify for advancement;
- DE. Issue certificates, where required by Masonic law, to the officers of the Lodges when they are qualified to give the work and lectures required of them respectively, without regard to moral or other considerations;
- EF. Issue certifications to Master Masons qualified to officiate in the Funeral Service of this Jurisdiction as provided in Section 405.050 of this Code;
- FG. Report to the Grand Master any failure of an officer to qualify within the time required by law;
- GH. Visit each Lodge in his district whenever he deems it necessary for the faithful performance of his duties;
- HI. Inspect the work and, if necessary, correct the same in accordance with the work adopted by Grand Lodge;
- IJ. Report the working condition of each Lodge in his district, as it pertains to the Ritual, to the Grand Lecturer on or before the 30th day of June of each year;
- JK. Report the condition in all matters, other than ritual, to the Grand Master on or before the 30th day of June of each year;
- KL. Examine the books and records of each Lodge, with or without an audit as he or the Grand Master shall determine, to determine if its manner of transacting business conforms to Masonic law, and to report to the Grand Master any violations of law; and
- LM. Attend the Lodges of instruction as directed by the Grand Lecturer.

Section 405.040 would be amended to read as marked:

§405.040. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT.

Each Inspector shall be entitled to reimbursement by Grand Lodge for his necessary, out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties including attendance at the Annual Communication, as provided in Section 407.070 of this Code. No Lodge or Officers' Association shall pay or reimburse the expenses of an Inspector.

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Part 10 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

PART 10
(RESERVED)
~~OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS~~

~~§1000.000. OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS.~~

~~Officers Associations may be organized by an Inspector in his district for the purpose of instruction in those portions of this Code which relate to the government of the Lodge, for instruction in the proper administration of the affairs of the Lodge and for such other matters as may be for the welfare of the Craft.~~

~~Any activities of the Association shall be funded by voluntary contributions only.~~

~~Joint meetings may be held with the approval of the Inspector of each participating district.~~

Section 1401.010 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§1401.010. UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

The following constitute unmasonic conduct sufficient to support the filing of a charge against a Mason:

- A. Any violation, before or after initiation, of the criminal laws of the United States or of any other governmental entity involving moral turpitude;
- B. Any violation, before or after initiation, of any portion of the moral law;
- C. Any action or failure to act in violation of the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry, the Ritual or the laws, rules or regulations of the United States or of any other governmental entity which involves the breaking of a promise, trust or confidence or which involves moral turpitude;
- D. Any action or failure to act which results in a conviction under the criminal laws of the United States or of any other governmental entity and which reasonably brings material harm to Masonry;
- E. Any action or failure to act in violation of a Mason's fiduciary duty to the Grand Lodge, the Masonic Homes of California, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, the California Masonic Foundation, a Lodge, a Masonic Hall Association, ~~an Officers Association~~ or a Masonic Service Bureau;
- F. Any action or failure to act in violation of the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry or the Ritual, after receipt from the Grand Master of a notice requiring that Mason to act in accordance with those requirements; or
- G. Any action or failure to act in material violation of the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry or the Ritual, involving material harm to Masonry, a Mason, or the wife, or child, or widow of a Mason, even though the Grand Master did not provide a notice requiring that Mason to act in accordance with those requirements, including the following:
 - 1. Intentional infliction of physical or mental injury or humiliation on a candidate, preliminary to, during or following a degree;
 - 2. The following acts, if the conduct results in material harm to Masonry, a Mason, or the wife, or child, or widow of such a Mason:
 - a. Use of defamatory, vile, indecent, profane, abusive or threatening language,
 - b. Habitual intemperance and drunkenness,
 - c. Personal violence,

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- d. Falsehood, treachery and deceit, or
 - e. Actions similar to those offenses listed herein;
3. The following acts committed against his Lodge or the Master thereof:
- a. Misrepresentation of any material fact in an application for degrees, affiliation or restoration,
 - b. Attempted resignation from or renunciation of Masonry,
 - c. Reducing the esoteric or secret portion of the Ritual to writing or another medium capable of being rendered into clearly intelligible form (other than in cipher),
 - d. Use of a cipher ritual during a tiled meeting (except as permitted by this Code),
 - e. Refusal to obey the Master's authority properly exercised,
 - f. Refusal to sign the Lodge's Bylaws upon request,
 - g. Improper use of ballot or objection to candidate's advancement without proper cause, or
 - h. Actions similar to those offenses listed herein;
4. The following acts committed by a Mason against Grand Lodge or the Grand Master:
- a. Knowingly refusing to obey the Grand Master's authority properly exercised,
 - b. Electioneering as prohibited by this Code,
 - c. Membership in any organization advocating the violent overthrow of the government or an organization whose tenets are in conflict with the basic principles and tenets of Masonry, or
 - d. Actions similar to those offenses listed herein;
5. Declaration that he does not believe in a Supreme Being or a future existence;
6. Except as otherwise permitted in this Code, knowingly having Masonic Communication with or vouching for any person other than a Mason of a Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to this Grand Lodge or to a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, who has not demitted, withdrawn, been expelled or been suspended from Masonry;
7. Acts or actions in material breach of the obligations of the degrees; or
8. The use of the Masonic name or emblems for other than legitimate Masonic purposes.

Amendment to Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Grand Master Salazar's Recommendation No. 3
Centralized Notifications for Suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues

Over time, our Fraternity has adopted modern tools for communication and recordkeeping. As those tools evolve, so must our laws. Today, Lodge Secretaries are required to send certified letters to delinquent members before their suspension for non-payment of dues — a process that is costly, administratively burdensome, and often ineffective. It also creates confusion: members of a single Lodge receive 30 days' notice, while multiple members receive 60 days, leading to inconsistent practices and uncertainty about compliance.

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This amendment replaces that system with a single, centralized process that is fair, trackable, and clear. Lodges will initiate suspension proceedings by notifying the appropriate office, which will begin a standardized 60-day outreach effort using all available means to contact the member. This uniform timeline will apply to all Masons, ensuring that each brother receives consistent communication and an equal opportunity to respond, request relief, or speak with his lodge before any vote is taken.

By eliminating conflicting rules, removing the certified mail requirement, and relieving lodge officers of outdated duties, this change supports both administrative clarity and fraternal compassion. It ensures that no suspension for non-payment of dues occurs without coordinated, documented, and good-faith contact.

If you adopt this recommendation, the following changes would be made to the Code.

Section 804.165 would be amended to read as marked:

§804.165. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A MULTIPLE MEMBER.

- A. ~~Subject to paragraph C below,~~ Suspension or expulsion of a multiple member in this Jurisdiction shall automatically suspend his membership or expel him from membership in all Constituent Lodges. The Grand Secretary shall immediately notify every other Lodge in which the multiple member holds membership on receiving notification of such suspension or expulsion. Notification shall be given in like manner in the case of the reinstatement of such member by the suspending and expelling Lodge. Such reinstatement shall automatically restore him to membership in every other Constituent Lodge of which he was a member, upon payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration to membership in this Jurisdiction, unless he has also been suspended or expelled pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4 of Part 14 of this Code, in which case he must also be restored pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of Chapter 4 of Part 14 of this Code.
- B. Suspension or expulsion of a multiple member in any other Jurisdiction where he is a member shall automatically suspend his membership or expel him from membership in all Constituent Lodges. If such member is subsequently restored to membership in the suspending or expelling Jurisdiction, he may also be restored to membership in all Constituent Lodges of which he was a member, upon payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration to membership in this Jurisdiction, unless he has also been suspended or expelled pursuant to the provisions of Section 1404.810.D of this Code, in which case he must also be restored pursuant to the provisions of Article 10 of Chapter 4 of Part 14 of this Code.
- C. ~~Suspension of a multiple member by a Constituent Lodge for non payment of dues shall become effective only after a sixty day prior Notice of Intent to Suspend has been sent to every other Constituent Lodge in which the member holds membership. During this sixty day period, the other Lodge or Lodges may contact the member in an effort to avoid suspension. If within the sixty day period the member fails to obtain good standing in all Lodges involved, he may be suspended.~~

Section 809.360 would be amended to read as marked:

§809.360. REMISSION OF DUES.

If recommended by the Charity Committee, a Lodge, without giving the name of the delinquent Masons except to the Secretary, may remit to December 31st of the current calendar year the accrued dues, or a portion thereof, of those of its Masons who are unable to pay. A Lodge may, by adoption of a revocable standing resolution, authorize the Grand Secretary to act on its behalf to remit the dues of those of its Masons who are unable to pay under this Section 809.360. If so authorized, the Grand Secretary shall promptly notify the Lodge of any remission granted under this authority.

The Charity Committee should review the situation of a Mason whose dues were remitted by a Lodge the preceding calendar year before the February Stated Meeting. If, in the opinion of the Charity Committee, the necessity for the remission of his dues still exists, it shall recommend to the Lodge that the dues be remitted to December 31st of the current calendar year. A Lodge shall not remit the dues of any of its Masons, for any stated period, or in advance, except as herein provided.

A Mason who is mentally incompetent to such an extent as to be incapable of taking care of himself, or a member who is a resident of the Masonic Homes of California, may be considered as unable to pay dues.

Section 809.370 would be amended to read as marked:

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§809.370. SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

- A. If a Mason has not paid his dues during a period of 12 months, the Secretary shall notify the Grand Secretary, in a manner prescribed by the Grand Secretary, of the Lodge's intent to consider suspending such Mason for non-payment of dues. Upon receipt of this notice, the Grand Secretary shall make reasonable and good faith efforts to contact such Mason and shall inform the Lodge of the results of such efforts, him that he will be suspended for non payment of dues unless at the Lodge's next Stated Meeting either his dues have been paid or sickness or inability to pay is shown as the cause for the failure to pay. The notice shall be given either by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address, or by actual service of notice, duly certified by the Tiler. If all dues due and payable by such Mason have not been paid by the time of the Lodge's ~~next~~ Stated Meeting immediately following the date 60 days after the Secretary's notice is sent to the Grand Secretary, then such Mason ~~he shall~~ may be declared suspended for non-payment of dues by the Master, unless for special reasons shown the Lodge shall remit his dues or grant him further time for payment, and provided such declaration is made within 6 months after the Secretary's notice is sent to the Grand Secretary. If a Mason is not declared suspended within such 6 months, then the Secretary shall send the Grand Secretary a new notice of the Lodge's subsequent intent to consider suspending such Mason for non-payment of dues and the procedure described in the two immediately preceding sentences shall again apply.
- B. No worthy brother who is unable to pay his dues shall be suspended for non-payment of dues.
- C. No Mason who has attained the age of 80 years or who has attained an aggregate number of years in age and years as a Mason in good standing equaling 120 or more shall be suspended for non-payment of dues without a written report to the Lodge from the Member Retention Committee evidencing when and where the committee interviewed the delinquent Mason, why the delinquent Mason has not paid his dues and whether the delinquent Mason has the ability to pay his dues. A copy of this report shall be provided to the Grand Secretary at least thirty days before the vote may be taken on the suspension.
- D. No Lodge shall suspend a Mason for non-payment of dues if the Master or Secretary of the Lodge has knowledge that this Mason has been on active military combat duty at any time during the preceding 36 months.
1. Active military combat duty is defined as having been military personnel serving in an active capacity including but not limited to active duty personnel, reservists and National Guard personnel in a combat zone for a named United States military conflict. A combat zone for a named United States military conflict is any area which the President of the United States by Executive Order designates or has designated as an area in which U.S. Armed Forces are or have engaged in conflict.
 2. If a Lodge finds that a Mason of the Lodge was on active military combat duty, as defined in Section 809.370.D of this Code, at any time during the 36 month period preceding the date on which the Lodge suspended him, then the Lodge shall remove such suspension from his record as if such suspension had not occurred and the Secretary of the Lodge shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary thereof.
 3. A Mason may request his Lodge to remove a previous suspension from his record if he was on active military combat duty, as defined in Section 809.370.D of this Code, at any time during the 36 month period preceding the date on which the Lodge so suspended him, and if his Lodge then finds that he was on active military combat duty at any time during such 36 month period, then his Lodge shall remove such suspension from his record as if such suspension had not occurred and the Secretary of the Lodge shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary thereof.
 4. Once 36 months have elapsed since a Mason's service on active military combat duty, he may be suspended for nonpayment of dues as provided in this section, including suspension for unpaid dues for the period during which he was on active military combat duty.
- E. A Mason shall not be expelled from Masonry for non-payment of dues.

Amendment to Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

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Grand Master Salazar's Recommendation No. 4 Updates the Duties of the Lodge Secretary

Lodge administrative practices evolve to reflect technological advancements and improved methods of recordkeeping and communication. When this occurs, we must update the *California Masonic Code (CMC)* so it continues to accurately reflect the duties and practices of Lodge officers.

In particular, the Code's description of Lodge Secretaries' duties needs updating. While the role of the Lodge Secretary remains central to Lodge governance, the way those duties are fulfilled has changed significantly. Lodges now commonly maintain digital records, transmit reports electronically, and utilize modern platforms for financial tracking and member communication. Many of the Code's detailed requirements (particularly Section 805.230 of the Code) reflect outdated practices, such as handwritten minute books and physical deposit slips.

This recommendation updates the language of Section 805.230 to remove obsolete requirements and allow for current and future technologies. It ensures that Lodge Secretaries remain accountable for essential responsibilities — such as reporting, recordkeeping, and coordination with the Grand Secretary — without binding them to outdated practices. I also believe that the proposed revisions will help new Lodge Secretaries better understand their duties under the Code. I therefore recommend adoption of this change.

If you adopt this recommendation, Section 805.230 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§805.230. DUTIES OF SECRETARY.

The Secretary is the principal administrative and recordkeeping officer of the Lodge. In addition to other duties set forth elsewhere in the Code, the Secretary's duties shall include the following. ~~It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:~~

A. Recordkeeping and Documentation.

1. Recording all proceedings at each meeting proper to be written as meeting minutes, 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 read the minutes to the Lodge and, after they are approved, to present them to the Master for his signature. Ensuring that the minutes of Stated and Special Meetings of the Lodge are prepared, read to the Lodge (or if authorized for electronic distribution under this Section 805.230.A.1, reviewed by the Lodge), and approved by the Lodge at a Stated Meeting, presenting them to the Master for his signature after they are approved, and maintaining approved minutes among the official records of the Lodge in a file storage manner prescribed by the Grand Lodge. After approval no change may be made to minutes except by appropriate motion properly recorded. If authorized by a standing resolution of the Lodge, the Secretary shall provide electronically all minutes of meetings of the Lodge to the electronic mail address of record for each Mason of the Lodge for review at least seventy-two hours prior to the date and time of the Stated Meeting during which the applicable minutes will be approved and presented to the Master for his signature;
2. Maintaining other official documents of the Lodge, including its Bylaws, amendments to its Bylaws, the Lodge's Charter, dispensations, the seal of the Lodge, applications for degrees, applications for affiliations, other records required by Grand Lodge and the following physical books:
 - a. 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; and
 - b. 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;

B. Membership Management.

1. Maintaining records of each Mason of the Lodge, including full name, age and occupation at the time of admission, degree dates, dates of affiliation, and all changes in membership status;

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2. Notifying Grand Lodge, using the prescribed reporting system, promptly of initiations, affiliations, rejections, demits, suspensions, expulsions, restorations, and deaths in the prescribed manner;

~~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. Communication and Notifications.

1. Issuing notices and summonses as required by the Master or by this Code;
2. Communicating official actions and correspondence between the Lodge and Grand Lodge; and
3. Notifying candidates of election or rejection and providing information on scheduled degrees;

~~Prepare and transmit a copy of such record, or of any part thereof, to Grand Lodge, when required;~~

D. Financial Responsibilities.

1. Receiving all funds monies due payable to the Lodge, and promptly either:
 - a. paying the funds pay the same monthly or more frequently as necessary, to the Treasurer in exchange for a receipt; or
 - b. shall depositing the funds same not less frequently than monthly to the credit of the Treasurer of to the Lodge's, in some bank or trust company designated financial account by the Lodge, taking duplicate deposit tags or receipts therefor, one to be immediately delivered to for review by the Treasurer and filing in the Lodge's financial records, the other to be kept by the Secretary as a voucher;
2. Maintaining accurate records of all financial transactions;

E. Reports and Compliance.

1. Presenting to the Lodge at each August Stated Meeting, a membership report for the six months ending on the preceding June 30th;
2. Presenting to the Lodge at each February Stated Meeting, a membership report for the preceding calendar year;
3. Submitting all other required reports, certifications, and returns to the Grand Secretary in accordance with applicable Grand Lodge procedures and timelines;

~~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. Reporting Systems.

1. Using all tools and systems designated by the Grand Lodge for managing membership, finances, reporting, and file storage in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Grand Lodge;
2. Utilizing as necessary other tools and systems provided by Grand Lodge for communication, and other Lodge operations;

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3. Maintaining the security of records by securing access to such records. All Lodge records more than 5 years old may be copied in permanent, retrievable electronic format and the originals thereof may then be discarded;

~~Transmit a Certificate of Election, accompanied by a copy of the dispensation, if required, when the election is held at a time other than prescribed, to the Grand Secretary, immediately after each election in the Lodge;~~

G. Support of Officers and Committees.

1. Assisting the Master and other Lodge officers in their duties by providing administrative support and access to records; and
2. Supporting committees by maintaining committee records and preparing required documentation;

~~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. Additional Functions and Duties.

1. Providing administrative support for installations, funeral services, public events, and other ceremonial functions of the Lodge;
2. Facilitating a smooth transition of all records to a successor Secretary upon the conclusion of his term of office; and

~~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~~

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- 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~~
- Θ. 3. Performing 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.~~

Amendment to Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Grand Master Salazar's Recommendation No. 5
Permits Charges To Be Withdrawn During Pre-Trial Phase

The *California Masonic Code (CMC)*, specifically Section 1404.345, addresses the procedures allowing an Accuser to withdraw charges of unmasonic conduct filed against a fellow brother. While this section was originally intended to preserve procedural integrity, it has, in practice, introduced unnecessary delays and inefficiencies that burden the system, escalate conflict, and discourage early resolution. Its scope is limited – it allows a charge to be withdrawn only *after* a Trial Master has been appointed, and even then, only if the Trial Master finds no evidence *in the specification* that could warrant a verdict of unmasonic conduct against the Accused.

It has come to my attention that this narrow framework does not account for the broader range of real-world situations in which the withdrawal of charges is not only appropriate, but also represents the best outcome for the Accuser, the Accused, the Lodge, and the Craft as a whole. In many such cases, proceeding with a full trial serves no productive purpose and may even deepen the disharmony that originally gave rise to the dispute.

Once charges are filed, the current system sets into motion a complex and time-consuming process: notices must be sent, the Committee on Jurisprudence must conduct a full review, and a willing and available Trial Master must be located, appointed, and brought up to speed on the matter. Only then can a charge be withdrawn – and only under the narrow conditions currently permitted. This process is burdensome and often unnecessary when reconciliation has already occurred or can be achieved through informal resolution.

In practice, many Accusers - after engaging with Masonic leadership or speaking with trusted brethren – come to realize that the remedy they originally sought is either unavailable under the Code or would cause more harm than good if the dispute proceeded to trial. The Committee on Jurisprudence may also determine and recommend to the Grand Master that the matter is better suited for mediation or dismissal - particularly in cases involving interpersonal disputes, misunderstandings, or when the Accuser has failed to allege facts

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meeting a threshold showing of material harm to Masonry, a Mason, or the wife, widow, or child of a Mason. However, because no Trial Master has been appointed in these instances, there is currently no clear mechanism to formally withdraw the charges – even when doing so would fully resolve the matter.

Requiring all these steps to reach the point where a Trial Master can approve withdrawal leaves both the parties and the Lodge in procedural limbo. Charges may remain technically pending or subject to re-filing based on the same facts, yet no formal closure is available to the parties. This ambiguity not only prolongs conflict but also imposes unnecessary strain on the members and dedicated volunteers who support the trial process.

To address these issues, I propose amending the Code to allow the Accuser to withdraw charges upon written request to the Grand Master prior to the appointment of a Trial Master and to expand the Trial Master's ability to allow the withdrawal of charges under Section 1404.345.

To ensure transparency and finality, the proposed amendment expands the scope of matters to be reviewed by the Committee on Trial Review under Section 406.075 by requiring that any withdrawal allowed by a Trial Master be reviewed by the Committee on Trial Review and reported to the Grand Lodge at Annual Communication, in the same manner that current Trial Master decisions are reported and reviewed for affirmation, dismissal, modification or remand.

Importantly, this change does not diminish the seriousness with which we treat accusations of unmasonic conduct. Rather, it reflects the exercise of prudent judgment, discretion, and compassion – values that are central to our Masonic tradition. It provides a clearer, more efficient, and more fraternal pathway toward resolution. It reduces the emotional and procedural toll of unnecessary trials, conserves the time and energy of our members and volunteers, and honors our Masonic commitment to preserving justice while strengthening the bonds of peace and harmony within our Lodges.

Brethren, this amendment is not a departure from our principles – it is a return to them. I urge your thoughtful consideration and support of this measure.

If you adopt this recommendation, the following changes will be made to the Code.

Section 406.075 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§406.075. TRIAL REVIEW.

The Committee on Trial Review shall consist of not less than three nor more than seven members. It shall review the trial records and the records of trials ~~matters held in arising out of~~ Constituent Lodges. ~~and~~ It shall examine each application for restoration after suspension or expulsion by Grand Lodge. It shall report to Grand Lodge its recommendations as to action to be taken.

Section 1404.345 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§1404.345. WITHDRAWING CHARGES.

The Accuser may submit a written request to the Grand Master for the withdrawal of charges at any time prior to the Trial Master's appointment. Such request must be made in writing and state the Accuser's reasons for his request for withdrawal. If the Grand Master determines withdrawal is appropriate, the Grand Master shall notify the Grand Secretary of his determination and the Grand Master's approval of such request shall be deemed final. The Grand Secretary will notify the Accused, the Accuser, the Master of the Accused's Lodge, and the Inspector of the Accused's Lodge's district of the withdrawn charges and direct the Accused's Lodge(s) to restore him to good standing, including for purposes of issuing a demit pursuant to Sections 804.130, 804.135, and 804.160.

The Trial Master may allow a charge to be withdrawn by the Accuser at any time after the Trial Master's appointment if the Trial Master determines that withdrawal is appropriate. The Accuser's request to the Trial Master for the withdrawal of a charge(s) must be made in

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writing and state the Accuser's reasons for his request for such withdrawal. ~~The Trial Master may not allow a charge to be withdrawn when he finds evidence in the specifications which may warrant a verdict of unmasonic conduct.~~ If the Trial Master allows a charge to be withdrawn, he shall prepare a written report on his action and ~~make it a part of the trial record.~~ The Trial Master shall provide a signed copy of the trial record to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall then notify the Accuser and the Accused of the action taken, as well as the Accused's Lodge and direct the Accused's Lodge(s) to restore him to good standing, including for purposes of issuing a demit pursuant to Sections 804.130, 804.135, and 804.160. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the copy shall be given to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records. Notwithstanding the Accused being restored to good standing, the withdrawal and any related actions remain subject to final review and approval by Grand Lodge pursuant to Section 1404.910 and subject to Section 1404.950. The Trial Master's report of any action resulting in the withdrawal of charges shall be deemed a "trial record" for purposes of review pursuant to Sections 1404.910 and 1404.950.

Section 1404.910 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§1404.910. GRAND LODGE REVIEW.

All trial records under Chapters 3 and 4 of this Part 14 shall be reviewed by Grand Lodge, as follows:

- A. All trial records received by the Grand Secretary under this chapter or under Chapter 3 of this part shall be forwarded by him to the Committee on Trial Review for review.
- B. If in the opinion of a majority of the members of the Committee on Trial Review a verdict of guilty and/or a penalty is not supported by substantial evidence, the Committee may postpone the effectiveness of the penalty pending Grand Lodge action on the trial record. The committee may take this act with or without a request from the Accused.
- C. If either an Accused or Accuser desires to have any evidence considered that could not have been produced before the verdict was rendered, or the approval of withdrawal of charges by the Trial Master, a written statement setting forth the substance of such evidence and explaining why it was not produced before the verdict was rendered, may be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than 15 days prior to the commencement of the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Any arguments or representations which the Accused, the Accuser, or any other Mason desires to present must be in writing and filed with the Grand Secretary not later than 15 days prior to the commencement of the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.
- D. The Committee on Trial Review shall examine each trial record together with such statements or arguments in writing, if any, as may be presented and shall report its recommendations at the next succeeding Annual Communication.
 - 1. The Committee shall review each trial record pertaining to a withdrawal of charges to determine whether the withdrawal was appropriate. The Committee may recommend that a withdrawn charge may be reinstated only if the withdrawal resulted in a miscarriage of justice. If the Committee recommends that a withdrawn charge be reinstated, it shall include in its reports the specific facts contained in the trial record upon which it makes such recommendation.
 - 12. The Committee shall review the record to determine whether the verdict is supported by substantial evidence. All evidentiary conflicts and all legitimate and reasonable inferences that may be drawn from the trial record shall be in favor of sustaining the verdict. Where the evidence supports more than one inference, the Committee may not substitute its determination in place of the determinations made by the trier of fact. The Committee may recommend that the verdict be overturned only if the verdict is not supported by substantial evidence. If the Committee recommends that the verdict be overturned, it shall include in its report the specific facts contained in the trial record upon which it makes such recommendation.
 - 23. Based on its review of the record, the Committee may recommend that the penalty be modified for good cause and in the interest of justice. If the Committee recommends that the penalty imposed should be modified in any respect, it shall include in its report the specific facts contained in the trial record upon which it makes such recommendation.
- E. After receipt of the report of the Committee on Trial Review, Grand Lodge may affirm, modify, or reverse the verdict and/or

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penalty, remand the matter to the Trial Master with instructions, reinstate a charge or make such other order as it deems proper. The Grand Secretary shall send a copy of the Grand Lodge action to the Trial Master as soon as possible. Without the consent of the Accused, Grand Lodge may not affirm the verdict and/or penalty until a period of forty-five days has elapsed since the Grand Secretary's notification to the Accused under Section 1404.630 of this Code.

- F. Pending Grand Lodge action on the trial record, no Lodge may take action upon the restoration of a Mason under penalty of suspension.

Section 1404.950 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§1404.950. DOUBLE JEOPARDY.

When Grand Lodge determines that the Accused ought not to have been convicted, and sets aside a verdict of conviction without ordering a new trial, or determines a withdrawal of charges was appropriate, its judgment is final, and the Accused may not be tried again on the same charge.

Upon Grand Lodge's review and approval, a conviction or acquittal on a charge of unmasonic conduct under this Code is a bar to a future prosecution on the same charge in this Jurisdiction.

If so ordered by the Grand Master with the concurrence of the Committee on Trial Review, a withdrawal of a charge of unmasonic conduct, as part of a written mediated settlement agreement signed by the Trial Master, the Accuser(s) and the Accused, or as part of a trial record affirmed by Grand Lodge as provided in Section 1404.910, is a bar to a future prosecution on the same charge or factual circumstances in this Jurisdiction. Any mediated settlement agreement shall include a summary of the facts and reasoning supporting such withdrawal. Any trial records that involve the withdrawal of charges shall include the written statement from the Accuser stating the reasons for the Accuser's request for the withdrawal.

Amendment to Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

2025 GRAND LODGE LEGISLATION

CARRY-OVER LEGISLATION FROM 2024

Grand Master Metroka's Recommendation No. 4 Updates Required Applicant Contributions

The *California Masonic Code* ("Code") requires that:

- Applicants for the degrees and each applicant for affiliation whose Demit or Certificate is from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction contribute \$30 for the use and benefit of Grand Lodge and \$25 for the use and benefit of the Masonic Homes of California (unless the applicant has paid such contribution with a former application); and
- Applicants for the degrees contribute \$15 for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and \$9 for the California Masonic Memorial Temple (unless the applicant has paid such contribution with a former application).

The dollar amounts of these required applicant contributions have not been adjusted in a long time. The \$25 contribution to the Masonic Homes has not changed for nearly 100 years, and the \$9 contribution to the Memorial Temple has not changed in 70 years. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial contribution was last changed in 2010. It is well past time to adjust these amounts to reflect current economic reality. Between 2010 and 2024, the U.S. dollar lost more than 30% of its value due to inflation. The buying power of \$100 in 2010 is less than \$70 today. It is also time to amend the Code so that these contributions can be more routinely adjusted to keep pace with economic realities.

We should also take this opportunity to include in the Code the California Masonic Foundation as a recipient of applicant contributions. Requiring applicants to contribute to the Foundation will strengthen this great charitable institution. Perhaps more importantly, a required contribution to the Foundation will send a strong message to our applicants of the value we place on our Fraternity's charitable mission and activities.

Thus, I recommend that the Code be revised to state that applicants must make contributions to Grand Lodge, the Masonic Homes, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, and the California Masonic Foundation. I also recommend that the contribution amounts for these entities be established and adjusted as necessary with the adoption of the annual Grand Lodge Budget, beginning with the budget for our 2025-2026 fiscal year. By using the Grand Lodge Budget process, we can ensure that contribution levels keep pace with economic reality without being onerous to applicants. I note that the Code currently calls for applicant background check fees to be established and adjusted through the Grand Lodge Budget process and that this process has worked well and without controversy for more than decade.

If you adopt this recommendation, the following changes will be made to the Code.

Section 407.030 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§407.030. LODGE CONTRIBUTIONS ON APPLICATIONS.

Each applicant for the degrees and each applicant for affiliation whose Demit or Certificate is from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction shall accompany his application with a contribution of ~~\$30~~ for the use and benefit of Grand Lodge, unless he shall have paid such contribution with a former application to a Constituent Lodge. The amount of such contribution shall be established from time to time with the adoption of the Grand Lodge Budget. All such contributions shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary at the time and in the manner specified on forms provided for that purpose. If the application is rejected or withdrawn, the Lodge shall return any such contribution paid to the applicant. Such contributions shall be non-refundable upon such applicant's election to receive the degrees or to membership.

Section 804.260 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§804.260. ~~MASONIC HOMES~~ OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.

Each applicant for the degrees and each applicant for affiliation whose Demit or Certificate is from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction shall accompany his application with contributions ~~contribute~~ \$25 for the use and benefit of ~~each of the~~ Masonic Homes of California, the California Masonic Foundation, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, unless he shall have paid such contributions with a former application to a Constituent Lodge. The amounts of such contributions shall be established from time to time with the adoption of the Grand Lodge Budget. Any contribution required under this section shall accompany the application or it cannot be received by the Lodge.

All contributions for ~~such entities~~ Masonic Homes of California collected by a Lodge shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary at the time and in the manner specified on forms provided for that purpose. Before a dispensation may be issued to form a new Lodge, petitioners therefor shall transmit the contributions accompanying their petition to the Grand Secretary. Immediately upon receipt of contributions the Grand Secretary shall pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer to be held by him subject to the order of the ~~Trustees~~ Grand Master for the use and benefit of ~~the Homes~~ such entities.

If the application is rejected or withdrawn, the Lodge shall return any such contribution paid to the applicant. Such contributions shall be non-refundable upon such applicant's election to receive the degrees or to membership.

Section 804.265 of the Code would be deleted as marked:

~~§804.265. NATIONAL MEMORIAL AND MEMORIAL TEMPLE CONTRIBUTIONS.~~

~~Each applicant for the degrees shall contribute \$15 for the Endowment Fund of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and \$9 for the California Masonic Memorial Temple, unless he shall have paid such contributions with a former application to a Constituent Lodge. Any contribution required under this section shall accompany the application or it cannot be received by the Lodge. All such contributions shall be transmitted by the Lodge to the Grand Secretary at the time and in the manner specified on forms provided for that purpose. The Grand Secretary shall pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer to be held subject to allocation and payment by order of the Grand Master.~~

~~If the application is rejected or withdrawn, the Lodge shall return any such contribution paid to the applicant. Such contributions shall be non-refundable upon such applicant's election to receive the degrees.~~

Amendment to the Ordinances.

2/3 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Grand Master Metroka's Recommendation No. 6

Modifies Lodge Vote Required to Restore a Mason Suspended for Non-Payment of Dues

A Mason suspended for non-payment of dues for two or more years may make a request to his Lodge for restoration. Under the *California Masonic Code* ("Code"), the suspended Mason shall not be restored except by a two-thirds vote by ballot of all Lodge members present at the next Stated Meeting after his request for restoration is presented. As a condition of his restoration, the Lodge may require the suspended Mason to pay some portion of his outstanding dues.

I recommend that we reduce the required two-thirds vote of Lodge members to a simple majority vote. Except in very limited circumstances, our Code sets a simple majority as the threshold for deciding Lodge matters. In matters relating to Lodge finances, for example, a simple majority of Lodge members carries the day. The Code's few exceptions to the simple majority rule involve issues of greater importance than the potential restoration of a member suspended for non-payment of dues. For example, the Code requires a unanimous vote when balloting on an application and a two-thirds vote on changes to Lodge Bylaws. These high thresholds are warranted as they relate to issues fundamental to the governance and character of the Lodge. Restoration of a particular member who has failed to pay dues does not rise to this level of fundamental or "core" importance.

The stringent two-thirds voting threshold might be justified if restoration in all cases necessarily led to the forgiveness of all past dues. But it does not: the Code gives Lodges the discretion to condition the suspended Mason's restoration on payment of a portion of his outstanding dues.

Given this discretion, it is appropriate that the will of a simple majority of Lodge members present carries the day on this matter, as it does on so many other matters of equal or greater importance to our Lodges.

If you adopt this recommendation, Section 809.380 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§809.380. RESTORATION OF A MASON SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

A Mason suspended for non-payment of dues:

- A. Shall be automatically restored if, within two years, he pays any arrearage due at the time of his suspension, together with such further dues as would have accrued against him had he not been suspended, to the date of his payment, unless such arrearage and dues have been remitted by his Lodge; and

- B. May make a request to his Lodge for restoration if he has not paid them or had them remitted by his Lodge for the period of two years. The Mason shall not be restored except by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority vote by ballot of all the members present at the next Stated Meeting after the request for restoration is presented. As a condition of his restoration, he shall pay such amount of any arrearage due at the time of his suspension and such amount of dues as would have accrued against him had he not been suspended, to the date of his payment, as his Lodge may require, except such arrearage and dues that have been remitted by his Lodge. A petition denied may be renewed at any future Stated Meeting.

The Secretary shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary of the restoration.

Amendment to the Ordinances.

2/3 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Grand Master Metroka's Recommendation No. 8
Clarifies Process By Which Lodges May Use Alternative Ritual

The Ritual, including the lectures in our three degrees, is central to our practice of Freemasonry.

Grand Lodge has adopted a version of the "American Rite" for our lodge ritual uses. The American Rite is commonly called The York Rite. Developed over many decades, the American Rite's last significant formulation occurred in the early 1800s. The American Rite is just one of several major sets of rituals (including the York and Scottish Rites) commonly used by Masonic lodges around the world.

The *California Masonic Code* (the "Code") generally requires our Lodges to use the American Rite as modified by our Grand Lodge. There is a long-time exception, however. The Code allows Lodges whose "long-established ritualistic work" departs from the Ritual adopted by Grand Lodge to perform an alternate ritual, unless doing so has been disapproved by the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer. As a result of this exception, several Lodges under our Jurisdiction have practiced alternative rituals, some for over a century, and still today we have Lodges in our Jurisdiction that perform versions of the Scottish Rite. La Parfaite Union No. 17 has done so since the 1850s, and in 2023, La France Lodge No. 885 was granted authority to perform a version of the Scottish Rite.

The Code does not define the term, "long-established ritualistic work." It also does not set out any principles by which the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer should evaluate ritual that departs from the Ritual of this Jurisdiction. The Code's ambiguity and backward-looking focus has generally not been an issue for our Fraternity. The use of alternative ritual declined in the second half of the 20th Century in California. In the instances where Lodges sought permission to use alternative ritual, Grand Masters and Grand Lecturers exercised their discretion under the Code reasonably and without controversy. I am confident future Grand Masters and Grand Lecturers will do the same.

That said, the issue of alternative ritual may arise more frequently in the future. We see the interest growing. As California continues to become more diverse, so too does California Freemasonry. For example, a number of both young and old lodges in California but outside our Jurisdiction use ritual from other major rites. While they depart to some degree from our Ritual, their practice of Freemasonry is no more or less pure, correct or wise than ours.

I believe that we should continue to allow future Grand Masters and Grand Lecturers to exercise discretion when considering lodge requests to use alternative ritual. It would be beneficial, however, to clarify the Code's ambiguous language on this topic and provide guidance to our Grand Lodge officers facing such requests.

With respect to alternative ritual, I believe that there are three key principles upon which we can agree. First, all ritual used by our Lodges should contain the same obligations as the Ritual adopted by Grand Lodge. It is crucial that all of our members, regardless of their Lodge memberships, be committed to the same obligations and personal commitments to themselves, their Lodges and their brothers. Second, all of our Lodges should use ritual that shares the same signs, words and modes of recognition. Third, all of our Lodges should perform ritual that adds to, rather than detracts from, the culture, integrity and ideals of our Fraternity. Alternative ritual that does not reflect the culture, integrity and ideals of our Fraternity does not have a place in our Jurisdiction.

My recommendation reflects these principles by granting the Grand Master and the Grand Lecturer the discretion to grant lodge requests to perform alternative ritual *if the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer determine that* the use of the alternative ritual: (1) includes the same obligations contained in the Ritual adopted by Grand Lodge; and (2) includes the same signs, words and modes of recognition contained in our Ritual; and (3) is consistent with the culture, integrity and ideals of our Fraternity.

If you adopt this recommendation, Section 402.010 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§402.010. RITUAL.

All work in this Jurisdiction, including each degree conferred and all lectures, must be in conformity with the Ritual, and such must be adhered to by all Lodges and Masons in this Jurisdiction, except as otherwise provided in this Code. Upon request by a Constituent Lodge, the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer may consent to a Constituent Lodge's use of an alternative ritual that departs from the Ritual provided that such alternative ritual (a) includes the same obligations as those contained in the Ritual, (b) includes the same signs, words and modes of recognition as those contained in the Ritual, and (c) is consistent in all material respects with the culture, integrity and ideals of our Fraternity, as determined by the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer. The language of the obligations in the alternative ritual need not be exactly identical to the language used in the Ritual. Unless otherwise determined by the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer, Constituent Lodges who have used an alternative ritual since at least January 1, 2024 that was not disapproved by the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer may continue their use of such alternative ritual without the affirmative consent of the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer required by this Section. ~~Constituent Lodges whose long established ritualistic work is in part a departure from the Ritual of this Jurisdiction may continue to perform such ritual, for so long as the same has not been disapproved by action of the Grand Master and the Grand Lecturer. The right to perform the long established ritualistic work of Vallee de France Lodge No. 329 has been transferred to and assumed by La France Lodge with the requisite approval of Grand Lodge.~~

Amendment to the Ordinances.

2/3 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Grand Master Metroka's Recommendation No. 11

Permits a Secretary to Serve as Master, Warden or Secretary of Another Lodge

The *California Masonic Code* ("Code") prohibits a member from serving as the Master, Warden or Secretary of one Lodge while simultaneously serving in any of those three positions at another Lodge.

I recommend that we continue this prohibition with one change with respect to Lodge Secretaries. I recommend that we allow a brother serving as a Secretary at one Lodge to also serve as a Master, Warden or Secretary of another Lodge. This modest relaxation of the Code recognizes the many dedicated members of our fraternity who maintain multiple affiliations. It also recognizes and addresses the continuing need of our Lodges to identify and select qualified candidates to fill their officer ranks. I believe that our smaller Lodges will particularly benefit from my recommendation.

In the past, it might have been fair to suppose that a member would have difficulty dedicating the time and energy necessary to serve as Secretary of a Lodge while also serving as an officer of another Lodge. As a result of, among other things, technological enhancements and the many services now provided by Grand Lodge to our Lodge Secretaries, I have no concern in this regard now. We all know many members who are both able and willing to competently perform the duties of Lodge Secretary while also serving as an officer of another Lodge. We should stop denying our Lodges the opportunity to avail themselves of these men.

I note that the Code also prohibits a member from holding more than one office in one Lodge at the same time. I do not recommend any change to this rule.

If you adopt this recommendation, Section 805.010 of the Code would be amended to read as marked:

§805.010. OFFICERS.

The officers of a Lodge are Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Marshal, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Tiler and other officers as the Lodge may deem proper to appoint. The Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected in conformity with this Code. The other officers shall be appointed by the Master. Any Master Mason in good standing, whether or not a member of the Lodge, may be appointed Tiler or Organist. All other officers shall be members in good standing of the Lodge.

A member may not be Master, ~~or~~ Warden ~~or Secretary~~, or any combination thereof, of two or more Lodges (other than Research Lodges and Historic Lodges) at the same time. No one may hold more than one office in a Lodge at the same time.

The title of Master applies not only to him who has been elected and installed as Master, but to either of the Wardens while acting as Master.

Amendment to the Ordinances.

2/3 affirmative vote required for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-01: MAKES THIRD DEGREE PROFICIENCY A PREREQUISITE FOR NOMINATION TO THE OFFICE OF MASTER, SENIOR WARDEN, OR JUNIOR WARDEN

The proponents of this resolution seek to make the receipt of a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree a prerequisite for nomination to the office of Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden and remove the receipt of a Certificate of Proficiency as a condition to an officer-elect's installation to those offices.

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

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons of California upholds the values of knowledge, proficiency, and preparedness among its members, especially those in leadership positions within the Lodges; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed positions of Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden are critical to the effective governance and ceremonial duties of Masonic Lodges, requiring not only dedication but also a deep understanding of Masonic law, rituals, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, one of the current installation requirements for these principal officers include the completion of the Third-Degree proficiency as stated in Chapter V, Article V; [Installation of Lodge Officers], sections 805.520, 805.530, and 805.540; and

WHEREAS, to further ensure that nominees for these offices are thoroughly prepared and qualified, a proposal to amend the current California Masonic Code / Constitution and Ordinances is hereby submitted to require the completion and certification of the Master Mason proficiency at the time of nomination, which would serve to enhance the leadership quality within the Lodges and to further ensure that nominees for these offices are thoroughly prepared and qualified; and

WHEREAS, the requirement for proficiency at the nomination stage will ensure candidates are well-prepared for their respective roles and duties, leading to more effective leadership; and

WHEREAS, that the proposed amendment resolution will not incur additional costs to the Lodges nor impact existing rituals; and

WHEREAS, that the proposed amendment consistently promotes a culture of excellence and proficiency in Masonic ritual work, enhancing the quality and solemnity of our ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, that this proposed requirement will also reduce the administrative burden on District Inspectors, as the process and requirement will ensure candidates are fully prepared for their leadership roles and encourage brothers to plan their Masonic progression; and

WHEREAS, that this proposed amendment resolution does not hinder the progress of worthy brethren, but rather sets forth a clear path for those aspiring to leadership roles within the Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the successful passage of this resolution would render moot the current stipulation in CMC / Chapter V, Article V Installation of Officers §805.520 (Conditions to Installation of Master-Elect), §805.530 (Conditions to Installation of Senior Warden - Elect) and §805.540 (Conditions to Installation of Junior Warden-Elect) which mandates the completion of Master Mason proficiency as a condition for installation, given that this requirement would have been fulfilled prior to election100..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 805.410 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§805.410. ELECTED OFFICERS.

The Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary of each Lodge shall be elected annually at the Stated Meeting in November each year, except as otherwise permitted in Section 807.000 of this Code. A Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree shall be a prerequisite for nomination to the office of Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden. The election shall be by ballot. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for an election. A blank ballot shall not constitute a vote cast. The Lodge, by unanimous consent, may permit any designated officer to cast the ballot for the Lodge.

If an eligible candidate fails to receive a majority of the votes cast, and the candidate receiving a majority is ineligible, there is no election. When a candidate for office is ineligible because he is delinquent in his dues, but his dues are paid before a second ballot, and he receives a majority of the votes cast a second time, he is properly elected.

All members of the Lodge in good standing shall be entitled to vote at an election of Lodge officers.

An annual election held contrary to the provision of this section shall be void.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 805.520 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§805.520. CONDITIONS TO INSTALLATION OF THE MASTER-ELECT.

Before a Master-elect can be installed, there shall be presented to the Installing Officer a Certificate of Qualification of the Grand Lecturer, the Assistant Grand Lecturer of the division in which his Lodge is situated, or the Inspector of the district in which his Lodge is situated, certifying that:

A. He has personally examined the Master-elect and that he is qualified to give the Master's work and lectures of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees; and

~~B. He has received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree; and~~

~~C.~~

B. He is proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 805.530 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§805.530. CONDITIONS TO INSTALLATION OF THE SENIOR WARDEN-ELECT.

Before a Senior Warden-elect can be installed, there shall be presented to the Installing Officer a Certificate of Qualification of the Grand Lecturer, the Assistant Grand Lecturer of the division in which his Lodge is situated, or the Inspector of the district in which his Lodge is situated, certifying that:

A. He has personally examined the Senior Warden-elect and that he is qualified to give the Senior Warden's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees, and the Master's work and lecture of the Fellow Craft Degree; and

~~B. He has received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree; and~~

~~C.~~

B. He is proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 805.540 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§805.540. CONDITIONS TO INSTALLATION OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN-ELECT.

Before a Junior Warden-elect can be installed, there shall be presented to the Installing Officer a Certificate of Qualification of the Grand Lecturer, the Assistant Grand Lecturer of the division in which his Lodge is situated, or the Inspector of the district in which his Lodge is situated, certifying that:

A. He has personally examined the Junior Warden-elect and that he is qualified to give the Junior Warden's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees, and the Master's work and lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree; and

~~B. He has received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree; and~~

~~C.~~

B. He is proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Avery Malate, SW, No. 207

s/ Anthony Fuentes Borci, WM, No. 377

s/ Rolly Dela Cruz Dumlaog, PM, No. 351

s/ George Capellan Dela Cruz, PM, No. 614

s/ Allan V. Solis, PM, No. 882

Amendment to the Ordinances.

2/3 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Avery Malate is authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTIONS FOR 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01: OUT OF ORDER

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02: ALLOWS CICERO RESEARCH LODGE TO HOLD A SINGLE STATED MEETING ANNUALLY

The proponents of this Resolution seek to allow Cicero Research Lodge (UD) to hold a single stated meeting annually.

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

WHEREAS, Cicero Research Lodge (UD) was formed as an affinity lodge composed of Master Masons who have served as Grand Orator of this Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Cicero Research Lodge (UD) was formed to share fellowship, reflection and continued support of our shared Masonic ideals at an annual tiled meeting open to all Masons attending the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the *California Masonic Code* requires research lodges to hold four stated meetings a year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the *California Masonic Code* or the bylaws of Cicero Research Lodge (UD), such Lodge may hold only one Stated Meeting annually at a date, time and place selected by the Lodge Master to coincide with the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, with a thirty day prior written notice of such date, time and place to each member of Cicero Research Lodge (UD).

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Glenn D. Woody, PM, No. 380
s/ R. Stephen Doan, PM, No. 369
s/ Ronald Koretz, PM, No. 520
s/ Narbeh Bagdasarian, PM, No. 885
s/ Melvyn Stein, PM, No. 35
s/ Larry Adamson, PM, No. 369
s/ Jordan Yelinek, PM, No. 851
s/ Richard Pumerantz, PM, No. 711
s/ Ron Cooper, PM, No. 406
s/ G. Sean Metroka, PM, No. 13
s/ John Lowe, PM, No. 341

Amendment to the Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

R. Stephen Doan and Narbeh Bagdasarian are authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-03: WITHDRAWN

RESOLUTION NO. 25-04: CHANGES THE OFFICES OF GRAND ORGANIST, ASSISTANT GRAND ORGANIST AND ORGANIST TO GRAND MUSICIAN, ASSISTANT GRAND MUSICIAN AND MUSICIAN

The proponents of this Resolution seek to change the offices of the Grand Organist, Assistant Grand Organist, and Organist to the Grand Musician, Assistant Grand Musician and Musician.

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

WHEREAS, learning to play the organ was once a very common decades ago, it has become less common, almost obsolete;

WHEREAS, the organ and piano may appear similar, but they are in fact very different when the organ is played to its maximum potential.

WHEREAS, other musical instruments such as the piano, keyboard, guitar, accordion, violin and even bagpipes have become more common instruments to learn and play;

WHEREAS, there is a larger population of talented individuals within the fraternity capable of playing other instruments as compared to those skilled enough to play organ;

WHEREAS, many Lodges that do have an organ have let them slip in to disrepair and have not invested in their upkeep due to the lack of a lodge organist, and in some cases the funding for the same;

WHEREAS, every year Lodges ask the Grand Organist and Assistant Grand Organist to play for their installation or degrees only to be met with an inoperable or malfunctioning instrument;

WHEREAS, music has been a part of the Ritual and is slowly disappearing through the loss of talented individuals capable of filling the roll of organist;

WHEREAS, our Installation Ceremony for the organist reads “The Lyre is the Jewel of your office, and as it is an emblem of music, it should continually remind us that as harmony is essential in the liberal art and science which it symbolizes, so should harmony continue to be the strength and support of all societies, especially of ours. Let Harmony prevail!” We should focus on the position being an emblem of music, and support all our talented brethren who are capable of sharing their gifts within their Lodges;

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~~ Musician, a Grand Tiler, and, at the discretion of the Grand Master, an Assistant Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician 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. 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 404.000 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§404.000. PREREQUISITE FOR OFFICERS.

Each officer of Grand Lodge must be a member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge (other than a Research Lodge or a Historic Lodge). Each officer, other than the Grand Chaplain, Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician and Assistant Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician, must also, at the time of his election or appointment, be a Past Master of this Jurisdiction or a Master or Warden of a chartered and duly constituted Lodge of this Jurisdiction (other than a Research Lodge, a Historic Lodge or the Grand Master’s Lodge).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 404.365 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§404.365. GRAND ~~ORGANIST~~ MUSICIAN.

It shall be the duty of the Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician to preside at the organ during the opening and closing of Grand Lodge, and to conduct its music upon all occasions of ceremony when required by the Grand Master. The Grand Master may appoint an Assistant Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician from the opposite part of the state from the Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician. The Assistant Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician shall discharge the duties of the Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician in the absence of that officer. The Assistant Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician shall be entitled to any expense reimbursement otherwise available to a Grand Lodge Officer only when thus discharging the duties of the Grand ~~Organist~~ Musician.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 805.010 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§805.010. OFFICERS.

The officers of a Lodge are Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Marshal, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Tiler and other officers as the Lodge may deem proper to appoint. The Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected in conformity with this Code. The other officers shall be appointed by the Master. Any Master Mason in good standing, whether or not a member of the Lodge, may be appointed Tiler or ~~Organist~~ Musician. All other officers shall be members in good standing of the Lodge.

A member may not be Master, Warden or Secretary, or any combination thereof, of two or more Lodges (other than Research Lodges and Historic Lodges) at the same time. No one may hold more than one office in a Lodge at the same time.

The title of Master applies not only to him who has been elected and installed as Master, but to either of the Wardens while acting as Master.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 809.550 of the *California Masonic Code* be amended as marked:

§809.550. DISCRETIONARY EXPENDITURES.

A Lodge may:

- A. Pay all the ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the operations of the Lodge, subject to any restrictions contained elsewhere in this Code;
- B. Provide for the payment of its officers or representatives in attending the Annual or a Special Communication of Grand Lodge;
- C. Appropriate from its funds any amount for the purchase of a testimonial for its retiring Master;
- D. Purchase a life membership for its retiring Master;
- E. Appropriate money for floral pieces for an ill or deceased Mason, or a contribution in his name or memory to the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund or to the California Masonic Foundation;
- F. Compensate the ~~Organist~~ Musician;
- G. Purchase books and maintain a library for the use of the Masons of the Lodge;
- H. Purchase a trowel for presentation to a candidate in the Master Mason degree;
- I. Make a nominal contribution in honor of the Grand Master to the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund, the California Masonic Foundation, the California Masonic Memorial Temple or to the Masonic Youth Orders;
- J. Establish a scholarship program for the awarding of financial aid to worthy students;
- K. Pay its annual dues for membership in a Secretaries Association and the reasonable expenses of that Association including the cost of the meals for Lodge officers attending the meetings;
- L. Purchase and maintain a burial place for a deceased member and pay for necessary burial expense;
- M. Pay the cost of obtaining credit association reports in respect to applicants for the degrees or affiliation;
- N. Permit use of its facility without rental charge for community or public activities consistent with the provisions of this Code, provided the user defrays any separate expense resulting from such use;
- O. Allocate funds for community improvement, charitable activity, or sponsorship of programs that will benefit residents of the community in which the Lodge is located;
- P. Purchase clothing or other needed items for use by a member who is in the Masonic Homes of California; and

- Q. Contribute a reasonable sum to a Constituent Lodge or Masonic Hall Association in this Jurisdiction which has suffered damage or loss as a result of a natural catastrophe; and
- R. Expend its funds as authorized under any other provision of this Code.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Stephen R. Miller, PM, No. 428

s/ Frederick N. Bernhardt, PM, No. 404

s/ John A. Pomroy, PM, No. 856

Amendment to the Ordinances.

5/6 affirmative vote required for adoption.

Stephen R. Miller is authorized to represent and act for the Resolution.