

# **CALIFORNIA MASONIC CODE**

containing

## **CONSTITUTION AND ORDINANCES**

of

**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL**

**GRAND LODGE**

of

**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

of the

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

San Francisco

2006

*Fourth Edition*

As amended through 2018

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## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

### REPORT OF THE CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

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

The Craft, at the 2005 Annual Communication, adopted Most Worshipful David R. Doan's Recommendation to appoint a special Code Revision Committee. The committee was asked to undertake a comprehensive review of the *California Masonic Code* for inconsistencies and mistakes which have accumulated over time and to make recommendations for appropriate corrections and updates.

It is helpful to understand the history of our Code when considering a revision of it. In the early years of our Grand Lodge, the written Masonic law of this jurisdiction was contained in a Constitution, a set of Bylaws which provided certain procedural rules for communications and a series of standing resolutions which were adopted by the craft over the years to resolve issues which had arisen under the Constitution or Bylaws or to address issues where the Constitution and Bylaws were silent. These resolutions were published in the order adopted. Over time, it became difficult to find a resolution on point with the number which had accumulated. Past Grand Master John Stewart Ross, a lawyer from El Centro, undertook a reorganization of these resolutions by grouping them by subject matter. Thus organized, they were published in 1931 with the Constitution and Bylaws in what would become known as the *Ross Digest*. In 1939, the Constitution was divided into the Constitution (limited to the so called "fundamental organic law of Grand Lodge") and the Ordinances (with the provisions of the Constitution which were not considered "organic"). The Constitution and Ordinances were organized into 353 sections, followed by the accumulated interpretive resolutions organized by topic.

Another comprehensive revision of our published law was made in 1956 with the publication of the first *California Masonic Code*. The standing resolutions and decisions in the *Ross Digest* were organized not by topic but by the Code section to which they related, and each was printed as an annotation under the applicable section. Although the Code was subsequently revised in 1975 and 1991, the same organization of the Code continued, with some modifications for clarity. However, the law remained much as it had been in the *Ross Digest*: a Constitution with a series of special rules and exceptions in the Ordinances. Other than the adoption of new commercialism rules in 1995, there has been no significant attempt to put all rules on the same subject in the same area of the Code nor to address issues which are not covered by the Code. There are many unwritten rules followed by custom in this jurisdiction which have never found their way into the Code.

Your committee was asked by Grand Master Sorsabal to produce a draft restatement of the Code to address these deficiencies. As is now the general state practice for corporations, we propose a Constitution which looks like a set of corporate Articles of Incorporation: short with only the most pertinent rules of the organization included. All other rules are proposed for the Ordinances. This reorganization allowed the committee to place rules governing the same subject in one place and to eliminate duplications found of the same rule in different parts of the Code. The Ordinances have been reorganized in an order which generally follows the order

found in corporate Bylaws. Within topic headings, rules have been included in the order in which the process addressed would be undertaken. Previously unwritten rules followed by custom have been included, and we have clarified existing rules where custom has not been consistent with the prior published Code. We have included cross references. We have attempted to simplify complicated language, although as many of us on the committee are practicing or retired lawyers, simplicity to us may not be simplicity to you.

We have attempted to avoid changing the law in doing this restatement, although because lawyers can argue over every comma it is impossible to say that the Code proposed may not on occasion produce a different result than would have been the case under our current Code. However, we do not believe that there have been any material changes, except as follows. We have eliminated some provisions which are obsolete or should be dealt with somewhere other than in the Code. (The deleted provisions are set forth in the Appendix to this report.) There are inconsistencies in the current Code, and we have attempted to retain what we felt were best practices. We have updated portions of the Code which were not consistent with state law, such as Grand Lodge's relationship with the Masonic Homes, California Masonic Foundation and California Masonic Memorial Temple. There are some revisions in trial procedures, including the addition of a burden of proof.

We believe that the result of our efforts is a draft Code which is easier to read, addresses more issues and hopefully will reduce the number of future disagreements as to what the Code requires.

The appendix and source information for Code provisions are presented to assist in the review of our proposal but are not part of the Code. The table of contents, index and cross-reference tables are not part of the Code and will be prepared after the Code is adopted.

We thank the Grand Master for the opportunity which he has given us to serve in this important assignment.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Stephen Doan (369), P.G.M., *Chairman*  
Jack R. Levitt (35), P.G.M.  
Ralph B. Dash (721)  
Richard A. Meyers (399)  
Maxwell S. "Mickey" Roth (351)  
John L. Cooper, III (467), Grand Secretary

Action: Grand Master Sorsabal recommended that the *California Masonic Code* be amended and restated to read in its entirety as set forth in the Fourth Edition of the *California Masonic Code* attached to this report. His recommendation was adopted by the required five-sixths vote. The Fourth Edition of the *California Masonic Code* therefore became effective at the close of the 2006 Annual Communication on October 11, 2006.

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**CONSTITUTION**  
**of the**  
**GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

*Adopted October 11, 2006*

**§10.000. NAME.**

This organization is an unincorporated association which shall be known as “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California.” *[Source: Section 110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§20.000. MEMBERS.**

- A. Grand Lodge shall be composed of a Grand Master (whose manner of address shall be Most Worshipful), a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior Grand Warden, and a Junior Grand Warden (whose manner of address shall be Right Worshipful), a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Secretary and a Grand Lecturer (whose manner of address shall be Very Worshipful), a Grand Chaplain (whose manner of address shall be Very Reverend), the Assistant Grand Lecturers, a Grand Orator, an Assistant Grand Secretary, a Grand Marshal, a Grand Standard Bearer, a Grand Sword Bearer, a Grand Bible Bearer, a Senior Grand Deacon, a Junior Grand Deacon, a Senior Grand Steward, a Junior Grand Steward, a Grand Pursuivant, a Grand Organist, a Grand Tiler, and, at the discretion of the Grand Master, an Assistant Grand Organist and an Assistant Grand Tiler (whose manner of address shall be Worshipful), together with all of the Past Grand Officers and Past Masters of this Jurisdiction, and the Master and Wardens of the several chartered and duly constituted Lodges (except Research Lodges, Historic Lodges or the Grand Master’s Lodge) of this Jurisdiction or the representatives thereof duly elected. 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.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§30.000. AUTHORITY.**

- A. Grand Lodge is the supreme Masonic power and authority in the State of California and is vested with all legislative, executive, and judicial powers in furtherance of same,

limited only by a strict adherence to the Ancient Landmarks, by the other General Regulations of Masonry and by the provisions of this Constitution and any other laws and regulations as it may enact or amend from time to time;

- B. The Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge includes all Lodges, Masons, Masonic Organizations, their members, Masonic Youth Orders, their members and advisors and Masonic activities in the State of California, and all Lodges and their Masons outside of this state, acting under its authority, and Masons of Constituent Lodges wherever residing; and
- C. Grand Lodge alone has authority to charter or grant dispensations for a Masonic Lodge in this Jurisdiction.

Grand Lodge may waive its right to maintain exclusive authority and jurisdiction in the State of California and permit concurrent jurisdiction with other Grand Bodies; provided such waiver is adopted in the same manner that amendments may be made to this Constitution.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Sections 210 and 310 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§40.000. ORDINANCES.**

Grand Lodge may adopt Ordinances to provide additional or supplemental laws, rules and regulations governing its Communications and affairs. These Ordinances shall be adopted in the same manner that amendments may be made to this Constitution. Grand Lodge may take any action not limited by this Constitution or its Ordinances with a simple majority of votes cast at an Annual or Special Communication.

#### **§50.000. AMENDMENTS.**

Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be adopted at an Annual or Special Communication of Grand Lodge by five-sixths of the votes cast. If so adopted, they shall become a part of this Constitution at the close of the Communication. If the vote in favor of a proposed amendment is less than five-sixths but there is a majority, it shall lie over until the next succeeding Annual Communication and shall be published with the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. If, at the next succeeding Annual Communication, it receives two-thirds of the votes cast, it shall be adopted. At the close of that Communication, it shall become a part of this Constitution.

The foregoing notwithstanding, a modification of the Constitution solely for the Communication at which it is proposed shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by five-sixths of the votes cast.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 810, 820 and 830 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*



**ORDINANCES**  
**of the**  
**GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA**

*Adopted October 11, 2006*

**PART 1**  
**DEFINED TERMS**

The following definitions shall constitute the meaning of such terms wherever used in the Constitution or Ordinances of the Grand Lodge.

**§100.010. BALLOT:**

A secret vote by balls and cubes or in writing (which in a Communication of the Grand Lodge includes a computer punch card, any other form of electronic ballot used by a direct-recording electronic voting machine, a computer network voting system or any other electronic vote tabulation system). Ballots should be in writing unless the context requires balls and cubes.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 10 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.015. CALIFORNIA MASONIC CODE:**

The Constitution and Ordinances of the Grand Lodge, as the same may be amended from time to time, sometimes referred to as “this Code.”

**§100.020. CONSTITUENT LODGE:**

A Lodge chartered by or under dispensation from this Grand Lodge. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 12 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.025. DEMIT:**

A document, bearing the seal of a Lodge and attested to by the Secretary, terminating membership (if issued to a Master Mason) or effecting a withdrawal (if issued to an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft). *[Source: Section 13 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.030. FRATERNAL INTERCOURSE:**

Activities that promote fraternalism in Constituent Lodges or Masonic Youth Orders which are not prohibited by this Code. *[Source: Section 14 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.035. GENERAL REGULATIONS OF MASONRY:**

The Ancient Landmarks, or unwritten law of Masonry, and the craft's ancient constitutions, regulations and charges, as the same may be and have been modified by specific action of this Grand Lodge.

**§100.040. GRAND LODGE CEREMONIES:**

The Grand Lodge's public and private ceremonies: the Grand Lodge opening and closing ceremonies, the Laying of Cornerstones ceremony for or the dedication of a Masonic or public building, Cornerstone Removal ceremony, Institution of New Lodges ceremony, Constitution of Newly Chartered Lodges ceremony, Presentation of 50-Year Pins (Golden Veterans Award) ceremony, Presentation of 50-Year (Or Other) Awards on Behalf of Other Masonic Jurisdictions, Presentation of 75-Year Pins ceremony, Dedication of Masonic Halls ceremony, Lodge Anniversary and Dedication Ceremony, Dedication of Public Schools Buildings ceremony, Dedication of Burial Plots ceremony, Mortgage Burning Ceremony and, with the approval of the Grand Master after consultation with the Grand Lecturer, any other ceremonies as from time to time may be necessary.

**§100.045. IN GOOD STANDING:**

When dues are current or have been remitted at any time within the preceding 12 months, even though the dues accruing since remission have not been paid. *[Source: Section 15 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.050. MASONIC CLOTHING:**

White aprons. *[Source: Section 17 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.055. MASONIC COMMUNICATION:**

Any communication involving the esoteric or secret portion of the Ritual. *[Source: Section 18 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.060. MASONIC ORGANIZATION:**

Any group, chapter, order, club, association or organization requiring Masonic affiliation as a prerequisite to membership, other than a Masonic Lodge. *[Source: Section 19 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.065. MASONIC REGALIA:**

Aprons, jewels and implements appropriate to one's station or office and the Master's hat. *[Source: Section 20 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.070. MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS:**

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, International Order of Job's Daughters and International Order of DeMolay. *[Source: Section 21 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.073. MORAL LAW:**

Those generally accepted and customary rules and principles which relate to right and wrong conduct and to duty.

- A. The moral law prescribes the standards to which the actions of people should conform in their dealings with the Supreme Being, each other and themselves. The moral law includes only those sectarian rules and principles on which all men agree. The moral law is the same as natural law. Violations of the moral law are *mala in se* because they are violations which are morally wrong in themselves: violations which people of ordinary sensibility should recognize are wrong, without the intervention of a governmental proscription.
- B. The moral law does not include societal norms, customs, virtues or values which are derived from the established practices of a particular society. Violations of laws, rules or principles which are not morally wrong in themselves are *mala prohibita*: actions that are wrong only because they are prohibited by statute or other law.
- C. Many but not all violations of the moral law are criminal offenses. Not all criminal offenses are violations of the moral law.

*[Added: 2010.]*

**§100.075. MORAL TURPITUDE:**

Any act of baseness, vileness or depravity during a violation of the moral law, even though not necessarily a criminal offense. For conduct to involve moral turpitude, it normally must be accompanied by an inherently evil intent. The most common examples of this inherently evil intent are:

- A. An intent to defraud;
- B. An intent to take a thing unlawfully (larceny); and
- C. An intent to harm a person or a thing.

*[Amended: 2010.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§100.080. NOTICE:**

A call issued by the Secretary by order of the Lodge or Master or by other competent authority to attend or perform as specified. Unless the context otherwise requires, any notice to a particular person required or permitted by this Code shall be personally served or shall be deemed to have been delivered, whether actually received or not, three days after deposit in the United States mail, if sent in a sealed envelope by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the recipient at his address of record. All other notices may be sent by first class mail to the recipient at his address of record in a sealed envelope, by insertion in the Lodge bulletin sent by United States mail, by facsimile telecommunication or electronic mail when directed to the recipient's facsimile number or electronic mail address of record that creates a record that is capable of retention, retrieval and review, and that may thereafter be rendered into clearly legible tangible form. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 22 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§100.085. RITUAL:**

The work and lectures in the three degrees (composed of the esoteric or secret portion and the portion in the approved Grand Lodge Monitor), the Candidate's Lectures of each of the three degrees, the Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges and the Funeral Service, each as has been and may be from time to time adopted and modified by Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge Ceremonies, although ritualistic in nature, are not part of the Ritual.

**§100.090. SUMMONS:**

An imperative order issued by the Master and attested to by the Secretary or by other competent authority to appear as specified. A trial summons is a summons issued for the purpose of answering one or more Masonic charges. *[Source: Section 23 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**PART 2  
VALUES**

**§200.010. CORE VALUES.**

Masonry is a fraternity composed exclusively of men ages 18 years and older who believe in a Supreme Being and a future existence. The membership in Masonry of anyone who does not comply with the foregoing is automatically terminated. Racial or ethnic background, color of skin, political views or religious belief, except for the requirement of a belief in a Supreme Being and a future existence, shall not be a consideration either for membership or visitation. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 220.D and 23030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§200.020. NO POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT.**

Grand Lodge and its Constituent Lodges shall not interfere or voice an opinion with regard to political or religious matters. Masons, when they are assembled in Constituent Lodges or Grand

Lodge, may not discuss political or religious matters. No invocation, benediction or prayer shall be delivered which would have a sectarian significance.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 380 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§200.030. PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Statewide public schools welfare, including school bonds and school taxes, is a proper subject for discussion in Lodges. However, no action may be taken by any Lodge to endorse, approve or disapprove any candidate, bond or tax issue. Solicitation of individual donations for any statewide purpose concerning the protection or improvement of the public schools system may be made on Lodge premises, but not in a tiled Lodge. Such solicitation may also be made by first class mail in a sealed envelope by a duly authorized Lodge committee, which committee may use the Lodge membership list for such purpose. *[Source: Section 15060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§200.040. NO BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.**

A Masonic Lodge is not a business establishment. Therefore, a Masonic Lodge may not under any circumstance regularly offer goods or services to the general public. A Masonic Lodge may not under any circumstance provide a forum which encourages business relations to grow nor which enhances any commercial advantage of its members. No Mason of any Masonic Lodge may engage in any of these activities except in his individual capacity and then only without the use of the name of the Lodge or reference to his involvement in Masonry.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 27550 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**PART 3  
LAW**

**§300.010. ENTIRE LAW.**

The California Masonic Code, together with the General Regulations of Masonry and the rights and duties contained in the Ritual, constitutes the entire law of this Grand Lodge. *[Source: Section 330 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§300.020. COMPLIANCE WITH MASONIC AND STATE LAW.**

Except as otherwise provided in Section 409.030, the law of this Grand Lodge governs all Constituent Lodges, Masons, Masonic Organizations, their members, Masonic Youth Orders, their members and advisors under its jurisdiction and all Masonic activities under its jurisdiction, including all demitted, suspended and expelled Masons under its jurisdiction. In addition, all Constituent Lodges, Masons, Masonic Organizations, their members, Masonic Youth Orders, their members and advisors under its jurisdiction shall act in compliance with all laws, rules and regulations of the State of California. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 210 and 310 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§300.030. CONTINUATION OF PRIOR LAW.**

The provisions of this Code, insofar as they are substantially the same on the date of adoption as then existing statutory provisions relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments.

**§300.040. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Unless the provision or the context otherwise requires, these general provisions, rules of construction, and definitions govern the construction of this Code. All personal pronouns used in this Code, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, shall include all other genders and the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. Headings are for convenience only, and headings neither limit nor amplify the provisions of this Code itself. The present tense includes the past and future tenses, and the future tense includes the present. “Shall” is mandatory and “may” is permissive. Person includes an entity as well as a natural person, unless context indicates otherwise. “Signature” or “sign” includes a mark when the signer cannot write, such signer’s name being written near the mark by a witness who writes his own name near the signer’s name and witnessed by two persons who so sign their own names thereto. The term “signature” includes a signature in a facsimile or direct electronic document. A writing includes any form of recorded message capable of comprehension by ordinary visual means and shall include electronic transmissions by facsimile telecommunication or electronic mail when directed to the recipient’s facsimile number or electronic mail address of record that creates a record that is capable of retention, retrieval and review, and that may thereafter be rendered into clearly legible tangible form.

**§300.050. DEADLINES ON WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS.**

Whenever any act is appointed by this Code to be performed upon a particular day, which day falls upon a Saturday, Sunday or day recognized by the federal government as a holiday, it may be performed upon the next business day, with the same effect as if it had been performed upon the day appointed.

*[Added: 2007.]*

**PART 4  
GRAND LODGE**

**CHAPTER 1  
POWERS**

**§401.010. EXECUTIVE POWERS.**

The executive powers of Grand Lodge include:

- A. The granting of dispensations and charters to establish and perpetuate Lodges in this state and in other territory where no Grand Lodge exists, and the revocation or suspension thereof;
- B. The issuing of special dispensations for all purposes permitted by any of the provisions of this Code;
- C. The exercise of all of the powers of a natural person, except as limited by or inconsistent with the law of this Grand Lodge or with any of the laws, rules or regulations of the State of California; and
- D. The exercise of all authority as may be convenient to carry its laws into complete effect and to secure their due observance.

*[Amended: 2009.] [Source: Section 320 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§401.020. LEGISLATIVE POWERS.**

Grand Lodge has an inalienable right to adopt, promulgate, amend and repeal any and all laws, rules and regulations in all matters Masonic and make them applicable to all Lodges, Masons, Masonic Organizations and Masonic Youth Orders under its jurisdiction. All such laws, rules and regulations are final and binding on all Lodges, Masons, Masonic Organizations, their members, Masonic Youth Orders, their members and advisors under its jurisdiction until amended or repealed. Grand Lodge reserves all such legislative powers to itself except those specifically delegated from time to time to the Lodges in this Code. *[Source: Section 330 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§401.030. JUDICIAL POWERS.**

The judicial powers of Grand Lodge are:

- A. The interpretation, construction and application of its law in this jurisdiction;
- B. The decision of all controversies under its law among those subject to its jurisdiction;
- C. The review and adjudication of the enforcement of its laws upon Masons, Lodges, Masonic Organizations, their members, Masonic Youth Orders, their members and advisors under its jurisdiction; and
- D. The review and adjudication of all matters of controversy or discipline under its law, which may have arisen in any of the Lodges under its jurisdiction, and over which it has not retained original jurisdiction.

*[Source: Section 340 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 2 RITUAL**

### **§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. 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. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26290 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§402.020. CHANGE OF RITUAL.**

Grand Lodge alone has power to authorize any changes in the Ritual. No change may be made to the Ritual which is inconsistent with those provisions of the General Regulations of Masonry that by their nature may not be modified by specific action of this Grand Lodge. Proposed amendments to the Ritual must be adopted at an Annual or Special Communication of Grand Lodge by five-sixths of the votes cast. If so adopted, they shall become a part of the Ritual at the close of the Communication. If the vote in favor of a proposed amendment is less than five-sixths but there is a majority, it shall lie over until the next succeeding Annual Communication and shall be published with the Proceedings. If, at the next succeeding Annual Communication, it receives two-thirds of the votes cast, it shall be adopted. At the close of that Communication, it shall become a part of the Ritual. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26310 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§402.030. CIPHER RITUALS.**

Grand Lodge shall cause to be prepared, published and sold to Constituent Lodges and Master Masons, for use and possession by Master Masons only, a cipher of the esoteric or secret portion of the Ritual, in any medium capable of being rendered into clearly legible tangible form, as shall be approved from time to time by the Grand Lecturer with the approval of the Grand Master. The cipher may include such attached or separate supplements as shall be approved from time to time by the Grand Lecturer with the approval of the Grand Master. The foregoing notwithstanding, a Master Mason who is an authorized Candidate's Coach may reproduce that portion of the approved cipher ritual that pertains to the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft proficiency examinations for use and possession by an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to prepare for his proficiency examination.

In no event shall any cipher ritual, or portion thereof, be used during a tiled meeting, except as follows:

- A. A cipher ritual may be used at any tiled meeting by the duly appointed Officers' Coach of the Lodge, or in his absence, a qualified Past Master selected by the Master; and

- B. A cipher ritual may also be used at any tiled meeting called for the purpose of practicing the Ritual, by any Mason who is not participating in the presentation of the Ritual.

*[Amended: 2010; 2014.] [Source: Section 26300 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§402.040. RESTRICTIONS ON CONFERRING DEGREES.**

No Constituent Lodge shall confer:

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

*[Amended: 2013.] [Source: Section 26280 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§402.050. CONFERRAL OF DEGREES UPON IMPAIRED CANDIDATE.**

The several degrees may be conferred by a Lodge upon an impaired candidate under the supervision of the Inspector in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Ritual Committee and approved by the Grand Master. In the event that the specific needs of a particular candidate are not covered by the guidelines, any additional modifications to the Ritual shall be left to the sound discretion of the Inspector. The entire Ritual, without omission of any part, shall be presented to the candidate, who may be an active participant in all or in such part of the ceremony as he chooses.

If the candidate normally uses a prosthesis or other artificial device of any kind, he shall, at his option, be allowed to wear or use during the conferral of the degree the aid or aids usually worn or used by him, provided that he can do so with safety to himself and others. Such aids shall be deemed a part of his person of which he cannot be divested.

*[Source: Section 26320 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§402.060. ALTERNATE HOLY WRITINGS.**

A candidate for a degree in Masonry may select an alternate Holy Writings on which he will be obligated, but only under the following circumstances:

- A. If the candidate does not wish to be obligated on the Holy Bible, he must select an alternate Holy Writings in book form from a list promulgated from time to time by the Grand Master of the Holy Writings of those recognized religions whose theology is not inconsistent with a belief in a Supreme Being and a future existence. The Grand Master's list shall at all times include the al-Kitab al-Aqdas of Bahaism, the Tripitaka of Buddhism, the Analects of Confucianism, the Vedas of Hinduism, the Koran of Islam, the Tanach of Judaism, the Koji-ki of Shintoism, the Adi Granth of Sikhism, the Tao-te Ching of Taoism and the Zend Avesta of Zoroastrianism. In selecting an alternate Holy Writings, the candidate must state that the book chosen is the Holy Writings of his religious faith;
- B. The particular book selected for use on the altar during the ceremonies of a candidate's degrees must be of a suitable size as determined by the Ritual Committee;
- C. Grand Lodge shall make available all books on the list. Grand Lodge shall loan any book on the list upon request to a Lodge which requires it for a degree;
- D. The book selected shall remain on the altar throughout the meeting during which it is used for a candidate's degree, unless the Lodge schedules more than one candidate to receive a degree at a meeting and all candidates receiving a degree on that occasion will not be obligated on the same book of Holy Writings. In that event, the book shall be changed when the Lodge is at refreshment between the degrees;
- E. When an alternate Holy Writings is used during a degree, a closed Holy Bible of any size must be on the altar; and
- F. Alternate Holy Writings may be used only at a Lodge meeting during which a candidate selecting the alternate Holy Writings receives a degree and on no other occasion.

*[Source: Section 26295 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§402.070. FOREIGN LANGUAGE LODGES.**

Constituent Lodges composed predominately of Masons of a particular ethnic origin whose primary language skills are in a language other than English may with the approval of the Grand Master and the Grand Lecturer perform the Ritual in such foreign language and confer a degree or degrees in the approved foreign language upon those of its candidates who speak, read and understand such foreign language. Such a Lodge may confer a degree or degrees in the approved foreign language upon the candidate of another Lodge who speaks, reads and understands such foreign language, as long as the requirements of Sections 804.640 and 804.650 of this Code are followed. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26290 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§402.080. ANOTHER JURISDICTION’S RITUAL.**

After consultation with the Grand Lecturer and the Committee on Ritual, the Grand Master may permit a Constituent Lodge to confer a degree upon an applicant elected to receive such degree in another Jurisdiction using the ritual of such other Jurisdiction, as long as the requirements of Section 804.670 of this Code are followed. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26290 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 3  
MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**§403.000. PREREQUISITE TO MEMBERSHIP IN GRAND LODGE.**

Each member of Grand Lodge must be a member in good standing of a chartered and duly constituted Lodge in this Jurisdiction (other than a Research Lodge or a Historic Lodge). If such membership ceases, membership in Grand Lodge shall cease.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 240 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.005. ELECTED LODGE REPRESENTATIVES.**

Each chartered and duly constituted Lodge in this Jurisdiction (other than a Research Lodge, a Historic Lodge or the Grand Master’s Lodge) may elect a member thereof to represent it at the next Annual or Special Communication in the event that neither the Master nor either of the Wardens can be present at such Communication. Such election shall be by ballot at a Stated Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Lodge called for that purpose, by a majority of the members present and voting.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 250 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.010. ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.**

An Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be convened for the transaction of business in the City and County of San Francisco commencing at a time and on a day within 20 days before or after the second Monday in October, as selected and announced by the Grand Master. The Grand Master shall cause the Grand Secretary to send notice of the date and time of the opening of an Annual Communication by first class mail to each officer and committee member of the Grand Lodge and each Constituent Lodge not less than one year in advance of the first day of the Annual Communication. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 410 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.015. SPECIAL COMMUNICATION.**

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge may be convened by the Grand Master whenever, in his opinion, the welfare of the fraternity requires, and shall also be convened by him upon

receipt of an application signed by the Masters of at least 20% of the chartered Lodges setting forth the business to be transacted. The Special Communication shall commence at a time, on a date and at place within the State of California as selected by the Grand Master or as selected by the Grand Secretary or the Assistant Grand Secretary in the event of a Special Communication called pursuant to Section 404.510 of this Code. The Grand Secretary or the Assistant Grand Secretary shall send notice of the date, time and place of the opening of a Special Communication, as well as the business to be transacted at it, by first class mail to each officer and committee member of Grand Lodge, each Constituent Lodge and the Master and Wardens of each such Lodge not less than 30 days prior to the opening of such Special Communication. No business may be transacted at any Special Communication other than that stated in the notice for same. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 420 and 2040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.020. CEREMONIAL COMMUNICATION.**

A Ceremonial Communication of the Grand Lodge may be convened by the Grand Master, or his duly authorized representative, without any required prior notice, at such time, on such date and at such place within this Jurisdiction as he may direct for the performance of any of the Grand Lodge Ceremonies. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Grand Master may cause the performance of any of Grand Lodge Ceremonies without a Ceremonial Communication, at his discretion. No business may be transacted at any Ceremonial Communication. The only Ceremonial Communications that may be held on Sundays are those called to perform the funeral service, cornerstone laying or dedication ceremonies, but only if such ceremony can be performed on such day without infringing the spirit of Masonry. *[Source: Section 430 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.025. QUORUM.**

The officers or representatives of at least 20% of the Lodges chartered and constituted by this Grand Lodge shall be present in order to transact any business in Grand Lodge at an Annual or Special Communication. No member of Grand Lodge shall be represented therein by proxy. *[Source: Section 440 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.030. ATTENDANCE.**

Any Master Mason who is a member of a Constituent Lodge or a lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge may be present during any Annual, Special or Ceremonial Communication. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 450 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.035. REPRESENTATION IN GRAND LODGE.**

Each chartered and duly constituted Lodge shall be represented in Grand Lodge at every Annual or Special Communication by one or more of its Master and Wardens, or (in their absence) by an elected representative. It may instruct its officers or its representative relative to voting upon any business to be considered at any Communication.

A Lodge which has failed to make its annual returns, with payment of dues, shall not be entitled to representation at the next Annual Communication.

*[Source: Section 19060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.040. TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.**

Transaction of business in Grand Lodge shall be upon written resolutions, Grand Master recommendations, Grand Lodge officer reports or committee reports presented in writing to the Grand Secretary. All such resolutions, recommendations and reports to be considered at an Annual Communication must be presented to the Grand Secretary at least 180 days prior to the commencement date of the next Annual Communication. This 180 day requirement shall not apply to:

- A. Decisions and recommendations of the Grand Master which are included in his written message presented at the Annual Communication;
- B. Emergent matters which may be presented and considered at any time upon consent of a five-sixths vote of the members present; and
- C. Grand Lodge officer reports and committee reports, including resolutions which form a part of any such report, which do not purport to amend this Code or the Ritual of Grand Lodge.

Written resolutions, in order to be considered for action at an Annual or Special Communication, must bear the signatures, as proponents, of at least three members of this Grand Lodge, each a member of a different Constituent Lodge. Each resolution must state the names of not more than two of the proponents either of whom is authorized to represent and act for the proponents with respect to the resolution before committees and Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 460 and 6230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.045. REFERENCE TO COMMITTEES.**

Each resolution, recommendation and report to be considered at an Annual or Special Communication shall be referred to the Committees on Jurisprudence and Finance and to such other committees as shall be determined by the Grand Master.

At least 150 days prior to the commencement of the next Annual Communication, the Grand Secretary shall transmit a copy of all resolutions and reports in his possession for consideration at such Annual Communication, together with any decisions and recommendations of the Grand Master authorized by him for release, to the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence for their review and any needed drafting or redrafting and to the members of the Committee on Finance for their review and the preparation of an estimate of the anticipated cost of implementing such proposed legislation. The Grand Secretary shall transmit, at least 60 days prior to the commencement of the next Annual Communication, a copy of each such resolution,

report, recommendation and decision in the form recommended by the Committee on Jurisprudence, together with the cost estimate as prepared by the Committee on Finance, to the Master, Wardens and Secretaries of Constituent Lodges, the Inspectors, and the members of the Committees on Jurisprudence, Legislative Analysis and Finance, and such additional committees and persons as may be designated by the Grand Master.

All committees to which a matter has been referred shall report before any vote shall be taken in Grand Lodge, except as otherwise provided in Section 403.090 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012; 2014.] [Source: Sections 460, 2040 and 6230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.050. SIMILAR MATTERS.**

If resolutions, recommendations or reports of a similar nature on the same subject matter have been presented to Grand Lodge at two consecutive Annual Communications and after a vote thereon are not adopted, no resolution of a similar nature on the same subject matter shall be presented to or considered at an Annual Communication until two intervening Annual Communications have been held. This restriction shall not apply to emergent matters as provided in Section 403.040 of this Code. A resolution considered in two consecutive years because of the carryover provisions of this Code is a single resolution and shall be considered as such. *[Source: Sections 460 and 6230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.055. NO BUSINESS AFTER ELECTIONS.**

No business may be transacted at an Annual Communication after the election of the Grand Lodge Officers, except for emergent matters as provided in Section 403.040 of this Code and appropriations as provided in Section 407.050 of this Code. *[Source: Sections 460 and 6230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.060. ELECTIONEERING.**

Neither a Lodge nor a Mason shall:

- A. Distribute any circular or other written communication to Lodges or Masons concerning legislation to be brought before Grand Lodge without the permission of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge, except as provided in Section 404.240 of this Code; or
- B. Distribute any circular or other written communication to Lodges or Masons concerning the election of officers in Grand Lodge, except as provided in Sections 404.420 and 404.430 of this Code.

*[Source: Section 15120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.065. MANNER OF VOTING.**

All questions in Grand Lodge, except election of officers, shall be decided either by voice, hand, a rising vote or by written ballot, as the Grand Master shall direct, unless, before the announcement of the result thereof, three members shall demand that the vote be taken by written ballot. At least one member demanding the written ballot must have the authority to speak for the others joining with him in the request, and this shall be so stated in the request for the written ballot. At least one designated spokesman must be present in Grand Lodge at all times that a written ballot is to be taken pursuant to the demand. If no spokesman is present, the Grand Master may in his discretion proceed as though no demand had been made.

A written ballot is defined as one inscribed upon a slip of paper, or a computer punch card provided by the Grand Secretary, and distributed, collected and counted by appointed Grand Lodge tellers, or any other form of electronic ballot used by a direct-recording electronic voting machine, a computer network voting system or any other electronic vote tabulation system.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 610 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.070. REQUIRED VOTE.**

Except as provided in Section 50.000 of the Constitution regarding the vote required to amend the Constitution of Grand Lodge, in Section 402.020 regarding the vote required to amend the Ritual or in Section 1500.000 regarding the vote required to amend these Ordinances, the transaction of business shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. Blank ballots submitted are not counted as ballots cast. *[Source: Sections 460 and 6230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.075. VOTES.**

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

- A. Elective and appointive Grand Lodge Officers except the Grand Tiler and the Assistant Grand Tiler;
- B. Past Grand Officers;
- C. Masters, Senior Wardens and Junior Wardens of chartered Lodges; and
- D. Past Masters collectively of each chartered Lodge.

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

*[Source: Sections 620 and 630 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.080. CUMULATIVE VOTING.**

If one or more of the Master and Wardens of a Lodge has not registered, or has registered and is not present, the senior such officer registered, in addition to his own vote, may also cast the vote of the absentee or absentees. If an incumbent officer of Grand Lodge or a Past Grand Officer is also a Master, Warden or elected representative of a Lodge, he may cast all votes to which such positions entitle him, but he shall not be entitled to cast the vote afforded the Past Masters of a Lodge. If the elected representative is a Past Master but not an incumbent officer of Grand Lodge or a Past Grand Officer, he may also cast the vote afforded the Past Masters of a Lodge. *[Source: Section 630 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.085. TIE VOTE.**

The Grand Master shall have a regular vote in all matters before Grand Lodge. In case of a tie vote, he may also cast the deciding vote. *[Source: Section 640 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§403.090. ADDITIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ANNUAL AND SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS.**

The following Rules of Procedure shall govern the deliberations at each Annual and Special Communication of the Grand Lodge:

- A. All committee reports must be in the hands of the Grand Secretary before the opening of the Communication. Each chairman of a committee to which legislation has been referred should be present at all times during the sessions at which legislation will be considered until all reports from his committee have been given. If a committee member is not present and prepared to report when called for, the Grand Secretary shall read the committee's report. If the Grand Secretary does not then have a copy of the report to read, the vote shall be taken without that report;
- B. The Jurisprudence Committee shall report only once, unless there is a special matter before the Grand Lodge which the committee and presiding officer believe warrant individual attention. The presiding officer shall announce the vote required for passage of each item before discussion begins;
- C. Any legislation to be considered which has not been mailed to the Lodges shall be printed in advance and distributed at or before the session at which the matter shall be considered. No legislation may be modified at any time after its distribution to the Lodges without the consent of the proponent or his authorized representative written on the face of the modified proposal and reference to the Committee on Jurisprudence. If any proposal is modified after it has been made available to the delegates, any changes must be clearly brought to the attention of the delegates at the Grand Lodge session by the presiding officer. If not so presented by the presiding officer, the proposed modification shall NOT be a part of the adopted legislation;

- D. The Grand Secretary shall not read the minutes of any session during the Communication. The minutes will be printed instead in the Proceedings of the Annual Communication;
- E. When discussion of each resolution or other item of business is called for by the presiding officer, the proponent, or his authorized representative, shall have the option of speaking first or last. The proponent shall be allotted five minutes. All other speakers from the floor shall be allotted three minutes each;
- F. If the proponent speaks first, a speaker opposed to the matter shall speak next, and the pro and con speakers shall alternate thereafter. If the proponent chooses to speak last, a speaker in opposition shall begin the discussion, and the speakers shall alternate thereafter. Only three speakers on each side of an issue, including the proponent, shall be permitted on each item under discussion. Speakers in favor shall speak from the microphone on the Grand Master's left. Speakers opposed shall speak from the microphone on the Grand Master's right;
- G. There shall be no lights on the floor nor shall any speaker's microphone be cut off. There shall be signal lights at the Grand Master's station. The presiding officer shall advise the speaker when his time has expired and request that he immediately conclude his remarks; and
- H. If circumstances or the issue under discussion warrant, the presiding officer, in his sole discretion, may waive any of the procedural rules set forth in paragraphs E through G above. For example, the presiding officer at his discretion may grant speakers additional time or may give more than a total of six speakers permission to present their views. It is contemplated that the waiver of these rules would only occur on issues of great importance to the Craft.

*[Source: Part V of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§403.095. EMERGENCY PROVISIONS.**

If assembling the required number of persons for holding an Annual Communication is prohibited by competent state or national authority, the power of Grand Lodge to appropriate money, assess its Constituent Lodges, approve acts of its Constituent Lodges and review trial records may be exercised by a majority of the elected officers of Grand Lodge. The elective officers of Grand Lodge shall continue in their respective offices until the Annual Communication following rescission of the prohibition. *[Source: Section 440 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 4  
GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

**§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 and Assistant Grand Organist, 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).

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 240 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**ARTICLE 1 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE GRAND MASTER**

**§404.110. GENERALLY.**

The Grand Master shall be the chief executive officer of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master possesses only those powers and duties as set forth in this Code. A discretionary action by the Grand Master does not bind his successors, any exercise of discretion being personal to each Grand Master. The powers and the title of Grand Master apply not only to him who has been elected and installed as Grand Master, but to any of the Grand Officers who shall have succeeded to the powers and duties of the Grand Master. Only the members of Grand Lodge acting at an Annual Communication can reverse or modify the decisions of the Grand Master. The Grand Master is not precluded from acting merely because a matter is not placed before him in a formal manner. *[Source: Sections 350, 1010 and 1020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.120. POWERS OF THE GRAND MASTER.**

The Grand Master may:

- A. During the interval between Annual Communications of Grand Lodge, exercise all executive powers of the Grand Lodge, except the power to grant charters;
- B. Convene any Lodge, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and compel its conformity to Masonic usage;
- C. Require the attendance of any Grand Lodge Officer respecting matters appertaining to the duties of his office;
- D. Appoint representatives to other recognized Grand Lodges and receive and accredit Representatives from them;
- E. Issue edicts requiring conformity with the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual;

- F. Make Masons at sight or at will only in a regular Lodge with the unanimous consent of the members present; and
- G. Exercise such other powers as are set forth elsewhere in this Code.

*[Source: Section 1050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.130. DUTIES OF THE GRAND MASTER.**

The Grand Master shall:

- A. Exercise a general and careful supervision over the Craft, and see that the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual are strictly maintained, supported and obeyed;
- B. Investigate any matter which may be in violation of the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry or the Ritual and make such orders in respect to the case as may be required;
- C. Cause to be issued to any Mason, who the Grand Master believes may have acted or failed to act in violation of the requirements of this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry or the Ritual, a notice requiring that Mason to act in accordance with those requirements. If the Mason thereafter fails to act as required by the Grand Master, the Grand Master shall refer the matter to any Master Mason in good standing to prefer one or more charges of unmasonic conduct against the Mason. Pending the withdrawal or dismissal of all charges, a finding of not guilty on all charges or the notification to the Grand Secretary of the penalty, if any, fixed by the Trial Master, the Grand Master may suspend the Mason from all the rights and benefits of Masonry;
- D. Cause to be issued to appropriate officers of any Masonic Organization or Masonic Youth Order, which the Grand Master believes may have acted or failed to act in violation of the requirements of this Code, a notice requiring that organization to act in accordance with those requirements. If the organization fails to act as required by the Grand Master, the Grand Master may issue an edict prohibiting all Masons from giving any aid or support of Masonry to or personally participating in such organization, until the Grand Master has determine that such organization is again in compliance with this Code;
- E. Preside in Grand Lodge at all Annual and Special Communications. There shall be no appeal from his rulings as presiding officer;
- F. Present, at each Annual Communication, a written message setting forth:
  - 1. All his official acts during the year;

- 2. The general condition of Masonry within this Jurisdiction; and
- 3. Recommending such legislation as he deems necessary or expedient for the welfare of the Craft;
- G. Constitute the Lodge for which a charter is granted in accordance with the ancient usages and regulations. He may do so either in person or by a duly authorized representative;
- H. Discharge all necessary executive functions of Grand Lodge when it is not in session; and
- I. Perform such other duties as are set forth elsewhere in this Code.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011.] [Source: Section 1060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.140. DISPENSATIONS.**

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

- A. The formation of new Lodges, except traveling Lodges, upon application as provided in Section 801.015 of this Code;
- B. Balloting for and conferring of degrees upon applicants without referring their applications to a committee of investigation. The Lodge shall give at least 10 days written notice to each of its members of the meeting at which a ballot on any application for such dispensation will be taken and the purpose thereof. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after unanimous vote by ballot;
- C. Receiving and acting upon the new applications of rejected applicants for the degrees within a shorter period than 12 months after rejection. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after unanimous vote by ballot;

Only the Lodge that rejected an applicant may apply for dispensation to ballot upon the reapplication. The request for dispensation must state the reason it should be issued, specifically showing that a mistake was made or extraordinary circumstances existed at the time the original ballot was taken;

When authorized by dispensation, the Lodge shall give 10 days' written notice to each of its members of the Stated or Special Meeting at which a ballot on the reapplication will be taken and the purpose thereof, and a ballot, as provided in Section 804.410 of this Code, must be held;

- D. In the event that a Lodge's meeting place becomes unsafe or unsuitable for tiled Lodge meetings, authorizing such Lodge to hold Stated and Special Meetings in another building or at a place in the open which is safe and suitable. Such dispensation shall be for such period of time and subject to such conditions and notice to the members of the Lodge as the Grand Master may prescribe in the dispensation. Application for each such

dispensation shall be made by the Master of the Lodge or the Inspector assigned to the Lodge. No Lodge vote is required;

- E. Wearing Masonic Clothing and Masonic Regalia at public meetings. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after majority vote by ballot;
- F. Conferring a degree as provided in Sections 804.680 and 804.685 of this Code; and
- G. Authorizing any activity for which a dispensation may be granted by the Inspector, when application is made to the Grand Master satisfying the requisites set for in Section 405.060 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2012.] [Source: Sections 1030 and 1040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 2 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

### **§404.210. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.**

It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of his duties at all Communications of Grand Lodge, and, in his absence, to preside. *[Source: Section 2010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§404.220. GRAND WARDENS.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master at all Communications of Grand Lodge, and, in his absence and that of the Deputy Grand Master, to preside in the order of their rank. *[Source: Section 2020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§404.230. GRAND TREASURER.**

The Grand Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Grand Lodge. It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer:

- A. To receive all monies belonging to Grand Lodge from the Grand Secretary, giving his receipt therefor, and, immediately upon the receipt of said monies, to deposit the same to the credit of Grand Lodge;
- B. Take charge of all other property of Grand Lodge, except property specifically charged to the Grand Secretary;
- C. Disburse funds for all appropriations by Grand Lodge as provided in Section 407.035 of this Code;
- D. Keep an accurate, complete and uniform set of financial records, accounting for all receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities of Grand Lodge. Such records shall be kept

on the accrual basis of accounting and maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

- E. Attend Grand Lodge at all its Communications, except Ceremonial Communications, and to make available to the Grand Master, when required, the books and all necessary records appertaining to his office; and also, if required by Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, to provide such books and records to any committee which may be appointed to act in relation to the fiscal affairs of Grand Lodge;
- F. Prepare annually a detailed report of the financial condition of Grand Lodge, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles on the accrual method of accounting, using a fiscal year ending October 31st. Such report shall have been examined by the independent public accountant of Grand Lodge as provided in Section 407.045 of this Code, submitted to the Committee on Finance, and shall be published in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge. In addition, the Grand Treasurer shall prepare and deliver, at each Annual Communication, an interim, unaudited report of the financial condition of Grand Lodge as of July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current Grand Lodge fiscal year;
- G. Administer the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund pursuant to Section 809.130 of this Code and administer the Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund pursuant to Section 809.150 of this Code;
- H. Be responsible for the management of the personnel of the Accounting Section of the Grand Lodge office and to create and adopt job descriptions for and define the duties of said personnel, however, they are subject to the general administration of the Grand Secretary;
- I. Pay over and transfer to his successor at the end of his term all funds and property of Grand Lodge then in his possession; and
- J. Perform such other duties as are set forth elsewhere in this Code or as may be requested by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2007; 2015.] [Source: Section 2030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.240. GRAND SECRETARY.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to:

- A. Receive all monies due the Grand Lodge and pay the same to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; provide staff and facilities for the collection of all monies received by Grand Lodge; maintain proper records thereof and present a timely record of such transactions to the Grand Treasurer; act for the Grand Treasurer, in his absence;
- B. Record all transactions of Grand Lodge proper to be written; cause the publication of its Proceedings, Roster and *California Masonic Code*; provide statistical information for

inclusion in the Proceedings; forward, without charge, one copy of the annual Proceedings and Roster to each Lodge, and one copy of the annual Proceedings, Roster and *California Masonic Code*, or amendments thereto, to those designated by the Grand Master;

- C. Except as otherwise specifically provided in Section 404.230 of this Code, staff and manage the office of Grand Lodge, establish and administer all personnel policies, prepare job descriptions and define the duties of office employees, supervise all Grand Lodge personnel whose offices are within the Grand Lodge office, evaluate those employees' performance on a regular basis, fix the compensation, if any, of all such employees (other than the Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Secretary and the chief paid member of the Grand Lodge accounting staff) and agents of the Grand Lodge which in all events shall be just and reasonable and consistent with the employment and compensation policies of this corporation;
- D. Receive, duly file and safely keep, in a fire-resistive storage facility, when necessary, all essential papers and documents addressed or belonging to Grand Lodge; provide for the safe keeping and availability of the jewels, furniture, clothing and other paraphernalia of Grand Lodge;
- E. Conduct the correspondence of Grand Lodge and communicate with other Grand Lodges on behalf of Constituent Lodges and members of this Jurisdiction;
- F. Keep the Seals of Grand Lodge and its entities and affix the appropriate seal, with his attestation, to all instruments emanating from Grand Lodge and its entities when required;
- G. Attend Grand Lodge at all its Communications, except Ceremonial Communications; report at each Annual Communication all unfinished business of Grand Lodge; and present for the consideration of Grand Lodge all other matters as may properly come within his province;
- H. Report at each Annual Communication those Lodges which are in arrears to Grand Lodge, and to the Grand Master those Lodges which have neglected or refused to comply with any provision of this Code;
- I. Maintain a computerized record of membership statistics, including the Masonic history, current status and fields of expertise of each member of this Jurisdiction, updating this record on a regular basis;
- J. Maintain a supply of and provide Lodges with Forms, Awards, Diplomas, Certificates and Masonic booklets appropriate to their needs, at cost; establish a system of control and standardization of forms used by Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges; furnish, at cost, each new Lodge under dispensation with a set of record books immediately after a dispensation has been granted; and furnish at cost, copies of the Constitution and By-laws

and other publications, as required, to Constituent Lodges for presentation to each newly raised Master Mason;

- K. Furnish each new Past Grand Master and each new Inspector with his official apron;
- L. Ensure that adequate insurance, as recommended by the Committee on Insurance, is obtained for Grand Lodge and its entities, as well as for Constituent Lodges, including the insurance provided in Section 407.085 of this Code;
- M. Counsel with Lodges under dispensation;
- N. Attend such conferences, seminars and workshops as may be necessary and desirable in the performance of his duties; and
- O. Perform such other duties as are set forth elsewhere in this Code or as may be requested by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 120 and 2040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§404.250. GRAND LECTURER.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer to:

- A. Supervise and direct the Assistant Grand Lecturers and Inspectors in the performance of their duties, with respect to the Ritual, and to require conformity with the adopted Ritual;
- B. Examine the Assistant Grand Lecturers and issue Certificates of Proficiency to such as are duly qualified, on receiving notification of their appointment by the Grand Master;
- C. See that the Inspectors examine all officers who are required to produce certificates of proficiency at their installation in accordance with this Code;
- D. Render to Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication a full and detailed account of his services during the year, and to set forth, with respect to ritual, the condition of the Lodges;
- E. Cause to be held Lodges of instruction for the Inspectors and at his convenience to attend schools of instruction held by Assistant Grand Lecturers or Inspectors; and
- F. Call and preside at meetings of the Committee on Ritual whenever in his judgment it is necessary or advisable for the committee to convene.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 2050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **ARTICLE 3 - DUTIES OF APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

#### **§404.310. ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY.**

The Assistant Grand Secretary shall assist the Grand Secretary in the discharge of his duties and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Grand Secretary and, in his absence or inability, shall act for him. *[Source: Section 3020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§404.315. ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS.**

The Grand Master shall divide this Jurisdiction into general divisions and shall appoint for each such division an Assistant Grand Lecturer who shall be a Past Master and member of a Lodge in such division, and who shall, before entering upon his duties, produce a certificate from the Grand Lecturer that he is sufficiently proficient in the Ritual to act as an Assistant Grand Lecturer.

It shall be the duty of each Assistant Grand Lecturer to:

- A. Assist the Grand Lecturer in the discharge of his duties;
- B. Examine and instruct the Inspectors within his division in the performance of their duties with respect to Ritual and assist the Grand Master as and to the extent that he may direct in the supervision of such Inspectors in the performance of their duties as the Grand Master's representative to the Lodges in their respective districts;
- C. Exercise general supervision over the ritual work in the Lodges under their care;
- D. Attend meetings of the Committee on Ritual whenever required by the Grand Lecturer;
- E. Arrange and conduct an annual conference for the Inspectors within his division, subject to the approval of the Grand Lecturer;
- F. Oversee arrangements for Ceremonial Communications of Grand Lodge in his division when directed by the Grand Master;
- G. Attend at each Annual Communication any school of instruction held by the Grand Lecturer;
- H. Be present at each session of the Annual Communication to assist the Grand Lecturer in the discharge of all the necessary functions of the Committee on Ritual; and
- I. Perform such other services as may be deemed necessary to insure proper instruction to the officers on the Ritual and strict compliance with the adopted work.

If an Assistant Grand Lecturer has served nine consecutive years, he shall be ineligible for reappointment until the lapse of one year, unless the Grand Master determines his reappointment is appropriate for the good of the Craft.

*[Source: Section 3030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.320. GRAND CHAPLAIN.**

The Grand Chaplain shall present a devotional service at each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. During the Annual Communication, the Grand Chaplain shall also present a fitting memorial service for members of Grand Lodge, or other distinguished Master Masons of this Jurisdiction, who were called from their earthly toil during the preceding year. He shall also perform such other services, appertaining to his office, as may be required of him by the Grand Master. *[Source: Section 3040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.325. GRAND ORATOR.**

The Grand Orator shall deliver an address at each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge upon matters appertaining to the Craft and shall deliver such other addresses as the Grand Master may request. *[Source: Section 3050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.330. GRAND MARSHAL.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Marshal to:

- A. Proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation and to make such other proclamations as may be directed by the Grand Master;
- B. Introduce representatives of other Grand Lodges and all visiting brethren of distinction;
- C. Conduct all processions of Grand Lodge, under the direction of the Grand Master; and
- D. Perform such other duties proper to his office as may be required.

*[Source: Section 3060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.335. GRAND STANDARD BEARER.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Standard Bearer to bear the banner of Grand Lodge in processions and public ceremonies when required by the Grand Master. *[Source: Section 3070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.340. GRAND SWORD BEARER.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Sword Bearer to bear the sword of Grand Lodge in processions and public ceremonies when required by the Grand Master. *[Source: Section 3080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.345. GRAND BIBLE BEARER.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Bible Bearer to bear the Holy Writings in processions and public ceremonies when required by the Grand Master. *[Source: Section 3090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.350. GRAND DEACONS.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Deacons to assist the Grand Master and Grand Wardens in such manner as the ancient usages of the Craft prescribe. *[Source: Section 3100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.355. GRAND STEWARDS.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Stewards to superintend the preparations for festive occasions when required by the Grand Master. *[Source: Section 3110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.360. GRAND PURSUIVANT.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Pursuivant to:

- A. Guard the inner door of Grand Lodge and communicate with the Grand Tiler;
- B. Announce all applicants for admission by their names and proper Masonic titles, and see that all who enter wear the jewel and clothing proper to their rank;
- C. Allow none to withdraw who have not obtained permission to do so from the Grand Master; and
- D. Act as assistant to the Grand Marshal in all processions of the Grand Lodge and all public ceremonies.

*[Source: Section 3120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.365. GRAND ORGANIST.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Organist 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 from the opposite

part of the state from the Grand Organist. The Assistant Grand Organist shall discharge the duties of the Grand Organist in the absence of that officer. The Assistant Grand Organist shall be entitled to any expense reimbursement otherwise available to a Grand Lodge Officer only when thus discharging the duties of the Grand Organist. *[Source: Section 3130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§404.370. GRAND TILER.**

It shall be the duty of the Grand Tiler to:

- A. Guard the outer door of the Grand Lodge and communicate with the Grand Pursuivant;
- B. Report to the Grand Pursuivant all applications for admission and see that all who enter are duly authorized and properly clothed;
- C. Make suitable preparation for the accommodation of Grand Lodge at all its Communications;
- D. Take charge of and safely keep the jewels, furniture, clothing, and other paraphernalia of Grand Lodge during its Communications; and
- E. Serve all notices and summonses, and perform such other duties as may be required of him by Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

The Grand Master may appoint an Assistant Grand Tiler from the opposite part of the state from the Grand Tiler. The Assistant Grand Tiler shall discharge the duties of the Grand Tiler in the absence of that officer. The Assistant Grand Tiler shall be entitled to any expense reimbursement otherwise available to a Grand Lodge Officer only when thus discharging the duties of the Grand Tiler.

*[Source: Section 3140 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### ***ARTICLE 4 – SELECTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS***

#### **§404.410. ELECTED OFFICERS.**

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Grand Lecturer shall be elected by written ballot as the final item of business before the installation of said officers at each Annual Communication. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for an election. Grand Lodge, by unanimous consent, may permit any designated officer to cast the ballot for Grand Lodge.

Each recommendee for election to any Grand Lodge office shall provide his biographical sketch to the Grand Secretary no less than two weeks prior to the start of Annual Communication. Any other member desiring to be nominated for election as a Grand Lodge officer may provide his biographical sketch to the Grand Secretary no less than two weeks prior to the start of Annual

Communication. Nominations for election to any Grand Lodge office shall include only the name and current title of the nominee. At the conclusion of the nomination process for each elective office, if there are multiple nominees, the Grand Orator shall read the biographical sketch submitted for each nominee, if received by the Grand Secretary at least two weeks prior to the start of Annual Communication, in the order of their nominations. The biographical sketch of the Junior Grand Warden shall be read by the Grand Orator whether or not there are multiple nominees. The Grand Orator shall read only the facts from each biographical sketch. If the Grand Secretary did not receive a biographical sketch for a nominee by the required date, the vote shall be taken without reading a biographical sketch for that nominee.

Each elective officer shall be installed before the close of the Annual Communication and shall serve until the installation of his successor, subject to Section 404.510. This installation may be public or private at the option of the incoming Grand Master.

If an elective officer is unable to be present, due to circumstances beyond his control, he may be installed by the Grand Master at an appropriate place, with such ceremony as deemed proper by the Grand Master, as soon as practicable not to exceed 60 days. If the elective officer is not installed within 60 days, the office shall be declared vacant and the Grand Master may appoint any member of Grand Lodge to fill the vacant elective office temporarily or for the remainder of the Grand Lodge year.

*[Amended: 2013; 2015.] Source: Section 510 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§404.420. RECOMMENDEE FOR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN.**

The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, the Past Grand Masters, and a member of Grand Lodge appointed annually by the Grand Master from each division described in Section 404.315 of this Code, shall constitute a committee to recommend to Grand Lodge a member for election as Junior Grand Warden.

The members of Grand Lodge appointed annually by the Grand Master from each division to this committee shall serve for a single term only concurrently with his term and may not be past or present elected Grand Officers. Each Assistant Grand Lecturer may recommend three members of Grand Lodge from Lodges in his division to be considered by the Grand Master for appointment to this committee. However, the Grand Master may appoint a member of Grand Lodge who was not recommended by the Assistant Grand Lecturer of the division in which the appointee's Lodge is situated.

The Grand Master shall call and preside at meetings of the committee, but shall not vote except in cases of tie votes. A majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those present and eligible to vote shall be necessary to select the recommendee.

The recommendee shall be a member of a Lodge in the North and of a Lodge in the South, alternately. A Lodge in the North is one whose meeting place is located north of the southern boundary line of Monterey, Kings, Tulare and Inyo Counties. A Lodge in the South is one

whose meeting place is located south of the northern boundary line of San Luis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties.

Within 30 days following the selection by the Recommending Committee, but in no case later than 60 days prior to the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the name of the recommendee and his biographical sketch shall be sent to:

- A. Each Inspector, to be communicated promptly by the Inspectors to the Masters and Wardens of each Inspectoral district and through them to other members of Grand Lodge in their respective Lodges; and
- B. To such other members of Grand Lodge as the Grand Master determines.

All dissemination of this information thereafter shall be oral and not by any means of reproduction.

*[Amended: 2011.] [Source: Section 510 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.430. RECOMMENDEE FOR GRAND TREASURER, GRAND SECRETARY AND GRAND LECTURER.**

The Executive Committee shall recommend members of Grand Lodge for election to the offices of Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer, to serve for the ensuing Masonic year. The Grand Master shall communicate the names of the recommendees to all Lodges and to such members of Grand Lodge as the Grand Master determines no later than 60 days prior to the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. All dissemination of this information thereafter shall be oral and not by any means of reproduction. Should any recommendee be unable or unwilling to serve in the office for which he was recommended, the Executive Committee shall make a further recommendation. *[Source: Section 510 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§404.440. APPOINTED OFFICERS.**

The Grand Secretary may, with the approval of the Grand Master, appoint an Assistant Grand Secretary.

All other appointive Grand Lodge Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master, after his election, at each Annual Communication.

All appointive Grand Lodge Officers shall be installed before the close of each Annual Communication. They shall hold their respective offices during the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

*[Source: Section 520 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 5 – OTHER PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

### **§404.510. VACANCY OR INCAPACITY.**

An office becomes vacant by death, removal by the Grand Master, resignation, ceasing to be a member of a Lodge in its jurisdiction or suspension or expulsion as a Mason. If any office except that of Grand Master becomes vacant, the Grand Master shall have the right to appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the current term.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Grand Master, or his inability to perform the functions of his office, the Deputy Grand Master shall succeed to and be charged with all his powers and duties. In case of a vacancy in office or inability to perform the function of office of both of their superiors, the Grand Wardens shall, in the order of their rank, succeed to and be charged with all the powers and duties of the Grand Master.

Should the offices of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens all become vacant or all the incumbents become incapacitated, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary or Assistant Grand Secretary to convene a Special Communication within 60 days of the last occurring vacancy or incapacitation at which members of Grand Lodge shall be elected and installed in the manner provided for at an Annual Communication. Pending the election and installation, the immediate living Past Grand Master shall discharge the duties of the Grand Master.

*[Source: Section 540 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§404.520. JEWELS OF OFFICE.**

Grand Lodge shall establish the jewels of office for its officers and for Past Grand Masters and Past Masters. *[Source: Section 530 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§404.530. MULTIPLE OFFICES.**

No one may hold more than one Grand Lodge office at the same time. *[Added: 2010.]*

## **CHAPTER 5 INSPECTORS**

### **§405.010. APPOINTMENT.**

The Grand Master shall divide this Jurisdiction into districts and shall appoint for each district an Inspector, who shall be a Past Master of this Jurisdiction, and who shall, before entering upon his duties, produce a certificate from the Grand Lecturer or an Assistant Grand Lecturer that he is proficient in the work and lectures adopted by the Grand Lodge and is qualified to act as Inspector. Each Inspector shall serve for a term commencing at the close of the Annual Communication following the Grand Master's installation and terminating at the close of the following Annual Communication.

If an Inspector has served nine consecutive terms, he shall be ineligible for reappointment until the lapse of one term, unless the Grand Master determines his reappointment is appropriate for the good of the Craft.

*[Amended: 2008.] [Source: Section 4010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§405.020. GRAND MASTER'S REPRESENTATIVE.**

In the performance of his duties, the Inspector shall be the Representative of the Grand Master in his district. On his official visit to a tiled Lodge, he shall be received with Grand Honors. *[Source: Section 4020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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;

- D. 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;
- E. 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;
- F. Issue certifications to Master Masons qualified to officiate in the Funeral Service of this Jurisdiction as provided in Section 405.050 of this Code;
- G. Report to the Grand Master any failure of an officer to qualify within the time required by law;

- H. Visit each Lodge in his district whenever he deems it necessary for the faithful performance of his duties;
- I. Inspect the work and, if necessary, correct the same in accordance with the work adopted by Grand Lodge;
- J. 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;
- K. Report the condition in all matters, other than ritual, to the Grand Master on or before the 30th day of June of each year;
- L. 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
- M. Attend the Lodges of instruction as directed by the Grand Lecturer.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 4020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§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. *[Source: Section 4020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§405.050. FUNERAL SERVICE CERTIFICATIONS.**

Master Masons may be certified to officiate at Masonic funerals and memorial services in this Jurisdiction as follows:

- A. The Inspector of the district shall certify to the proficiency of all who perform the Funeral Service for the Lodges within his district, or those of adjacent districts. Upon being completely satisfied as to the proficiency and qualification of such Master Masons, the Inspector shall issue to each such Master Mason a certificate of qualification and authorization which shall grant to him the authority to perform the Funeral Service of this Jurisdiction when properly requested to do so;
- B. Prior to officiating, the Master must be certified in the Funeral Service. If the Master is not certified, it shall be the responsibility of the Master and the Inspector to have a certified Master Mason available at all times;

- C. In order to be certified, a Master Mason must demonstrate the following to the complete satisfaction of the Inspector:
1. Delivery of the Funeral Service in its entirety in a creditable manner, either by total memorization or the ability to read and deliver it in a creditable manner;
  2. Proper pronunciation and enunciation;
  3. Complete knowledge of duties and responsibilities of the Funeral Service officiant;
  4. Personal habits, dignity, and appearance appropriate to the solemnity of the Service; and
  5. Emotional stability;
- D. All certificates shall be effective for a period of three years from date of issuance;
- E. The Inspector shall maintain a current record of all qualified Master Masons in his district, with date of certification and expiration date and shall forward the names and qualification dates of those Master Masons issued certificates by him to the Grand Secretary as soon after issuance as is practical;
- F. The Inspector shall furnish annually to the Master of each Lodge in his district, and the Executive Secretary of all adjacent Masonic Service Bureaus, a written list of all Master Masons who are currently qualified in his district. He shall also notify the above named individuals of any additions or deletions during the year, at the time such changes occur;
- G. Prior to renewal of any certificate, the Inspector must satisfy himself as to the Master Mason's continued proficiency; and
- H. Any Inspector desiring a certificate must be examined and certified by another Inspector who has already been certified, by his Assistant Grand Lecturer or by the Grand Lecturer.

*[Amended: 2011.] [Source: Section 28040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§405.060. POWER OF INSPECTOR TO GRANT DISPENSATIONS.**

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

- A. Holding elections for a Lodge officer or officers at times other than the prescribed time, except for the purpose of filling a vacancy, in which case no dispensation is required. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after a majority vote by ballot;

- B. Changing the date and/or time of a Stated Meeting on such notice to the members of the Lodge as the Inspector or Grand Master may require. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after majority vote by ballot;
- C. Wearing Masonic Clothing and Masonic Regalia in public processions and parades. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Lodge after majority vote by ballot; and
- D. Authorizing the Lodge to hold a Special Meeting in a building (other than the one housing its meeting place) or at a place in the open. Application for each such dispensation shall be by the Master of the Lodge. No Lodge vote is required.

*[Amended: 2006; 2010; 2017.] [Source: Section 4030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 6 GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES**

### **§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 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 or the Committee on Ritual.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 6010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.005. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

The members of standing committees (other than those who serve ex-officio) shall be appointed by the newly installed Grand Master at each Annual Communication before the close thereof. A member ceases to be a standing committee member by death, removal by the Grand Master (other than those members who serve ex-officio), resignation, ceasing to be a member of a Constituent Lodge or suspension or expulsion as a Mason. In the event of any vacancy on any standing committee other than the Executive Committee or Ritual Committee, the Grand Master may appoint a successor for the balance of the current term. All standing committee appointments (other than those who serve ex-officio) shall expire at the close of the next succeeding Annual Communication.

The following are standing committees of the Grand Lodge: Annual Communications Activities, Audit, California Freemason, Compensation, Executive (all of whose members serve ex-officio), Finance, Investments, Jurisprudence, Masonic Properties, Legislative Analysis, Ritual (all of whose members serve ex-officio) and Trial Review.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012; 2014; 2018.] [Source: Section 6020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.010. ANNUAL COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES.**

The Committee on Annual Communication Activities shall consist of not less than five nor more than fifteen members. It shall register and report the number registered to Grand Lodge of members, elected representatives and guests of the Grand Lodge, and other Master Masons, and validate their credentials. It shall report to Grand Lodge the Lodges which are not represented. In addition, the Committee shall provide such other programs and staff for the conduct of the Annual Communication, as the Grand Master shall direct. *[Source: Section 6090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.015. AUDIT.**

The Committee on Audit shall consist of not less than three or more than seven members. Any other provision of this Code to the contrary notwithstanding, the Committee on Audit shall consist solely of members of the Grand Lodge. At least one member of the Committee on Audit should have sufficient education and experience as a public accountant, auditor or principal accounting officer to be a financial expert. The Committee on Audit may not include a member of the Grand Lodge staff. The Committee on Audit may not include any member of the Grand Lodge who receives any compensation (other than reimbursement of necessary, out-of-pocket expenses incurred for serving on the Committee on Audit) from Grand Lodge or who has any material financial interest in any entity doing business with Grand Lodge. Members of the Committee on Finance may serve on the Committee on Audit; however, the chairman of the Committee on Audit may not be a member of the Committee on Finance, and members of the

Committee on Finance may only constitute a minority of the membership of the Committee on Audit. The Committee on Audit shall:

- A. Cause the annual Grand Lodge financial statements to be certified by the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer (and the chief accounting officer of the Grand Lodge if not the Grand Treasurer) as presenting fairly the financial condition and operations of the Grand Lodge;
- B. Cause the annual Grand Lodge financial statements to be audited by a firm of independent certified public accountants pursuant to standards for auditor independence;
- C. Obtain from the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Grand Lodge's internal controls;
- D. Require the auditor to disclose to the Committee on Audit all critical accounting policies and procedures used by Grand Lodge as well as to share with the Committee on Audit any discussions with senior Grand Lodge staff and officers about such policies and practices;
- E. Confer with the auditor to satisfy its members that the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge are in good order, to review and determine whether to accept the audit, and to recommend to Grand Lodge whether to accept or reject the audit;
- F. Cause the Grand Lodge's audited financial statements to be made available for inspection by all members of the Grand Lodge in the same manner that is currently prescribed for IRS Form 990 upon request and no later than nine months after the close of the fiscal year;
- G. Subject to the supervision of the Grand Lodge, retain, supervise, terminate and settle the compensation of the firm acting as auditor. The Committee on Audit shall review the firm acting as auditor every year. If the same firm is selected to act as auditor for more than five consecutive years, the Committee on Audit shall report such fact to the Grand Lodge together with the reasons therefor; and
- H. Assure that no nonaudit services are performed by the auditing firm, other than tax services and tax preparation when specifically authorized in advance by the Committee on Audit.

*[Amended: 2012.]*

#### **§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.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Sections 12010 and 12020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.025. COMPENSATION.**

The Committee on Compensation shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee. The Grand Master shall be the chairman of this committee. It shall:

- A. Develop, approve and promulgate the employment and compensation policies of the Grand Lodge. Such policies shall prohibit any extension of any credit to any executive officer of the Grand Lodge;
- B. Develop and approve criteria and standards to measure and assess the performance of the Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Secretary and the chief paid member of the Grand Lodge accounting staff against duties set forth in this Code and such other standards as the Grand Lodge or this committee may from time to time establish;
- C. Complete an annual performance evaluation of the Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Secretary and the chief paid member of the Grand Lodge accounting staff, based on the criteria and standards set by Grand Lodge or this committee, including compensation recommendations consistent with policies of the Grand Lodge;
- D. Serve as advisory to the Grand Secretary as requested concerning other senior management personnel and compensation matters;
- E. Review the compensation and benefits offered to the Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Secretary and the chief paid member of the Grand Lodge accounting staff to determine that it is just and reasonable and consistent with the employment and compensation policies of the Grand Lodge, such review and determination to be undertaken with each new employment contract and with any renewal or extension of an existing employment contract unless modification of compensation extends to substantially all employees; and
- F. Present to Grand Lodge annually for its review and approval the compensation and benefits offered to the Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Secretary and the chief paid member of the Grand Lodge accounting staff.

#### **§406.030. EXECUTIVE.**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens. It shall meet monthly, at a time and place designated by the Grand Master who shall chair the Committee. Its duties shall be to counsel with the Grand Master concerning the operation and affairs of the Grand Lodge and to perform such other duties he designates.  
*[Source: Section 2060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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;
- B. Advise and assist the Grand Lodge and its entities regarding their financial matters, when requested;
- C. Assist in the preparation of and monitor compliance with the Grand Lodge Budget to the extent provided in Section 407.050 of this Code;
- D. Review the proposed annual Grand Lodge Budget and recommend to Grand Lodge whether to adopt the Budget as presented prior to the vote; and
- E. 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.

*[Source: Section 6100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§406.040. FRATERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES.**

*[Amended: 2008. Deleted: 2012.] [Source: Section 6065 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§406.045. INVESTMENTS.**

The Committee on Investments shall consist of not less than five nor more than twelve members. It shall invest and reinvest the funds of Grand Lodge and any other entity thereof or under control of Grand Lodge, except Constituent Lodges, Masonic Hall Associations, and Masonic Cemeteries. All such activities shall require a majority number of the members to be present as a quorum.

The Committee shall consist of members appointed by successive Grand Masters with experience in the broad field of investments. Each Grand Master shall designate one of the members of the Committee as chairman and another as vice-chairman to serve during the tenure of the Grand Master and until a successor, in that capacity, is designated. Each Grand Master may also appoint no more than one-third of the authorized number of members to the Committee

to serve thereon for a three year term. Any vacancy occurring on the Committee shall be filled by the Grand Master, the appointee to serve thereon for the remainder of the unexpired term of his predecessor. The Grand Master may appoint the Grand Treasurer or representatives of any Grand Lodge entity to the Committee.

The Grand Secretary shall serve as Secretary of the Committee, attend its meetings, keep its minutes, and handle its correspondence but shall not have a vote unless he is an appointed member. If the Grand Treasurer and the Chairman of the Committee on Finance are not members of the Committee, they shall be given ample notification of the meetings of the Committee and may attend and participate, but shall not have a vote.

*[Amended: 2009; 2010.] [Source: Section 6190 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.050. JURISPRUDENCE.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine members. It shall:

- A. Serve as the legal adviser to the Grand Master and the legal adviser to Grand Lodge when in session;
- B. Review proposed resolutions and recommendations to be considered at the next Annual Communication, upon receipt of them from the Grand Secretary, and recommendations or decisions of the Grand Master, other elective officers, committees or boards of Grand Lodge and:
  - 1. Prepare legislation as may be required, together with a brief statement of the purpose and effect of them on Grand Lodge, and which will carry out the intent of the proponents; and
  - 2. Transmit, at least 90 days prior to the commencement date of the next Annual Communication, a copy of all resolutions and recommendations, received prior thereto, together with the brief statement of purpose and effect of each, to the Grand Secretary;
- C. Report to Grand Lodge:
  - 1. Its recommendations as to the legality of decisions and dispensations issued by the Grand Master;
  - 2. Whether proposed amendments to this Code will accomplish the purpose of the proponents;
  - 3. The legal effect of the proposed amendments;

- D. When appropriate, prepare supplementary legislation to proposed amendments and prepare legislation to accomplish recommendations of the Grand Master, other elective officers, committees or boards of Grand Lodge, and report to Grand Lodge thereon its recommendations; and
- E. To edit and prepare for publication the annual changes in our laws and submit to Grand Lodge any revisions that may seem necessary or desirable.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 6030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§406.055. LODGE SUPPORT.**

*[Amended: 2008. Deleted: 2018.] [Source: Section 6060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§406.060. MASONIC PROPERTIES.**

The Committee on Masonic Properties shall consist of not less than five nor more than twenty members. It shall examine and approve all details regarding any contract involving a Lodge, Masonic Hall Association, committee, partnership or corporation or other entity representing itself to be Masonic in character, or operating for the benefit of a Constituent Lodge or Constituent Lodges for:

- A. Any option or contract for the purchase of real property;
- B. The encumbrance of real property;
- C. The lease of real property, as lessor or lessee, for more than three years;
- D. A contract for or commencement of the construction, alteration, improvement, replacement, repair, or maintenance of real property if the expected cost is in excess of \$25,000; and
- E. Any option or contract regarding the sale or listing for sale of real property.

The committee shall, subject to the approval of the Grand Master, establish rules and regulations governing the processing of applications for committee approval.

The committee shall review the reports of transactions of Masonic Hall Associations submitted to the Grand Secretary as provided in Section 900.050 of this Code and may give counsel and advise concerning the operation of those Masonic Hall Associations.

The committee shall also advise Lodges and the Grand Lodge on matters of taxation with respect to income, property, sales and employment taxes.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 6050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.065. LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS.**

The Committee on Legislative Analysis shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine members. It shall explain to the members of Grand Lodge in a clear and concise manner any matter referred to it, offer a legislative history of the development of a proposal, explain any concerns that the matter may raise for Grand Lodge and how it fits within the overall framework of the purpose of Freemasonry or of the Grand Lodge and, if the circumstances warrant, explain how the proposal may affect how the law is currently interpreted and implemented. *[Amended: 2014] [Source: Section 6040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.070. RITUAL.**

The Committee on Ritual shall consist of the Grand Lecturer and Assistant Grand Lecturers. It shall be the custodian of the esoteric work. *[Source: Section 6170 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§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 records of trials held in Constituent Lodges and 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. *[Source: Section 6110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.080. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.**

Special committees may be created and members appointed by the Grand Master at any time during the term of his office. He shall also appoint members to special committees created by direction of Grand Lodge. The duties and size of each special committee shall be within the discretion of the Grand Master, unless otherwise directed by Grand Lodge. A member ceases to be a special committee member by death, removal by the Grand Master, resignation, ceasing to be a member of a Constituent Lodge or suspension or expulsion as a Mason. In the event of any vacancy, the Grand Master may appoint a successor for the balance of the current term. All special committees shall terminate at the close of the next succeeding Annual Communication unless continued by the newly installed Grand Master. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 6210 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§406.085. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES.**

Subject to the approval of the Grand Master, each committee shall establish such rules and procedures to govern its operations as each may determine, subject to the other provisions of the *California Masonic Code* governing the operations of that committee.

**§406.090. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

Committees shall file such written reports with the Grand Master as he may request. The Grand Master may direct that the report or any portion thereof be presented orally by the committee during the Annual Communication. *[Source: Section 6220 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§406.095. COMMITTEE EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENTS.**

Committees shall be authorized to incur such expenses as may be authorized by the Grand Master and provided in the Grand Lodge Budget. Committee chairmen, members and consultants shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary, out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties as may be authorized by the Grand Master and provided in the Grand Lodge Budget. *[Source: Section 6010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 7  
GRAND LODGE FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**§407.010. GRAND LODGE REVENUE.**

Grand Lodge may receive the following types of financial support only:

- A. Voluntary contributions and other voluntary financial assistance from its own members, from its Constituent Lodges and from such other persons and entities as may be approved from time to time by the Grand Master;
- B. Interest, dividend, rental, royalty and other forms of investment income;
- C. Proceeds from the sale or exchange of assets;
- D. Consideration for the provision of goods and services consistent with its tax status as may be approved from time to time by the Grand Master; and
- E. Other types of support as are specifically authorized in this Chapter 7.

No other forms of financial support are permitted.

**§407.015. REVENUE FROM CONSTITUENT LODGES.**

Grand Lodge shall receive the following types of financial support from Constituent Lodges:

- A. Fees charged for dispensations, charters, diplomas, and other documents issued under its authority as set forth in Section 407.020;
- B. Contributions levied upon Lodges, which shall always be equal and uniform, in proportion to their membership, as set forth in Section 407.025;

- C. Contributions received with applications, as set forth in Sections 407.030 and 804.210;
- D. Funds, dues, and proceeds of all property of dissolved Lodges in this Jurisdiction as set forth in Section 813.060; and
- E. That part of the Life Membership Fund of a dissolved Lodge that may be allocated to it as set forth in Section 813.060.

No other forms of financial support from Constituent Lodges may be levied by Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011.] [Source: Section 360 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.020. FEES.**

The following fees shall be charged by Grand Lodge, for:

- A. A dispensation to form a new Lodge, the sum of \$75;
- B. A Charter to perpetuate a Lodge, the sum of \$50;
- C. Each dispensation to ballot for an applicant for the degrees, without the reference to a committee, the sum of \$10;
- D. Each dispensation to receive and act upon the new application of a rejected candidate for the degrees within a period of less than 12 months, the sum of \$10;
- E. A diploma of any kind, an amount to be fixed by the Grand Secretary, except when issued for the widow or minor children of a deceased Mason, in which case there shall be no charge; and
- F. A copy of the Annual Proceedings, other publications, blanks and supplies required by Grand Lodge to be produced and sold, the amounts to be fixed by the Grand Secretary.

In no case shall any of these documents be issued until the required fees shall have been paid to the Grand Secretary, and in the case of a diploma, not until presentation to the Grand Secretary of a certificate, from the Secretary of the Lodge, on the prescribed form.

*[Source: Section 13010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.025. PER CAPITA LODGE CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Each Lodge, whether chartered or under dispensation:

- A. Shall pay with its Annual Returns the following contributions:

1. For each Mason carried on its rolls as of June 30th, such per capita sum, not less than \$.50, as Grand Lodge requires;
2. Each Mason carried on its rolls as of June 30th, such per capita sum as Grand Lodge levies for the support of Masonic Homes of California; and
3. Each Mason carried on its rolls as of June 30th, the per capita sum of \$1.00 for the support of George Washington Masonic National Memorial;

B. Shall not pay per capita sums for:

1. Masons whose dues have been remitted by Lodge action for the preceding calendar year, and
2. Masons whose dues have been remitted because of residence in the Masonic Homes of California.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012; 2015.] [Source: Section 13020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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. 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. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 13025 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.035. USE AND HOLDING OF FINANCIAL ASSETS.**

Funds of Grand Lodge may be used for any purpose it deems proper.

All monies of the Grand Lodge shall be deposited to the credit of Grand Lodge in a bank or banks selected by the Grand Treasurer with the approval of the Grand Master. All such banks shall be chartered by the United States of America or the State of California. Funds on deposit shall be withdrawn by the Grand Treasurer, or in case of his inability or unavailability, by the Grand Master (or in case of his inability or unavailability the Deputy Grand Master) and the Grand Secretary. The Grand Treasurer shall make transfers of funds under such regulations as may be provided by Grand Lodge. Funds shall be disbursed for all appropriations by Grand Lodge, for all orders of the Grand Master to meet cases of emergency that may arise in a recess of Grand Lodge, and in payment of bills, claims and demands upon Grand Lodge. The Grand Treasurer shall audit and approve claims for reimbursement of expenses submitted as provided in Sections 407.065 and following of this Code.

All securities of the Grand Lodge shall be held in the name of a nominee or in the name of a custodian nominee as the depository for such securities or in the name of Grand Lodge in bank or trust company safe deposit vaults, all as selected by the Grand Treasurer with the approval of the Grand Master. A nominee shall always be a bank or trust company chartered by the United States of America or the State of California. Such securities shall be withdrawn only on the written order of the Grand Treasurer, and in case of bearer securities only on the written order of the Grand Treasurer approved by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden or Junior Grand Warden, or in case of the absence or inability of the Grand Treasurer to act, then as to any security only on the written order of the Grand Secretary approved by any one the following: the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden or Junior Grand Warden.

*[Source: Sections 370, 2030 and 7010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§407.040. INVESTMENTS.**

The funds of Grand Lodge, the Masonic Homes of California, the California Masonic Memorial Temple and the California Masonic Foundation shall be separately invested as follows:

- A. Such funds shall be invested with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, including but not limited to the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of the entity whose funds are being invested, that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims to accomplish the purposes of that entity;
- B. The specific and detailed guidelines to govern the day-to-day investment activities of each entity subject to this section shall be promulgated from time to time by the Grand Lodge Committee on Investments in consultation with the Grand Treasurer. Those guidelines applicable to Grand Lodge investments shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Master. Those guidelines applicable to the investments of the Masonic Homes shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Homes. Those guidelines applicable to the investments of the California Masonic Memorial Temple shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of that entity. Those guidelines applicable to the investments of the California Masonic Foundation shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees of that entity;
- C. The various funds of each entity subject to this section may be pooled for investment purposes. No funds of any one entity may be pooled with the funds of any other entity unless there is a separate accounting and valuation of each entity's funds at least annually; and
- D. The Grand Treasurer shall select, when appropriate, with the approval of the Grand Master, a stock and bond brokerage firm or firms or dealer or agent to purchase or sell

securities of Grand Lodge and its entities in the manner and as authorized by the Committee on Investments and this Code.

*[Source: Sections 2030 and 7020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§407.045. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.**

The financial statements of Grand Lodge, the Masonic Homes of California, the California Masonic Foundation, the California Masonic Retirement Plan and the California Masonic Memorial Temple shall be audited by a firm or firms of certified public accountants in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the provisions of Section 406.015 of this Code. The examination shall include tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as are considered necessary by the auditors. The auditors shall call to the attention of the Grand Master or Grand Treasurer items that are not recorded in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. *[Source: Section 7030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§407.050. GRAND LODGE BUDGET.**

Grand Lodge shall have a budget for each fiscal year as follows:

- A. The Grand Lodge Budget shall be prepared under the direction and control of the Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance shall consult in the preparation of the Grand Lodge Budget as requested by the Deputy Grand Master. The Deputy Grand Master shall be assisted in the preparation of the budget by such other persons as he may select to assist him;
- B. Each Grand Lodge Budget shall be based upon the per capita sum to be collected for Masons carried on the rolls of each Constituent Lodge as of the June 30th most immediately preceding the commencement of the fiscal year covered by such budget;
- C. The proposed Grand Lodge Budget shall be transmitted by the Grand Secretary to the Masters of the several Lodges, Inspectors and members of the Committee on Finance at least 30 days prior to the commencement date of the next Annual Communication;
- D. The proposed Grand Lodge Budget shall be referred to the Committee on Finance for its review and report to Grand Lodge before the vote is taken whether to adopt the budget;
- E. The Deputy Grand Master shall present the proposed budget to the members of Grand Lodge for their approval. The Grand Lodge Budget shall be adopted by a majority vote;
- F. The Grand Treasurer and the Committee on Finance shall monitor compliance with the adopted Grand Lodge Budget during the Grand Lodge year;

- G. There shall be three expense categories in the Grand Lodge Budget: fraternal, appropriations and general and administrative. An expense category in the Grand Lodge Budget shall not be exceeded without the consent of the Grand Master. An expense category shall not be exceeded by more than five percent without the consent of at least two of the following: the Grand Secretary, the Grand Treasurer and the Chairman of the Committee on Finance; and
- H. No appropriation of money shall be made at any Annual Communication after the election of Grand Officers, except by a three-fourths vote of the members present.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 7040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.055. GRAND LODGE ENDOWMENT FUND.**

The Grand Lodge Endowment Fund shall be a separate fund on the books and records of Grand Lodge. Contributions to the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund shall be placed in the custody of the Grand Treasurer to be held, accounted for and disbursed by him. Should the Grand Lodge in any fiscal year have an excess of revenue over expenses, the excess shall be added to the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund. The income from the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund shall be combined with the per capita assessment to fund Grand Lodge operations. The principal of the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund may be expended for any lawful purpose but only after such expenditure has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting at an Annual Communication.

*[Source: Section 7050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.060. COMPENSATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS.**

Except as otherwise provided in Sections 407.065 or 407.070, no Grand Lodge officer may receive any compensation for service as such, other than the Grand Secretary and the Assistant Grand Secretary who shall receive such compensation as the Grand Lodge may direct. *[Source: Section 5020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.065. REIMBURSEMENT OF LODGE OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES.**

At the close of each Annual Communication, Grand Lodge shall pay to the officers or the representatives of each Constituent Lodge present, the cost of round trip transportation for one person from the location of the Lodge to the place of the Communication, at the rate fixed by the Committee on Finance, provided the:

- A. Lodge has paid its dues to Grand Lodge in full; and
- B. An officer or representative has been in attendance at the Communication from the first day through the last day, unless excused by Grand Lodge.

The mileage used for such payment calculations shall be determined from published records of the California State Automobile Association.

*[Amended: 2013.] Source: Section 5030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.070. REIMBURSEMENT OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS, PAST GRAND MASTERS, INSPECTORS, BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEEMEN.**

Grand Lodge Officers, Inspectors, board members and committeemen shall receive reimbursement for their necessary, out-of-pocket expenses in the performance of their duties, upon presentation of an itemized claim, as approved by the Grand Master or provided by Grand Lodge. Past Grand Masters, not entitled to reimbursement as committeemen, shall receive reimbursement for their round trip transportation to each Annual Communication, in the same manner provided for officers or representatives of Lodges. *[Source: Sections 4020 and 5040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.075. MULTIPLE REIMBURSEMENT.**

Under no circumstances may anyone be reimbursed for the same expense in more than one capacity. *[Source: Section 5050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.080. REIMBURSEMENT OF CORNERSTONE EXPENSES.**

Grand Lodge may assist in defraying the cost of cornerstone laying events with Grand Lodge funds, not to exceed an amount established each year in the Grand Lodge Budget. The costs may include the acquisition of the stone, which need not be a true supporting stone, any engraving or embellishment on the stone, the sealed container, programs, invitations and other printed materials. *[Source: Section 1050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.085 FIDELITY COVERAGE.**

The Grand Secretary shall secure from a reputable casualty company and maintain in force a blanket fidelity insurance covering all officers of Grand Lodge, Lodges, the Masonic Homes of California, the California Masonic Foundation, the Masonic Service Bureaus and the California Masonic Memorial Temple with a minimum coverage of at least \$5,000 for each officer and a maximum coverage in an amount as determined by the Grand Master. The coverage on the officers of any Lodge in excess of the minimum at the request of the Lodge shall be secured by the Grand Secretary and the premium shall be paid by Grand Lodge. The Lodge shall reimburse Grand Lodge for the excess premium. *[Source: Section 5010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§407.090. INDEMNIFICATION.**

Grand Lodge shall indemnify and hold harmless each of its members for any act performed by them within the scope of the authority conferred on them by this Code, except for acts of malfeasance or gross negligence or for acts in violation of any applicable law (other than

unintentional violations of governmental laws or regulations) or for damages arising from any misrepresentation, provided that any indemnity hereunder shall be provided out of and to the extent of Grand Lodge assets and insurance only, and no member of Grand Lodge shall have any personal liability on account thereof.

**§407.095. RETIREMENT.**

The Retirement Plan Committee shall administer the California Masonic Retirement Plan, which has been established for the benefit of the employees of the Masonic Homes of California, the California Masonic Foundation, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, the Masonic Service Bureaus, Grand Lodge and such other entities as may qualify under the Plan. The appointment and terms of office and its powers, duties and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the California Masonic Retirement Plan and the applicable governmental law. *[Source: Section 5060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 8  
GRAND LODGE AWARDS**

**§408.010. GOLDEN VETERAN AND DIAMOND JUBILEE AWARDS.**

The Grand Lodge, upon request, shall provide a Golden Veteran Award to members of this Jurisdiction who have been Master Masons in good standing for a total of 50 years or more, presentation being made by the Grand Master, Inspector or their representative with appropriate ceremony. The presentation of the Golden Veteran Award may be made at any time commencing with the date six months prior to the date on which the member shall otherwise become eligible.

The Grand Lodge, upon request, shall provide a Diamond Jubilee Award to members of this Jurisdiction who have been Master Masons in good standing for a total of 75 years or more, presentation being made by the Grand Master or his designee with appropriate ceremony. The presentation of the Diamond Jubilee Award may be made at any time commencing with the date twelve months prior to the date on which the member shall otherwise become eligible.

In the case of a deceased Mason, if he was eligible for but had not received the Award prior to his death, or in the case of an incompetent Mason, presentation on request may be made to the family or heirs.

In computing the length of time requisite for issuance of either award, a period of up to one year, during which the member held a Demit from any Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, may be included; provided, however, periods during which the member held a Demit for more than one year from the date of the Demit, or was suspended for non-payment of dues, must be added to the time when the member would otherwise have been eligible to receive the award. The period between the issuance of a Demit for the purpose of becoming a charter member of a new Lodge and the institution of the new Lodge is not an interruption of the required number of years of continuous membership.

*[Amended: 2007, 2010.] [Source: Section 23150 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§408.020. HIRAM AWARDS.**

The Grand Lodge, upon request of a Constituent Lodge, shall furnish a certificate honoring the Master Mason designated by his Lodge as a recipient of the Hiram Award. The certificate shall be delivered to the Lodge for presentation to the recipient. The Grand Lodge shall make available for purchase a medallion and lapel pin for recipients of the Hiram Award.

The Lodge may only designate for the Hiram Award a Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the awarding Lodge and has served the awarding Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity with devotion over and above the ordinary. Service as an officer or as Master of a Lodge shall not be in itself sufficient qualification for the award nor shall it be a disqualification. The award should be based on what the recipient has done, not what positions he has held.

The Hiram Award shall be considered the highest honor for service that can be bestowed upon a member by a Constituent Lodge. The presentation should be made with appropriate ceremony. When a selection has been made, it should be announced so the recipient may invite family and friends to the award presentation. To maintain the prestige and importance of the Hiram Award, a Lodge may present only one Hiram Award in any one calendar year. Such limitation should not suggest that this award should be presented every year.

*[Amended: 2010, 2016.] [Source: Section 23155 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§408.030. GRAND MASTER'S YOUTH SUPPORT AWARD.**

The Grand Master's Youth Support Award may be presented to a Master Mason in good standing for his exemplary support and service of youth through one or more of the following four Masonic Youth Orders organizations: the International Order of Job's Daughters, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, DeMolay International's Jurisdiction of Northern California and DeMolay International's Jurisdiction of Southern California. Final selection of the recipient(s) shall be made by the Grand Master. Only one award for each of the four Masonic Youth Orders organizations may be presented in any Masonic year, for a maximum of four awards annually. Where possible, presentation of the Grand Master's Youth Support Award shall be made by the seated Grand Master at the Annual Communication.

The Award shall be comprised of a medallion of the design in use before October 1999, suspended by a red ribbon, and shall be accompanied by a suitable certificate.

Nominations shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge Committee on Youth Orders, if there be such a committee, on forms provided by the committee. Nominations may be accepted from members of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of California and from the California state-wide or jurisdiction-wide adult leaders of the four Masonic Youth Orders organizations. Self-nominations shall not be considered. Confidentiality shall be maintained. Disclosure of the identity of a nominee prior to selection by the Grand Master and notification to the recipient by

the Grand Secretary shall cause disqualification of that nominee. The Grand Lodge Committee on Youth Orders shall maintain and promulgate guidelines for eligibility for nomination. Nominations shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Youth Orders Committee no later than the last day of May for award in that year. The Youth Orders Committee shall review the nominations and forward its recommendations to the Grand Master for final selection. Members of the Youth Orders Committee may be considered for selection; however, the name of the committee member shall not be presented at a meeting of the committee but shall be submitted directly to the Grand Master by the Chairman. Nomination of the Chairman shall be submitted directly by the nominator to the Grand Master for consideration.

Should there be no Grand Lodge Committee on Youth Orders or similar committee, nominations shall be made directly to the Grand Master using such procedure as he may provide.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 15165 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 9 OTHER GRAND LODGES AND THEIR MEMBERS**

### **§409.010. RECOGNITION.**

Recognition is the grant of authority for Masons of this Jurisdiction to have Masonic Communication with Masons of a Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to the recognized Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge may recognize only Grand Lodges that:

- A. Are regularly formed by subordinate Lodges which trace their origin to regular and legitimate Ancient Craft Masonry;
- B. Hold undisputed sway as the acknowledged sole or concurrent supreme power in Ancient Craft Masonry in the territory in which they claim jurisdiction, must not render allegiance or obedience, in any sense whatsoever, to any other Masonic power or Supreme Council, must recognize the jurisdiction of all other recognized Grand Lodges to the extent asserted by them in their respective territories, and must not presume to project their authority or sovereignty into the territory of another recognized Grand Lodge without its consent;
- C. Confine their authority and the exercise thereof to the three degrees of Craft or Symbolic Masonry; and
- D. Subscribe to the General Regulations of Masonry.

The foregoing notwithstanding, this Grand Lodge shall recognize only one Grand Lodge in any state or territory of the United States unless the Grand Lodge which this Grand Lodge recognizes with exclusive jurisdiction over that state or territory chooses to waive its right to maintain exclusive jurisdiction and permit concurrent jurisdiction. In the event of such a waiver, this Grand Lodge may also recognize such additional Grand Lodges in that state or territory as have been granted such concurrent jurisdiction.

The Grand Master may suspend recognition of any Grand Lodge for its violation of any of the foregoing requirements until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

*[Source: Section 220 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§409.020. MASONIC COMMUNICATION WITH NON-CALIFORNIA MASONS.**

A Mason shall have Masonic Communication only with Masons of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to this Grand Lodge or to a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, except as follows. While outside this Jurisdiction, a Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present at the tiled meeting of a Masonic Lodge or Masonic Organization chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of California. This exception includes the tiled meetings of any such recognized Grand Lodge. During such a tiled meeting, a Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present even though such a person is not a Mason of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of California. This exception applies only during such a tiled meeting and at no other time.

While in any state or territory outside this Jurisdiction, a Mason shall not have Masonic Communication with any Mason of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, a Grand Lodge which is not recognized by the Grand Lodge which we recognize with jurisdiction over that state or territory.

*[Source: Section 15040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§409.030. RECOGNITION OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA.**

Any other provision of this Code to the contrary notwithstanding, this Grand Lodge recognizes the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the States of California, Inc. as having concurrent jurisdiction with this Grand Lodge within the State of California. This recognition includes the following:

- A. A Mason may have Masonic Communication with any Mason of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California, with one exception. While outside this Jurisdiction, a Mason shall not have Masonic Communication with any Mason of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California, unless the Grand Lodge which we recognize with jurisdiction over that state or territory recognizes the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California.
- B. A Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present at the tiled meeting of a Masonic Lodge or Masonic Organization within this Jurisdiction which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California. A

Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present at the tiled meetings of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California. During such a tiled meeting, a Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present even though such a person is not a Mason of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of California. This exception applies only during such a tiled meeting and at no other time.

A Mason of a Masonic Lodge chartered by, or holding allegiance to, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California shall not be subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 15045 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§409.035. RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF IRAN (IN EXILE).**

Any other provision of this Code to the contrary notwithstanding, this Grand Lodge recognizes the Grand Lodge of Iran (In Exile), Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, as having concurrent jurisdiction with this Grand Lodge within the State of California. This recognition includes the following:

- A. A Mason may have Masonic Communication with any Mason of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile), with one exception. While outside this Jurisdiction, a Mason shall not have Masonic Communication with any Mason of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile), unless the Grand Lodge which we recognize with jurisdiction over that state or territory recognizes the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile).
- B. A Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present at the tiled meeting of a Masonic Lodge or Masonic Organization within this Jurisdiction which has been chartered by, or holds allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile). A Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present at the tiled meetings of the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile). During such a tiled meeting, a Mason may have Masonic Communication with any person legally present even though such a person is not a Mason of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of California. This exception applies only during such a tiled meeting and at no other time.

A Mason of a Masonic Lodge chartered by, or holding allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile) who resides in this Jurisdiction shall be subject to the concurrent disciplinary jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile) and this Grand Lodge. A Mason who is not of a Masonic Lodge chartered by, or holding allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile) but who is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall not be subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile).

This section shall remain in effect only for as long as all Masonic Lodges which have been chartered by, or hold allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile), confer all degrees in the

Farsi language using the ritual of the Grand Lodge of Iran (In Exile) and admit to membership only men who are of Iranian ancestry and who have a knowledge of the Farsi language. Iranian ancestry means that at least one of the man's parents, grandparents or great-grandparents was or is an Iranian national.

This section shall be automatically repealed when the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile) is again permitted to operate in Iran.

Nothing in this section shall impair the right of this Grand Lodge to authorize one or more of its Constituent Lodges to work in the Farsi language.

*[Added: 2009.]*

#### **§409.040. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS OF FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS.**

A Mason of a Constituent Lodge, when in another Jurisdiction, may act in accordance with the law, policy and practice of that Jurisdiction and shall obey and be subject to the Masonic law of the other Jurisdiction and also to the Masonic law of this Jurisdiction which is consistent with the practice, policy or law of the other Jurisdiction. A Mason of a Constituent Lodge may not do anything in this Jurisdiction in violation of the Masonic law of this Jurisdiction whether he resides or is in or out of this Jurisdiction.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 23210 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§409.050. EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO CONFER DEGREES.**

A Lodge shall not recognize as a Mason or confer a courtesy degree upon any person who, at a time when he was a resident of this Jurisdiction, was elected or claims to have been elected to receive the degrees of Masonry from any source beyond this Jurisdiction without complying with the requirements of Section 409.060 of this Code, until a Constituent Lodge shall have received him as a member, except as follows. A Lodge shall recognize as a Mason a person who, while he or his spouse was in the uniformed service of the United States, has received the degrees of Masonry in a regular Lodge under a Jurisdiction recognized by this Jurisdiction in which he or his spouse was stationed at the time of receiving the degrees and in accordance with the laws of that Jurisdiction. *[Amended: 2006, 2010.] [Source: Section 26390 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§409.060. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION.**

The Grand Master may grant a Waiver of Jurisdiction to permit a resident within this Jurisdiction to apply for the degrees in a particular Lodge in another Jurisdiction, provided that:

- A. The request is in writing and signed by the applicant;
- B. The request states the name of the specific Lodge to which the applicant will apply for degrees; and

- C. The Lodge nearest to where the applicant resides approves the request by a majority vote at a Stated Meeting.

If a Waiver of Jurisdiction is granted but the applicant is not elected within six months thereafter to receive the degrees in the Lodge to which the waiver is granted, the waiver shall be null and void and the applicant shall again be subject to the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

*[Source: Section 26070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **PART 5 MASONIC HOMES OF CALIFORNIA**

### **§500.010. RELATIONSHIP WITH GRAND LODGE.**

Masonic Homes of California is a California nonprofit, public benefit corporation, formed by agents of Grand Lodge under the laws of the State of California on April 18, 1919 and exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The members of Grand Lodge when convened in an Annual or Special Communication and the Grand Master at all times are the delegates of this corporation within the meaning of Section 5152 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and shall have all of the authority of members of such corporation as permitted under such law. The Grand Master shall adopt, alter or amend Bylaws for this corporation, subject to the requirements for the governance of this corporation in this Part 5. The Grand Master shall exercise all other rights and powers of the members of such corporation except as from time to time may be reserved to or exercised by the members of Grand Lodge in this Code.

### **§500.020. PURPOSE.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Homes of California shall own and operate one or more Masonic Homes and make available such other facilities for the care, maintenance and support of the aged, indigent or infirm Master Masons, their wives, widows and children, and grant non-resident assistance instead of admission to any such facility. The Board may provide the required services to its residents in the most economical manner while maintaining an acceptable quality of care. This includes contracting out of services to others who can provide those services more economically than the Homes can provide. The Board is not required to provide these services in facilities owned and operated directly by the Homes;
- B. The Board of Trustees may consider for admission to the Masonic Homes any child without a known blood relationship to a Master Mason on the same rules, terms and conditions as a child with such a relationship is considered; provided that preference for admission shall always be given to children with a blood relationship to a Master Mason of a Lodge subject to the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. Any child without a known

blood relationship to a Master Mason must be sponsored by a Lodge subject to the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge;

- C. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Trustees may consider for admission to the Masonic Homes a mother of a Master Mason of a Lodge subject to the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge and may grant her non-resident assistance instead of admission, provided that preference for admission shall always be given to Master Masons, their wives and widows; and
- D. The Trustees shall establish rules, terms and conditions, subject to the approval by the Grand Master, governing admissions to the Masonic Homes of deserving recipients of Masonic charity. They shall pay the necessary burial expenses of residents of the Homes who die while under the supervision of the Trustees, in an amount to be determined by them.

*[Source: Section 8010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§500.030. COMPOSITION OF BOARD.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The Trustees of the Masonic Homes of California shall be thirteen in number.
  - 1. Two Trustees shall be members of the Executive Committee (other than the Grand Master) as the Grand Master may appoint until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge;
  - 2. Ten Trustees shall be appointed by successive Grand Masters for a term of three years each from the close of the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in three classes of three, three and four Trustees each. The terms of at least three of such Trustees shall expire at the close of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. At all times five such Trustees shall be residents in the vicinity of the Home at Union City and five shall be residents in the vicinity of the Home at Covina;
  - 3. One Trustee shall be a resident of a Masonic Home. This resident Trustee shall be nominated by the resident association of the Masonic Homes or, if a resident association does not exist, by a committee of residents of the Masonic Homes. Such nominee must be approved by the remaining twelve Trustees, upon the occurrence of which the nominee becomes the resident Trustee. Such association or committee may also nominate multiple nominees from which the remaining twelve Trustees may approve one as the resident Trustee. If the remaining twelve Trustees disapprove of such association's or committee's nomination or nominations, then the association or committee may nominate additional residents for approval or disapproval until the vacancy is filled.

- B. All Trustees (other than the resident Trustee) 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 Board. At least 70% of the total number of Trustees shall be members of Grand Lodge;
- C. In addition to the regular membership of the Board, the Grand Master, under special or demanding circumstances, may appoint as a consultant to the Board any member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge (other than a Research Lodge or Historic Lodges). The Grand Master may remove a consultant at any time. Consultants shall perform services, render advice, and attend Board meetings, as may be directed by the Board Chairman, but shall have no vote;
- D. If a Trustee is appointed and has served three full consecutive terms of three years each, he shall be ineligible for reappointment until the lapse of one year; and
- E. When a vacancy occurs, the appointee shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The Grand Master may remove a Trustee at any time, upon request of two-thirds of the Trustees, and appoint a successor, except the successor of the resident Trustee must be nominated and approved as provided in Section 500.030.A.3 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015, 2016.] [Source: Sections 8020 and 8030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§500.040. MANAGEMENT.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The officers of this corporation shall be a Chairman of the Board, President, a Vice President, a Chief Financial Officer and a Secretary. This corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board, such other officers as may be provided in its Bylaws. The Chairman, President and Vice President shall be elected by the Board of Trustees of this corporation each year, at the close of the Annual Communication. The Chairman shall be elected from the membership of the Board. If a member of the Board of Trustees has served as Chairman for five consecutive years, he shall be ineligible for election as Chairman until the lapse of one year;
- B. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Board shall designate another member to preside;
- C. The President shall be the chief executive officer of this corporation. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of the President;

- D. The Grand Treasurer shall serve ex-officio as the Chief Financial Officer of this corporation but his duties shall not require that he attend each meeting of this corporation's Board of Trustees. He shall keep an accurate, complete and uniform set of financial records, accounting for all receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities of this corporation. Such records shall be kept on the accrual basis of accounting and maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements of this corporation shall be prepared in accordance with general accepted accounting principles on the accrual basis of accounting, using a fiscal year as may be selected by the Grand Treasurer in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Grand Treasurer shall prepare and deliver, at each Annual Communication, a detailed report of the financial condition of this corporation prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- E. The Grand Secretary shall serve ex-officio as the Secretary of this corporation but his duties shall not require that he attend each meeting of this corporation's Board of Trustees to record the Board's minutes. He shall maintain files of all minutes of such Board, taken by him or his designee, in a safe place in the Grand Lodge office. He shall supervise, subject to the ultimate control of the Board of Trustees of this corporation, all clerical, administrative or accounting personnel employed by or assigned to this corporation, whose offices are within the Grand Lodge office. He shall secure from a reputable casualty company and maintain in force a blanket fidelity insurance covering all officers of this corporation under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.085 of this Code;
- F. The Board shall maintain an office in the same building and in connection with offices of the Grand Secretary;
- G. The Grand Master shall at all times have the right of visitation and inspection of the entire management of this corporation;
- H. The funds of this corporation shall be separately invested under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.040 of this Code; and
- I. The financial statements of this corporation shall be examined by a firm of independent certified public accountants under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.045 of this Code. Such audited financial statements shall be submitted to the Committee on Finance and shall be published in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2014, 2016.] [Source: Sections 2030, 2040, 5010, 7020, 7030 and 8030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§500.050. TITLE TO PROPERTY.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. This corporation shall be vested the title to all property, real and personal, including the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund, and all rights of action belonging to this corporation, or to which it may become entitled; and
- B. Title to all securities belonging to this corporation may be held in the name of a nominee or in the name of a custodian nominee designated by Grand Lodge as the depository for such securities or funds. Grand Lodge has full power to substitute or change nominees from time to time. A nominee shall always be a bank or trust company chartered by the United States of America or the State of California.

*[Source: Sections 7010 and 8040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§500.060. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall require the Board of Trustees of this corporation to make a complete report at each Annual Communication of the property, condition and operation of this corporation for its most immediately completed fiscal year. The Board shall have their report prepared, printed and ready for distribution on the first day of each Annual Communication.  
*[Source: Section 8050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§500.070. PURPOSE AND CUSTODY OF MASONIC HOMES GENERAL AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall require the Grand Secretary to collect the funds and securities contributed or inuring to the Masonic Homes General and Endowment Funds. All funds and securities shall be placed in the custody of the Grand Treasurer to be held, accounted for and distributed by him. Grand Treasurer shall:

- A. Deliver all contributions to the General Fund to the Trustees of the Homes whenever required by them for the maintenance and operation of the Homes; and
- B. Deliver the income from the Endowment Fund to the Trustees of the Homes annually for the maintenance and operation of the Homes. No part of the principal of the Endowment Fund shall ever be expended for any purpose.

*[Source: Section 9010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **PART 6 CALIFORNIA MASONIC MEMORIAL TEMPLE**

#### **§600.010. RELATIONSHIP WITH GRAND LODGE.**

California Masonic Memorial Temple is a California nonprofit, public benefit corporation, formed by agents of Grand Lodge under the laws of the State of California on January 6, 1954

and exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The members of Grand Lodge when convened in an Annual or Special Communication and the Grand Master at all times are the delegates of this corporation within the meaning of Section 5152 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and shall have all of the authority of members of such corporation as permitted under such law. The Grand Master shall adopt, alter or amend Bylaws for this corporation, subject to the requirements for the governance of this corporation as provided in this Part 6. The Grand Master shall exercise all other rights and powers of the members of such corporation except as from time to time may be reserved to or exercised by the members of Grand Lodge in this Code.

**§600.020. PURPOSE.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide that this corporation hold title to and operate the California Masonic Memorial Temple and all other property owned by it. *[Source: Section 10010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§600.030. COMPOSITION OF BOARD.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The Trustees of the California Masonic Memorial Temple shall be five in number. One Trustee shall be a member of the Executive Committee (other than the Grand Master) as the Grand Master may appoint until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The other four Trustees shall be appointed by successive Grand Masters for terms of three years each from the close of the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in three classes of one, one and two Trustees each. The terms of at least one of the appointed Trustees shall expire at the close of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge;
- B. All Trustees 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 Board. At least 70% of the total number of Trustees shall be members of Grand Lodge;
- C. In addition to the regular membership of the Board, the Grand Master, under special or demanding circumstances, may appoint as a consultant to the Board any member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge (other than a Research Lodge or a Historic Lodge). The Grand Master may remove a consultant at any time. Consultants shall perform services, render advice, and attend Board meetings, as may be directed by the Board Chairman, but shall have no vote; and
- D. When a vacancy occurs, the appointee shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The Grand Master may remove a Trustee at any time, upon request of two-thirds of the Trustees, and appoint a successor.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015, 2016.] [Source: Section 10020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§600.040. MANAGEMENT.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The officers of this corporation shall be a Chairman of the Board, President, a Vice President, a Chief Financial Officer and a Secretary. This corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board, such other officers as may be provided in its Bylaws. The Chairman, President and Vice President shall be elected by the Board of Trustees of this corporation each year within 45 days after the close of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. The Chairman shall be elected from the membership of the Board. If a member of the Board of Trustees has served as Chairman for five consecutive years, he shall be ineligible for election as Chairman until the lapse of one year;
- B. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Board shall designate another member to preside;
- C. The President shall be the chief executive officer of this corporation. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of the President;
- D. The Grand Treasurer shall serve ex-officio as the Chief Financial Officer of this corporation but his duties shall not require that he attend each meeting of this corporation's Board of Trustees. He shall keep an accurate, complete and uniform set of financial records, accounting for all receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities of this corporation. Such records shall be kept on the accrual basis of accounting and maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements of this corporation shall be prepared in accordance with general accepted accounting principles on the accrual basis of accounting, using a fiscal year as may be selected by the Grand Treasurer in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Grand Treasurer shall prepare and deliver, at each Annual Communication, a detailed report of the financial condition of this corporation prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- E. The Grand Secretary shall serve ex-officio as the Secretary of this corporation but his duties shall not require that he attend each meeting of this corporation's Board of Trustees to record the Board's minutes. He shall maintain files of all minutes of such Board, taken by him or his designee, in a safe place in the Grand Lodge office. He shall supervise, subject to the ultimate control of the Board of Trustees of this corporation, all clerical, administrative or accounting personnel employed by or assigned to this corporation, whose offices are within the Grand Lodge office. He shall secure from a reputable casualty company and maintain in force a blanket fidelity insurance covering all officers of this corporation under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.085 of this Code;

- F. The Board shall maintain an office in the same building and in connection with offices of the Grand Secretary;
- G. The Grand Master shall at all times have the right of visitation and inspection of the entire management of this corporation;
- H. The funds of this corporation shall be separately invested under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.040 of this Code; and
- I. The financial statements of this corporation shall be examined by a firm of independent certified public accountants under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.045 of this Code. Such audited financial statements shall be submitted to the Committee on Finance and shall be published in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2014, 2016.] [Source: Sections 2030, 2040, 5010, 7020, 7030 and 10030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§600.050. TITLE TO PROPERTY.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. This corporation shall be vested the title to all property, real and personal, and all rights of action belonging to this corporation, or to which it may become entitled; and
- B. Title to all securities belonging to this corporation may be held in the name of a nominee or in the name of a custodian nominee designated by Grand Lodge as the depository for such securities or funds. Grand Lodge has full power to substitute or change nominees from time to time. A nominee shall always be a bank or trust company chartered by the United States of America or the State of California.

*[Source: Section 7010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§600.060. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall require the Board of Trustees of this corporation to make a complete report at each Annual Communication of the property, condition and operation of this corporation for its most immediately completed fiscal year. The Board shall have their report prepared, printed and ready for distribution on the first day of each Annual Communication.

*[Source: Section 10040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**PART 7**  
**CALIFORNIA MASONIC FOUNDATION**

**§700.010. RELATIONSHIP WITH GRAND LODGE.**

California Masonic Foundation is a California nonprofit, public benefit corporation, formed by agents of Grand Lodge under the laws of the State of California on March 5, 1969 and exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The members of Grand Lodge when convened in an Annual or Special Communication and the Grand Master at all times are the delegates of this corporation within the meaning of Section 5152 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and shall have all of the authority of members of such corporation as permitted under such law. The Grand Master shall adopt, alter or amend Bylaws for this corporation, subject to the requirements for the governance of this corporation as provided in this Part 7. The Grand Master shall exercise all other rights and powers of the members of such corporation except as from time to time may be reserved to or exercised by the members of Grand Lodge in this Code.

**§700.020. PURPOSE.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide that this corporation (a) receive gifts, bequests and contributions and hold, manage and distribute them for the furtherance of its educational, charitable and scientific purposes and (b) engage in fundraising activities that support the Masonic Homes of California and the California Masonic Memorial Temple.

*[Amended: 2016.] [Source: Section 11010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§700.030. COMPOSITION OF BOARD.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The Trustees of the California Masonic Foundation shall be not less than nine nor more than twenty-one in number:
  1. One Trustee shall be a member of the Executive Committee (other than the Grand Master) as the Grand Master may appoint until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge;
  2. One Trustee shall be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Homes of California as such Board may appoint until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge;
  3. One Trustee shall be a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Masonic Memorial Temple as such Board may appoint until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge;

4. The other Trustees shall be appointed by successive Grand Masters for terms of three years each from the close of the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and divided as equally as may be possible into three classes. The terms shall be staggered so that the terms of these Trustees shall expire in successive years by class at the close of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. In appointing Trustees, the Grand Master shall give consideration to geographical diversification in order that the entire Jurisdiction may have representation;
  5. No reduction by the Grand Master in the number of Trustees shall have the effect of removing any Trustee prior to the expiration of such Trustee's term of office;
- B. All Trustees 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 Board. At least 70% of the total number of Trustees shall be members of Grand Lodge;
  - C. In addition to the regular membership of the Board, the Grand Master, under special or demanding circumstances, may appoint as a consultant to the Board any member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge (other than a Research Lodge or Historic Lodges). The Grand Master may remove a consultant at any time. Consultants shall perform services, render advice, and attend Board meetings, as may be directed by the Board Chairman, but shall have no vote; and
  - D. When a vacancy occurs, the appointee shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The Grand Master may remove a Trustee at any time, upon request of two-thirds of the Trustees, and appoint a successor.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015, 2016.] [Source: Section 11020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§700.040. MANAGEMENT.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. The officers of this corporation shall be a Chairman of the Board, President, a Vice President, a Chief Financial Officer and a Secretary. This corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board, such other officers as may be provided in its Bylaws. The Chairman, President and Vice President shall be elected by the Board of Trustees of this corporation each year within 45 days after the close of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. The Chairman shall be elected from the membership of the Board. If a member of the Board of Trustees has served as Chairman for five consecutive years, he shall be ineligible for election as Chairman until the lapse of one year;
- B. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Board shall designate another member to preside;

- C. The President shall be the chief executive officer of this corporation. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and when so acting shall have all the powers of the President;
- D. The Grand Treasurer shall serve ex-officio as the Chief Financial Officer of this corporation but his duties shall not require that he attend each meeting of this corporation's Board of Trustees. He shall keep an accurate, complete and uniform set of financial records, accounting for all receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities of this corporation. Such records shall be kept on the accrual basis of accounting and maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements of this corporation shall be prepared in accordance with general accepted accounting principles on the accrual basis of accounting, using a fiscal year as may be selected by the Grand Treasurer in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Grand Treasurer shall prepare and deliver, at each Annual Communication, a detailed report of the financial condition of this corporation prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- E. The Grand Secretary shall serve ex-officio as the Secretary of this corporation but his duties shall not require that he attend each meeting of this corporation's Board of Trustees to record the Board's minutes. He shall maintain files of all minutes of such Board, taken by him or his designee, in a safe place in the Grand Lodge office. He shall supervise, subject to the ultimate control of the Board of Trustees of this corporation, all clerical, administrative or accounting personnel employed by or assigned to this corporation, whose offices are within the Grand Lodge office. He shall secure from a reputable casualty company and maintain in force a blanket fidelity insurance covering all officers of this corporation under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.085 of this Code;
- F. The Board shall maintain an office in the same building and in connection with offices of the Grand Secretary;
- G. The Grand Master shall at all times have the right of visitation and inspection of the entire management of this corporation;
- H. The funds of this corporation shall be separately invested under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.040 of this Code; and
- I. The financial statements of this corporation shall be examined by a firm of independent certified public accountants under principles substantially similar to the rules provided in Section 407.045 of this Code. Such audited financial statements shall be submitted to the Committee on Finance and shall be published in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2014, 2016.] [Source: Sections 2030, 2040, 5010, 7020, 7030 and 11030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§700.050. TITLE TO PROPERTY.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall provide the following:

- A. This corporation shall be vested the title to all property, real and personal, and all rights of action belonging to this corporation, or to which it may become entitled; and
- B. Title to all securities belonging to this corporation may be held in the name of a nominee or in the name of a custodian nominee designated by Grand Lodge as the depository for such securities or funds. Grand Lodge has full power to substitute or change nominees from time to time. A nominee shall always be a bank or trust company chartered by the United States of America or the State of California.

*[Source: Section 7010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§700.060. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

The Bylaws of this corporation shall require the Board of Trustees of this corporation to make a complete report at each Annual Communication of the property, condition and operation of this corporation for its most immediately completed fiscal year. The Board shall have their report prepared, printed and ready for distribution on the first day of each Annual Communication.

*[Source: Section 11040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§700.070. MASONIC INFORMATION AND CHILD ID BOOTHS AT COMMUNITY AND COUNTY FAIRS AND AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR**

The California Masonic Foundation is authorized to provide for one or more information booths and Child ID Program booths at community and county fairs, and at the California State Fair, as it may find appropriate. The Foundation is also authorized to establish rules and regulations for such booths, including requirements for local participation and matching funds as it may set forth in applications for funding. Such applications shall also ensure proper local sponsorship, including staffing of the booths. All such booths shall be under the control of the Foundation as long as any funding from the Foundation is involved, and the Foundation shall annually determine the level of funding available for these purposes. *[Source: Section 11050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**PART 8  
CONSTITUENT LODGES**

**CHAPTER 1  
FORMATION AND CHARTER**

**§801.010. FORMATION.**

A Lodge can be formed only by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master, or of a Charter issued by Grand Lodge. A Charter shall not be granted to any Lodge until it has worked

a time under dispensation, and has exhibited to Grand Lodge satisfactory evidence of its Masonic capability. Grand Lodge has the sole right to grant or direct a Charter to be issued to worthy Master Masons if qualified. If any Lodge duly chartered by any Grand Body recognized by this Jurisdiction shall, with the consent and approval of such Grand Body, petition Grand Lodge for a Charter, Grand Lodge shall have the power to issue a Charter to the Lodge upon such terms and in such manner as it deems proper without any Dispensation having been issued.

The anniversary of the formation of the Lodge is the date of the issuance of the Dispensation by the Grand Master, not the date of the Charter.

*[Source: Section 710 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§801.015. DISPENSATION.**

Upon the application of at least fifteen and not more than fifty Master Masons in good standing, the Grand Master may grant them a dispensation to open and hold a Lodge at the place named therein, under such name as shall be approved by him, with power to make Masons and receive members by affiliation. He shall appoint the Master and Wardens of the new Lodge. *[Amended: 2007.] [Source: Section 14010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§801.020. GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.**

The Grand Master shall not issue a dispensation for a new Lodge until the Grand Secretary has reported as follows:

- A. The Grand Secretary has conducted an investigation, including examination, of the records and proceedings of the Masons seeking Lodge status, and reported his findings and recommendations to the Grand Master; and
- B. The Grand Secretary has certified to the Grand Master that each signer on the petition for the dispensation has presented one of the following:
  1. Demit;
  2. Current dues receipt accompanied by a certified statement from the Secretary of his Lodge that a Demit will be issued on notification that the new Lodge has been instituted;
  3. Current dues receipt from a member of a Constituent Lodge accompanied by either a written request, signed by him to his Lodge, for a Demit or a written request, signed by him, for affiliation with the new Lodge as a plural member; or
  4. Certificate of Good Standing and a statement of the petitioner's desire to affiliate as a dual member in the case of a member of a Lodge in another Jurisdiction, if such Jurisdiction recognizes dual membership; and

- C. Each signer on the petition for dispensation whose Demit or Certificate is from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction has made a contribution of \$30 for the use and benefit of Grand Lodge and a contribution of \$25 for the use and benefit of Masonic Homes of California. The Homes contribution shall be waived for each signer who shall have paid such contribution with a former application to a Constituent Lodge. Such contributions shall be non-refundable upon the institution of the new Lodge.

Whenever this section requires that a dues receipt be presented, a photocopy thereof, duly certified by the Secretary of any Constituent Lodge, may be substituted.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 2040, 13025, 13030 and 14010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§801.025. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY.**

The Grand Master shall not issue a dispensation for a new Lodge until he is satisfied that the petitioners have provided written notification of their intention to apply for dispensation to each Lodge within ten miles of the new Lodge's proposed place of meeting. Such notification shall be provided at least 45 days prior to making application for dispensation and shall contain the:

- A. Full names of the petitioners and the Lodge to which each then belongs;
- B. Names of the proposed Master and Wardens;
- C. Proposed name of the new Lodge; and
- D. Location of its proposed meeting place.

*[Source: Section 14020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§801.030. INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE.**

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

- A. A recommendation from the Inspector of the district in which the nearest or most convenient Lodge is situated (if in a city or town where more than one Masonic district exists, then from a majority of such Inspectors), setting forth that:
  - 1. The petitioners are all Master Masons in good standing;
  - 2. The establishment of the new Lodge is in accordance with the principles of Masonry and contributes to the good of the order; and
  - 3. A safe and suitable room is available for tiled Lodge meetings; and

- B. A certificate from an Inspector whom the Grand Master selects, declaring that the proposed Master and Wardens:
1. Have received Certificates of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree;
  2. Are fully competent to properly confer the three degrees of Masonry and to deliver the lectures of the three degrees; and
  3. Are proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

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

*[Source: Section 14030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§801.035. NAME OF LODGE.**

A new Lodge may not have a name similar to the name of an existing Lodge. A new Lodge may not have a name which honors a living person. However, this section does not preclude the naming of a room or area within a Masonic building in honor of a Mason, whether living or deceased. *[Source: Section 14040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§801.040. CHARTER MEMBERS.**

The charter members of a Lodge are only those named in the Dispensation for the formation of the Lodge. *[Source: Section 14050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§801.045. AFFILIATION.**

A Mason whose name does not appear on the Dispensation must apply for affiliation in order to be elected to membership in the new Lodge. *[Source: Section 14060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§801.050. MEMBERSHIP IN NEW LODGE.**

Upon the institution of the new Lodge for which a dispensation has been granted, those named in the Dispensation for the formation of the Lodge shall become members of the new Lodge. The Secretary of the new Lodge shall immediately complete and forward the Request for Demit for each member of the new Lodge who has requested that his membership be transferred to the new Lodge. His membership shall cease in any other Constituent Lodge as of the date of institution unless he has already withdrawn. He shall nevertheless be liable for and pay to his former Lodge such unpaid dues as may have accrued between the date of his Certificate of Standing in that Lodge and the date of the instituting of the new Lodge. All other members of the new Lodge

shall become multiple members upon such institution. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 23130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§801.055. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF LODGE UNDER DISPENSATION.**

Once instituted, a Lodge under dispensation is a Masonic Lodge for all purposes and thus has all the rights and privileges thereof and is governed by all the provisions of this Code governing chartered Lodges, except it shall not:

- A. Have voting delegates at a Grand Lodge Communication; or
- B. Form a Masonic Hall Association.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 14070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§801.060. TERMINATION OF DISPENSATION.**

The Dispensation for a Lodge shall terminate upon the first day of the Annual Communication. The Dispensation shall then be returned by the Lodge to the Grand Secretary. At least thirty days prior to the first day of such Annual Communication, the Lodge shall deliver to the Grand Secretary the Bylaws, books of records, returns and itemized list of receipts and expenditures of the new Lodge to that date. The Grand Secretary shall examine their records and proceedings and report his findings and recommendations to the Grand Lodge prior to the close of that Annual Communication. If Grand Lodge does not order the issuance of a Charter to the Lodge at that Annual Communication, it may in the alternative revive the Dispensation in which event the Grand Secretary shall return it, together with the Bylaws, books of records and returns to the Lodge which presented them. The Lodge may then proceed to work under the revived dispensation, unless legally revoked, until the first day of the next Annual Communication. If Grand Lodge does not order the issuance of a Charter and does not revive the Dispensation, then the provisions of Section 813.060 of this Code shall apply as if the Lodge had been dissolved.

*[Amended: 2008; 2015.] [Source: Sections 2040, 14080 and 14090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§801.065. ISSUANCE OF CHARTER.**

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

- A. The Lodge is found qualified;
- B. The Inspector assigned to the Lodge has certified that the Master and Wardens are qualified to give the work and lectures in the three degrees, have each received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree and are

each proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge;  
and

C. The Lodge is clear of all indebtedness.

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

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

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

*[Amended: 2008.] [Source: Sections 14080 and 14090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 2 LODGE CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

### **§802.010. LODGE CHARTER.**

A Lodge's Charter shall contain the name and number of the Lodge, the date of the original dispensation, the date of the charter, the city, town or community where the Lodge is located, the names of the charter Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden and such other provisions as Grand Lodge may order. The Charter shall be signed by the Grand Master and attested to by the Grand Secretary with the Grand Lodge Seal affixed. Once the Lodge has been constituted, the Charter is the authority for the Masons therein named, when duly assembled, to initiate, pass and raise all good men and true who may apply for the purpose and whom they may find worthy.  
*[Source: Section 14090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§802.015. CHANGE OF LODGE LOCATION.**

A Lodge may change the designation in its charter of the city, town or community where the Lodge is located by satisfying the following procedure:

A. Giving notification at a Stated Meeting that a written resolution to change the city, town or community where the Lodge is located will be offered at a succeeding Stated Meeting;

- B. Giving written notice to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed location change resolution and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken;
- C. Adopting such resolution by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at such succeeding Stated Meeting;
- D. The adoption of a Lodge resolution under either Section 807.050 or 807.060 of this Code; and
- E. Obtaining the approval of the Grand Master.

A charter change under this section shall be processed by the Lodge simultaneously with a change of meeting place under Section 807.050 of this Code or with the designation of multiple meeting places under Section 807.060 of this Code. The adoption of a Lodge resolution under either Section 807.050 or Section 807.060 of this Code shall be conditioned on the adoption of a conforming resolution under this Section 802.015, if required, and vice versa.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall note in the minutes of the Lodge the notice of the proposed location change resolution when made. When transmitting a location change resolution for approval by the Grand Master, the Lodge Secretary shall forward a certificate, under seal, showing that the law has been complied with and that the location change resolution has received the required vote.

Once the Grand Master has approved the location change, the Lodge shall receive a new Charter without charge or may have an endorsement of the authorization of the new location made upon its existing Charter.

*[Added: 2010.]*

**§802.020. LODGE BYLAWS.**

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

**THE UNIFORM CODE OF BYLAWS OF LODGES**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

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

**ARTICLE II  
MEETINGS OF THE LODGES**

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

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

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

**ARTICLE III  
FEES AND DUES**

**Section 1.** The table of fees for this Lodge shall be as follows:

- A. For the degrees, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_;
- B. For the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason, when the Entered Apprentice degree has been received in another Lodge, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_;
- C. For the degree of Master Mason, when the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees have been received in another Lodge, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_; and
- D. For affiliation the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_, except that the affiliation fee shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_ if the Demit accompanying the application is issued by [Here insert "this Lodge" or "a Lodge in this Jurisdiction," or any other special classification desired.]

**Section 2.** The dues of each Mason of this Lodge shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_ per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January.

Or in the alternative

The dues of each Mason of this Lodge shall be the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per annum, plus the Per Capita sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication, payable in advance on the first day of January.

Or in the alternative

The dues of each Mason of this Lodge shall be the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus the Per Capita sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication, with the total thus determined rounded up to the next higher whole multiple of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January.

#### **ARTICLE IV AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** Those portions of these Bylaws relating to the day and time of Stated Meetings and the amount of fees and dues may be amended at any Stated Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present who are in good standing. All proposed amendments must be presented, in writing, at a preceding Stated Meeting and written notice must be given to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed amendment and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken. It shall have no effect until approved by the Grand Master. The Secretary of the Lodge shall note in the minutes of the Lodge the notice of the proposed amendments when made. When transmitting an amendment for approval, he shall forward a certificate, under seal, showing that the law has been complied with and that the amendment has received the required vote.

*[Amended: 2007; 2010; 2012; 2014; 2015; 2017.] [Source: Sections 16100 and 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§802.030. ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.**

Each Lodge shall transmit to the Grand Secretary a copy of its Bylaws as soon as adopted. Neither those Bylaws, nor any subsequent amendment thereto, shall be deemed valid until approved by the Grand Master.

The Uniform Code of Bylaws, as adopted by the Grand Lodge, are the Bylaws of Constituent Lodges and are to be copied into the Lodge's Book of Bylaws and obeyed as such. Amendment of the Uniform Code of Bylaws by Grand Lodge automatically amends the Bylaws of each Constituent Lodge. The only legislative power of a Constituent Lodge in regard to its Bylaws is to fill in the blank spaces provided for the day and time of the Stated Meetings and the amount of fees and dues.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 19050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§802.040. CHANGE OF LODGE NAME.**

A Lodge may change its name in its Charter and Bylaws by satisfying the following procedure:

- A. Giving notification at a Stated Meeting that a written resolution to change the Lodge's name will be offered at a succeeding Stated Meeting;
- B. Giving written notice to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed name change resolution and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken;
- C. Adopting such resolution by the votes of at least two-thirds of the members present at such succeeding Stated Meeting; and
- D. Obtaining the approval of the Grand Master.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall note in the minutes of the Lodge the notice of the proposed name change resolution when made. When transmitting a name change resolution for approval by the Grand Master, the Lodge Secretary shall forward a certificate, under seal, showing that the law has been complied with and that the name change resolution has received the required vote.

A Lodge may not select a name similar to the name of an existing Lodge. A Lodge may not select a name to honor a living person. However, this rule does not preclude the naming of a room or area within a Masonic building in honor of a Mason, whether living or deceased.

Once the Grand Master has approved the name change, the Lodge shall receive a new Charter without charge or may have an endorsement of the authorization of the new name made upon its existing Charter. The Lodge shall obtain a new seal. The Grand Master's approval of the Lodge's name change shall automatically amend its Bylaws with the same change.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 14095 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **CHAPTER 3 POWERS AND DUTIES**

#### **§803.010. POWERS AND DUTIES.**

The powers and duties of a Lodge are those prescribed in its Dispensation or Charter, by this Code, by the General Regulations of Masonry or by the Ritual. *[Source: Section 720 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§803.020. EXECUTIVE.**

The Lodge shall have executive powers in directing and performing its work, as prescribed by Grand Lodge, under the control of the Master. *[Source: Section 15010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§803.030. LEGISLATIVE.**

The Lodge shall adopt legislation to govern its affairs, which shall not be in violation of its Bylaws, the General Regulations of Masonry, this Code or the Ritual. *[Source: Section 15020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§803.040. JUDICIAL.**

The Lodge shall exercise discipline over any Mason of the Lodge, wherever residing (except the Master and the Grand Master) and all other Masons, residing in this Jurisdiction nearer to its meeting place than to the meeting place of any other Constituent Lodge (other than a Research Lodge or a Historic Lodge), in the manner provided in Chapter 4 of Part 14 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2011; 2015.] [Source: Section 15030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 4  
MEMBERSHIP**

**ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§804.110. MEMBERSHIP.**

A Lodge may have as many members as it finds convenient. *[Source: Section 730 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.115. ACQUISITION OF MEMBERSHIP.**

One may acquire membership in a Lodge by:

- A. Having regularly received the degree of Master Mason, either in such Lodge or in another Lodge as a courtesy to such Lodge;
- B. Having been duly elected as a Master Mason for affiliation therein and complying with the conditions thereof;
- C. Having been a petitioner named in a Dispensation for the Lodge as of date of institution;  
or
- D. The consolidation into one Lodge of two or more Lodges, of one of which he was a member.

*[Source: Section 23010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.120. MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP.**

Dual membership is membership in Lodges of different Jurisdictions. Plural membership is membership in two or more Lodges in the same Jurisdiction. A multiple membership is either a dual or a plural membership.

This Jurisdiction recognizes and authorizes multiple membership under the following conditions:

- A. A member, in good standing, of a Constituent Lodge residing in another Jurisdiction which allows dual membership may affiliate with one or more Lodges of that Jurisdiction or join in a petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge of that Jurisdiction while retaining his membership in this Jurisdiction. He becomes a dual member;
- B. A member, in good standing, of a Lodge of any other Jurisdiction which allows dual membership may affiliate with one or more Constituent Lodges or join in a petition for a dispensation for a new Constituent Lodge while retaining his membership in such other Jurisdiction. He becomes a dual member; and
- C. A member, in good standing, of a Constituent Lodge may retain such membership and affiliate with any one or more other Constituent Lodges or join in a petition for a dispensation for a new Constituent Lodge. He becomes a plural member.

Upon election of a multiple member in this Jurisdiction or the formation of a new Constituent Lodge containing one or more multiple members, the Secretary shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary and also every other Lodge in which each multiple member holds membership. The Grand Secretary shall provide forms for this purpose.

A multiple member shall pay all dues required by each Lodge wherein membership is held and shall have all the rights and privileges of membership in each of the Lodges.

The burden of relief of a multiple member, his wife, widow and orphans shall rest on the Lodges in which he holds membership in proportion to the length of membership in each.

*[Amended: 2006; 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 23020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.125. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**

Membership in a Lodge can be terminated only by:

- A. Dissolution of a Lodge;
- B. Consolidation of the Lodge with another Lodge or other Lodges;
- C. Demitting or obtaining a Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership;
- D. Expulsion; or

E. Death.

A member may not resign from membership.

*[Source: Section 23120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.130. DEMITTING BY MASTER MASONS.**

A member, in good standing, against whom there is no pending Masonic charge or charge under the criminal laws of the United States or of any other governmental entity involving moral turpitude, may withdraw from the Lodge at any time. Such withdrawal shall be obtained by requesting in writing, over his signature, that a Demit be issued. Upon report of the request at the next Stated Meeting, the Master of the Lodge shall order the Secretary to issue a Demit immediately, in the form provided, as evidence of the withdrawal.

When a member transfers his membership from one Constituent Lodge to another Constituent Lodge, his Lodge Secretary, upon receipt of the Request for Demit from the other Lodge, shall immediately issue the Demit on the form provided by the Grand Secretary and report its issuance to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting.

When a member, in good standing, against whom no Masonic charge is pending, desires to transfer his membership from a Constituent Lodge to a Lodge in another Jurisdiction, his Lodge Secretary, upon receipt of the member's written request, shall issue to the member a Certificate of Standing. The Certificate of Standing shall specify the date through which the member's dues are paid. The Certificate of Standing shall also advise that a Demit will be issued upon receipt of the notification of election in the other Lodge, if such notification is received prior to the date through which such dues are paid. On receipt of the notification of election, the Secretary shall immediately issue a Demit on the form provided by the Grand Secretary and shall report its issuance to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting.

Membership in the Lodge shall terminate as of the date of the Demit, except as otherwise provided in Section 801.050 of this Code.

A duplicate Demit may be issued if the original is lost.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 23050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.135. WITHDRAWAL OF ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS.**

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, in good standing, against whom there is no pending Masonic charge or charge under the criminal laws of the United States or of any other governmental entity involving moral turpitude, may withdraw from the Lodge at any time if the Lodge approves his request by a majority vote at a Stated Meeting and issues a Demit. The request shall be made in writing, over his signature. Upon report of the request at the next Stated

Meeting, the vote shall be taken. If approved, the Master of the Lodge shall order the Secretary to issue a Demit immediately, in the form provided, as evidence of the withdrawal.

When an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of the Lodge has been elected to advance in another Lodge pursuant to a Waiver of Jurisdiction without first having been issued a Demit, the Secretary shall immediately issue a Demit on receipt of the notification of election in the other Lodge, using the form provided by the Grand Secretary. The Secretary shall report its issuance to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting.

The withdrawal shall be effective as of the date of the Demit.

A duplicate Demit may be issued if the original is lost.

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft may not resign from Masonry.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Sections 23050 and 23100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.140. STANDING OF DEMITTED MASTER MASON.**

A Master Mason holding a Demit shall remain in good standing for a period of one year following the date of his Demit. Should he fail to become a member of some Lodge within the period of one year from the date of the Demit, he shall not thereafter be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation.

All Masons and Lodges are prohibited from holding any Masonic Communication with a Master Mason who has held a Demit for longer than one year, except as may be necessary to determine his eligibility to affiliate. A Master Mason holding a Demit shall remain subject to all of the duties applicable to him in the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual, and he shall remain subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

*[Source: Section 23060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.145. STANDING OF DEMITTED ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS.**

An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft holding a Demit shall not be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation.

All Masons and Lodges are prohibited from holding any Masonic Communication with an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft holding a Demit, except as may be necessary to determine his eligibility to affiliate. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft holding a Demit shall remain subject to all of the duties applicable to him in the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual, and he shall remain subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

*[Source: Section 23060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.150. STANDING OF EXPELLED MASONS.**

Expulsion of a Mason is the most severe discipline that can be imposed by Masonic law. It is the absolute deprivation of all the rights and privileges of Masonry and prohibits all Masons and Lodges from holding any Masonic Communication with him forever, unless he is restored by Grand Lodge. Despite his expulsion, he shall remain subject to all of the duties applicable to him in the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual, and he shall remain subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32380 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.155. STANDING OF SUSPENDED MASONS.**

The suspension of a Mason is not a termination of his membership in a Constituent Lodge. It is the deprivation of all the rights and privileges of Masonry and prohibits all Masons and Lodges from holding any Masonic Communication with him until he is legally restored. During his suspension, he shall remain subject to all of the duties applicable to him in the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual, and he shall remain subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 23120 and 32370 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.160. WITHDRAWAL OF A MULTIPLE MEMBER.**

A multiple member, in good standing, against whom no Masonic charge is pending, may withdraw from a Constituent Lodge at any time by requesting in writing, over his signature, a Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership at a Stated Meeting. Upon request, the Master of the Lodge shall order the Secretary to issue a Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership immediately, in the form provided, as evidence of the withdrawal. Membership in the Lodge shall terminate as of the date of the Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 23140 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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.

*[Amended: 2008; 2010.] [Source: Section 23020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 2 – APPLICANTS FOR THE DEGREES AND MEMBERSHIP**

### **§804.200. APPLICANTS FOR THE DEGREES.**

An applicant for the degrees of Masonry must be:

- A. A man who has attained the age of 18 years by the time his application is received by the Lodge;
- B. A believer in a Supreme Being and a future existence;
- C. Of good moral conduct; and
- D. Without physical or mental impairment that would prevent him from learning and practicing the principles of Masonry or which would create a burden on the Lodge.

The question as to the physical or mental acceptability of the applicant shall be left to the sound discretion of the Lodge. The Master shall state the nature and extent of any such impairment immediately after the Secretary has read the application at a Stated Meeting and again immediately before the ballot on the application is taken.

*[Source: Section 26010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.203. APPLICANTS FOR AFFILIATION.**

A Mason against whom no Masonic charge is pending may apply to any Constituent Lodge for affiliation. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.205. NO SOLICITATION.**

No man may be solicited or invited to become a Mason. An applicant for the degrees of Masonry must be motivated by a favorable impression of the fraternity. He must seek membership of his own free will and accord.

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§804.210. CRIMINAL RECORD.**

No person shall hold or be eligible for membership in any Constituent Lodge who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been convicted of, a crime involving a violation of the moral law unless, for the reason that he did not commit the offense, he either has been pardoned or had his judgment of conviction vacated or reversed.

The Grand Secretary shall make available to Constituent Lodges a service reasonably designed to verify compliance with the foregoing requirements of this section in a cost effective manner. The fee for this service shall be established from time to time with the adoption of the Grand Lodge Budget.

Each Constituent Lodge shall use this service to verify compliance by each of its applicants for the degrees and by each of its applicants for affiliation whose Demit or Certificate is from a Lodge in another Jurisdiction. Each such applicant shall contribute the fee for this service with his application, and such fee shall be nonrefundable. Each Constituent Lodge at its discretion and at its own expense may use this service to verify compliance by any of its other applicants for affiliation or by any Mason of such Lodge.

If compliance verification discloses information that an applicant for the degrees has pled guilty or no contest to, or has been convicted of, a crime of moral turpitude, the Grand Secretary shall immediately review and confirm the information. His confirmation shall have the same effect as the application being rejected, except that such applicant shall not have the opportunity to apply for membership again at any future time unless, for the reason that he did not commit the offense, he either has been pardoned or had his judgment of conviction vacated or reversed. A letter shall be sent to such applicant by the Grand Secretary informing him of the information that was obtained, his current status as an applicant, and the procedure to appeal the information if he believes that it is incorrect. Any appeal shall be resolved by a majority of the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Lodge Secretary shall be advised of the action taken. If no criminal history is discovered, the Lodge Secretary shall be so informed. If a criminal history is discovered, but the crime or crimes do not involve moral turpitude, the information shall be sent to the Lodge to determine whether the crime or crimes involve a violation of the moral law. If the Lodge makes that determination, such determination shall have the same effect as the

application being rejected. Unless the applicant has clearly violated the moral law by committing a crime involving moral turpitude, the Lodge shall determine in the exercise of its sound discretion whether the applicant's criminal record disqualifies him from receiving the degrees.

Whether a Mason with a criminal history (however discovered) remains eligible for the rights and privileges of Masonry as a result of that history shall be addressed as provided in Part 14 of this Code.

It is the duty of every Mason to maintain the confidentiality of any matters arising under this section. Nothing about any matter arising under this section may be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person other than a member of a Constituent Lodge or as otherwise authorized in this Code or by the Grand Master. Unless otherwise authorized by Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, nothing about any matter arising under this section shall be published beyond the notifications provided in this section. Every written notification provided in this section shall include a reminder of the confidentiality requirements of this section.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011.] [Source: Section 26020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.215. MEMBERSHIP IN UNRECOGNIZED MASONIC LODGES.**

No person shall hold or be eligible for membership in any Constituent Lodge who is or has been a member of a Lodge in a Jurisdiction not recognized by this Grand Lodge until he has resigned his membership in the unrecognized Lodge. Once he has resigned, he may then apply to receive the degrees in a Constituent Lodge, unless he holds a Demit from a Lodge in a Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge in which case he may then apply for affiliation. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.220. UNLAWFUL OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT.**

No person shall hold or be eligible for membership in any Constituent Lodge who has advised, advocated, or taught, or who has been a member of, or affiliated with any group, society, association or organization that advises, advocates or teaches, or has advised, advocated or taught the overthrow, by force or violence or other unlawful means of the Government of the United States of America or of any State of the Union. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.225. RESIDENCY.**

- A. Except as otherwise provided in Section 804.270.B of this Code, an applicant for the degrees must be a resident of this Jurisdiction;
- B. A member of any uniformed service of the United States, whose duty station is at a facility or on a vessel having an officially designated home port, shall be considered a resident of the Jurisdiction which includes such facility or home port;

- C. A man residing with his spouse who is a member of any uniformed service of the United States, whose duty station is at a facility or on a vessel having an officially designated home port, shall be considered a resident of the Jurisdiction which includes such facility or home port; and
- D. Uniformed Service of the United States includes the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

*[Amended: 2006; 2010, 2016.] [Source: Sections 26030 and 26040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.230. APPLICATIONS.**

An application for the degrees or for affiliation shall be on the form approved by the Grand Master and provided by the Grand Secretary. An applicant must sign the completed application by signature or by a mark attested to by two members of the Lodge, if he is unable to write by reason of physical affliction. An applicant must be recommended by at least two members of the Lodge. A recommender need not have previously known the applicant, as long as prior to signing the application he first makes a careful investigation to ascertain if the applicant is worthy. Recommendation of an applicant is a personal pledge of Masonic honor to the Lodge that the applicant possesses the qualifications required. Any recommendation once given cannot be withdrawn after the application has been received by the Lodge. References need not be Masons or of the male gender. *[Source: Sections 19040 and 26090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.235. APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION BY MASTER MASONS.**

Before an application for affiliation may be received by a Lodge from a Master Mason, the applicant must prove to the satisfaction of the Master that he is a Master Mason. The application must be accompanied by the following:

- A. If the applicant is a member in good standing of another Constituent Lodge and desires to transfer his membership, a receipt or a copy of a receipt from the Lodge of which he is a member showing that his dues are paid through at least the end of the current calendar year, together with a written request, signed by him, to his Lodge for a Demit;
- B. If the applicant is a member in good standing of another Constituent Lodge and desires to hold plural membership, a receipt or a copy of a receipt from the Lodge of which he is a member showing that his dues are paid through at least the end of the current calendar year;
- C. If the applicant is a member in good standing of a Lodge in another Jurisdiction and desires to transfer his membership, either a Certificate of Good Standing in his Lodge or a certificate from his Lodge that a Demit will be issued on notification of his election to

membership in a Constituent Lodge, together with a written request, signed by him, to his Lodge for a Demit;

- D. If the applicant is a member in good standing of a Lodge in another Jurisdiction and desires to hold dual membership, a Certificate of Good Standing in his Lodge; or
- E. If the applicant is not then a member of any Lodge, a Demit from the Lodge of which he was last a member, regardless of its age, or a satisfactory explanation in writing of his inability to furnish it.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§804.240. APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION BY ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS.**

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, in good standing, against whom no Masonic charge is pending, may apply for advancement in another Lodge by submitting an application for affiliation to the second Lodge. The application may not be received by the second Lodge unless it is accompanied by a Demit or a Waiver of Jurisdiction from the first Lodge under Section 804.275. *[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Section 23100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.245. FEE FOR DEGREES.**

A Lodge shall not confer the three degrees for a fee less than \$75. If the applicant has received the Entered Apprentice degree, or the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees, in another Lodge, the fee for the remaining degrees or degree shall be that portion of the fee for the three degrees as the Bylaws of the Lodge shall prescribe.

No application for the degree or degrees may be received by the Lodge unless it is accompanied by the required fee for such degree or degrees. If the application is rejected or withdrawn, the Lodge shall return any such fee paid to the applicant. Such fee shall be non-refundable upon such applicant's election to receive a degree or the degrees, except as provided below. A Lodge shall not donate a fee back to an applicant under any pretext whatever.

If the applicant is elected to advance and receive a degree or the degrees in another Lodge in this or another Jurisdiction, under a Waiver of Jurisdiction or Demit issued by his Lodge, or dies before receiving a degree, the Lodge, if such information comes to its attention within seven years after the applicant was initially elected to receive the degrees, shall return to the applicant or to the legal representative of the applicant the sum fixed in the Bylaws for the degree or degrees not conferred.

*[Source: Sections 26100 and 26110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.250. FEE FOR AFFILIATION.**

A Lodge may, but is not required to, charge a fee with any application for affiliation. No application for affiliation may be received by the Lodge unless it is accompanied by any required fee for affiliation. If the application is rejected or withdrawn, the Lodge shall return any such fee paid to the applicant. Such fee shall be non-refundable upon such applicant's election to membership. *[Source: Sections 26050, 26100 and 26110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.255. GRAND LODGE CONTRIBUTIONS.**

No application may be received by the Lodge unless it is accompanied by all contributions required under Sections 407.030, 804.210, 804.260 and 804.265 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2011.] [Source: Section 26110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.260. MASONIC HOMES CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Each applicant for the degrees and each applicant for affiliation whose Demit or Certificate is from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction shall contribute \$25 for the use and benefit of Masonic Homes of California, unless he shall have paid such contribution 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 contributions for 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 for the use and benefit of the Homes.

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.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 13030 and 26110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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.

*[Amended: 2009; 2010.] [Source: Sections 13040 and 26110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.270. JURISDICTION TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS.**

- A. Any Constituent Lodge may receive and act on an application for the degrees of Masonry from any qualified applicant who meets the residency requirements of Section 804.225 of this Code. If an applicant for the degrees meets the residency requirements of Section 804.225 of this Code but is also a resident within the Jurisdiction of another recognized Grand Lodge, his application must be accompanied by a Waiver of Jurisdiction from that Grand Lodge. If an applicant for the degrees meets the residency requirements of Section 804.225 of this Code but is also a resident of a state, territory or nation where no recognized Grand Lodge exists, no Waiver of Jurisdiction need accompany his application. If the applicant is an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft from another Lodge, his application must be accompanied by a Demit or a Waiver of Jurisdiction from the Lodge of which he is a candidate, directed to the Lodge to which he is applying, as provided in Section 804.275 of this Code or under the laws of the Grand Lodge with jurisdiction over him. There is no residency requirement for Master Masons who apply for affiliation.
- B. A Constituent Lodge may receive and act on an application of the degrees of Masonry from any qualified applicant who does not meet the residency requirements of Section 804.225 of this Code under the following conditions:
  - 1. If the applicant for the degrees is a resident within the Jurisdiction of another recognized Grand Lodge, his application must be accompanied by a Waiver of Jurisdiction from that Grand Lodge.
  - 2. If the applicant for the degrees is a resident of a state, territory or nation where no recognized Grand Lodge exists, the Constituent Lodge may receive and act on his application if approved by the Grand Master.

*[Amended: 2010, 2016.] [Source: Section 26060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.275. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION.**

A Constituent Lodge has jurisdiction over each of its Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, unless a Demit has previously been issued or jurisdiction is waived as provided in this section. A Lodge may grant a Waiver of Jurisdiction to allow one of its Entered Apprentices or Fellow

Crafts to apply for the remaining degree or degrees in another Lodge, in this or any other Jurisdiction, provided all the requirements of this section have been met.

- A. A Lodge may grant a Waiver of Jurisdiction to another Constituent Lodge, provided:
  - 1. The request is in writing and signed by the candidate;
  - 2. The request states the name of the specific Lodge to which the candidate will apply for the remaining degree or degrees; and
  - 3. The Lodge approves the request by a majority vote at a Stated Meeting;
- B. A Lodge may grant a Waiver of Jurisdiction to a particular Lodge in another Jurisdiction, provided:
  - 1. The request is in writing and signed by the candidate;
  - 2. The request states the name of the specific Lodge to which the candidate will apply for the remaining degree or degrees;
  - 3. The request has been approved by the Grand Master of this Jurisdiction; and
  - 4. The Lodge approves the request by a majority vote at a Stated Meeting.

A Lodge may not grant a Waiver of Jurisdiction to a candidate who has been denied advancement in the Lodge due to an objection. If the objection is removed by a majority vote of the Lodge, the waiver may be granted.

If a Waiver of Jurisdiction is granted but the candidate is not elected within six months thereafter to receive the remaining degree or degrees in the Lodge to which the waiver is granted, the waiver shall be null and void and the candidate shall again be subject to the jurisdiction of the Lodge that granted the waiver.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.280. JURISDICTION AFTER REJECTION.**

An application for the degrees may not be received from any applicant who within the preceding 12 months has been rejected by a Lodge, unless a dispensation has been obtained from the Grand Master waiving the required twelve month waiting period. If lack of the required time period is discovered after receipt of the application, the Lodge must deliver the fees paid for any degrees conferred to the Lodge which had rejected the applicant and the remainder of the fees shall be returned to the applicant. The applicant may apply for any remaining degrees after the required twelve month waiting period has elapsed, and the application shall be subject to the usual ballot and reference to an investigating committee as required for a new application.

A rejected applicant for affiliation or for advancement may apply again to any Lodge as often and as soon as he chooses to do so.

*[Source: Sections 26050 and 26080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.285. RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS.**

All applications for the degrees or affiliation shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge and may be withdrawn by the applicant at any time until the application has been formally received by the Lodge. An application is formally received by the Lodge when it is read by the Secretary at a Stated Meeting, unless, by a majority vote, the Lodge declines to receive it, which is equivalent to its withdrawal by the applicant. The Lodge may not receive an application without the required fees or until the applicant has attained the age of 18 years. The Master may not refuse to receive an application or direct the Secretary to withhold it for any other reason. An applicant for the degrees whose application has been withdrawn need not wait 12 months before presenting another application to that or any other Lodge. *[Source: Section 26090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.290. NOTIFICATION TO OTHER LODGES.**

A Lodge shall notify every Lodge within ten miles of its place of meeting of the name, address and occupation of each applicant for the degrees or for affiliation within 10 days after receipt of his application. This notification requirement may be satisfied by a similar notification to a Masonic Service Bureau or a Masonic Secretaries Association which operates under the direction and supervision of the Grand Secretary a clearing house for applications in the area in which the Lodge is situated. *[Source: Section 26060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.295. NOTIFICATION OF IDENTITY OF APPLICANTS AND CANDIDATES.**

A Lodge may inform its Masons by United States mail, in the Lodge bulletin or otherwise of:

- A. The names of applicants for the degrees; and
- B. The names of candidates and the dates of conferral of degrees.

A Masonic Organization may inform its members by bulletin, or by a letter enclosed in sealed envelopes, by United States mail, of the name of an elected candidate and the dates of conferral of degrees, on obtaining permission of the Master of the Lodge in which his degrees are to be conferred.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 15170 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 3 - INVESTIGATION**

### **§804.310. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.**

All applications for the degrees shall be referred to a committee of three, unless dispensation has been granted by the Grand Master to receive them without reference to a committee. Each member of the Investigating Committee shall be known only to the Master and shall not be made known to the Lodge or to the other members of the Committee. The Master shall not delegate the appointment of such committees to any other person.

It shall be the duty of each member of the Committee to make strict examination into the moral, mental, physical and other proper qualifications of the applicant, and to report to the Master at the next Stated Meeting, unless he grants further time. Each member of the Investigating Committee shall inform himself as to the character of the applicant. A Committee member is guilty of a serious neglect of duty if he reports favorably on an application without reliable information as to all matters on which the Lodge requires advice.

*[Source: Sections 26120 and 26130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

### **§804.320. COURTESY INVESTIGATIONS.**

The Master may request that a courtesy investigation be made by another Lodge when the applicant resides at such a distance from the Lodge to which he has applied that, in the judgment of the Master of the Lodge receiving the application, an investigating committee from that Lodge would be unusually inconvenienced to perform the investigation. Any request made for such an investigation shall be accompanied by three copies of the appropriate investigation form with envelopes addressed to the Master of the Lodge to which the application was made, together with the dates of each of the next two Stated Meetings of the Lodge to which the application has been made.

On receipt of a request for such a courtesy investigation, the Master of the Lodge receiving the request shall immediately appoint a committee of three. Their duty shall be to furnish the completed investigation reports directly to the Master of the Lodge to which the application was made, and to inform the Master of their own Lodge of the completion of the investigation. At the first Stated Meeting of his Lodge following receipt of the request, the Master of the Lodge requested to perform the courtesy investigation shall report the request to his Lodge, state the name of the applicant and the fact that an investigating committee has been appointed.

The committee's courtesy investigation reports shall be made with the same scrutiny and diligence and using the same procedure as if the applicant were applying to the Lodge to which the Investigating Committee members belong. The reports shall be made and returned to the Master of the Lodge to which the application was made before the next Stated Meeting.

If any member of the committee performing the courtesy investigation finds that additional time is required to complete the investigation, the Master of their Lodge shall report that fact to the Master of the Lodge to which the application was made and the reports shall then be made before the second Stated Meeting.

*[Source: Section 26120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§804.330. REPORT OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.**

The report of each member of the Investigating Committee shall set forth in detail the facts ascertained respecting the applicant and that Committee member's conclusion on the applicant's qualifications. If any member of the Committee reports unfavorable on the applicant or if a report demonstrates that the applicant is in any way not qualified or unworthy to be made a Mason, no ballot shall be taken on the applicant and the Master shall, upon receipt of such a report, declare the applicant rejected. Such rejection shall be reported at the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge but none of the contents of any reports on the applicant shall be disclosed, other than the conclusions on the applicant's qualifications.

If at least two members of the Committee have reported favorably on the applicant and no unfavorable report has been received, the Master shall report such conclusions at the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge. The facts ascertained by the Committee shall be read when directed by the Master, or when a request for the facts is made by any member of the Lodge at the meeting at which the report is given by the Master and before the ballot is taken. The fact of the appointment of the Committee and the character of its report should appear in the minutes.

*[Source: Section 26130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.340. ADDITIONAL REPORTS.**

The Investigating Committee reports are subject to revision and may be referred by the Master back to the Committee before completion of the ballot. The Master may also discharge that Committee and appoint another Investigating Committee whenever such appears desirable. In addition, the Master may appoint other Lodge members to meet with the applicant and supplement the work of the committee of three.

*[Source: Sections 26120 and 26130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.350. WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.**

The Investigating Committee shall make a special report if it finds the applicant disqualified for no reason other than the following:

- A. Physical or mental disability; or

B. His application has been received within 12 months after his rejection by a Lodge.

The Master may then direct the withdrawal of the application without further action, and such direction shall be entered on the record.

If the applicant has moved from this Jurisdiction after filing his application, the application may be withdrawn if the applicant so desires and the Lodge consents.

In no other case shall an application be withdrawn after it is received.

*[Amended: 2016.] [Source: Section 26140 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **ARTICLE 4 - BALLOTING**

##### **§804.410. REQUIRED BALLOT.**

An applicant may receive a degree or the degrees in a Lodge only if so elected by a unanimous balloting using balls and cubes by the Lodge's members after a favorable report of the members of an Investigating Committee. *[Source: Section 26190 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

##### **§804.420. BALLOT BOX.**

Balloting by white balls and black cubes shall be by means of a ballot box. The ballot box shall be prepared by placing therein a sufficient number of white balls to allow all of the Lodge's members present to ballot favorably on the candidate. The ballot box shall contain at least one black cube for every two white balls. The ballot box shall be suitably lined so as to deaden the sound of the fall of the balls or cubes to insure the secrecy of the ballot. It shall be presented to the Master for inspection before each ballot is taken. If, during balloting, an objection is made that the ballot box is not properly prepared, the Master must, before announcing the result of the ballot, examine it, and if not properly prepared, he must at once rectify the error and have a proper ballot taken. *[Source: Sections 26150 and 26170 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

##### **§804.430. DISCUSSION OF APPLICANTS.**

Before a ballot is taken, there may be discussion of the qualifications of the applicant and the propriety of receiving him into the Lodge. *[Source: Section 26170 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

##### **§804.440. BALLOTING PROCEDURE.**

- A. The Master shall read the name of the applicant with the essential information about him, as supplied by the application and/or as furnished by the Investigating Committee, after which a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner;
- B. A Lodge shall have but one ballot for the three degrees;

- C. There shall be no discussion in the Lodge during a ballot or between ballots;
- D. Every member of a Lodge in good standing, when present, must vote upon a ballot using a ball or a cube;
- E. The Master should not permit anyone to enter or retire from the Lodge room during a ballot except for sickness or other imperative reason. For this purpose, the “Lodge room” does not include the Tiler’s room or the preparation room. Members and other Masons may enter or retire between ballots if in the Master’s judgment such will not interfere with the taking of the subsequent ballot;
- F. When balloting upon two or more applicants, the Master may at his discretion determine whether a separate ballot shall be taken on each applicant or whether the entire group shall be balloted upon collectively. When a collective ballot is used, the Master shall read the names of all of the applicants included in the collective ballot, with the essential information about each, as supplied by the application and/or furnished by the Investigating Committee. A ballot shall then be taken in the usual manner on the applicants collectively. If no cube appears, each applicant shall be declared elected. If one or more cubes appear, the Master may either direct an individual ballot or divide the names of the applicants into smaller groups. The Lodge shall then proceed to ballot in the usual manner on each individual or on each group. The Master shall declare each applicant in a group elected if no cube appears. This procedure shall continue until an individual ballot has been taken in the usual manner, if necessary, and all applicants have been balloted upon;
- G. It shall require a unanimous vote of the members present and in good standing to elect an applicant. If all such members of the Lodge have voted and no negative vote appears, the ballot is unanimous regardless of the fact that one or more members failed to deposit a ball at the time he voted;
- H. When balloting upon a single applicant, if only one cube appears, the Master, without declaring the result, shall at once order a second and last ballot for the purpose of correcting a possible mistake. The second ballot shall not be postponed to another meeting of the Lodge. If in the second ballot one or more cubes appear, the Master shall declare the applicant rejected; and
- I. When balloting upon a single applicant, if two or more cubes appear, the Master shall declare the applicant rejected, and there shall be no second ballot.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Sections 26160, 26180, 26190 and 26200 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.450. BALLOT SECRECY.**

Except for the three officers whose duty it is to examine the ballot box, no one is entitled to know the number of votes cast for or against an applicant. There shall be no discussion

regarding an unfavorable ballot. No member of a Lodge shall be required, requested, or allowed to divulge his vote upon a ballot, or to assign reasons for such vote, if it be known, except to the Master for the purpose of correcting a mistake. The foregoing notwithstanding, such discussion or disclosure is permitted when reporting, preparing, investigating and/or adjudicating charges of alleged un-masonic conduct relating to a ballot. *[Amended: 2017.] [Source: Sections 26190 and 26210 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 5 – OBJECTIONS TO APPLICANTS**

### **§804.510. OBJECTION BY A MEMBER BEFORE BALLOT.**

At any time after an application for the degrees is received and before the ballot, objection to the applicant's election may be made orally or in writing by any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Lodge privately to the Master. No ballot shall be taken unless the objection is withdrawn. The Investigating Committee need not be appointed, or if appointed need not act, unless the objection is withdrawn. If an objection is made, the Master shall report the fact to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting. If the objection is made at a Stated Meeting, the Master shall report the fact to the Lodge at that meeting. Unless the objection is withdrawn within 60 days of the Stated Meeting at which it was reported by the Master, such objection shall have the effect of a rejection by ballot and shall be reported to the Grand Secretary.

*[Amended: 2016.] [Source: Section 26230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§804.520. OBJECTION BY A MEMBER BEFORE INITIATION.**

If objection is made by any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Lodge to an applicant for the degrees after election and before the initiation has been completed, the applicant shall not receive the degree or the remainder thereof unless the objection is withdrawn. If an objection is made, the Master shall report the fact to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting. If the objection is made at a Stated Meeting, the Master shall report the fact to the Lodge at that meeting. Unless the objection is withdrawn within 60 days of the Stated Meeting at which it was reported by the Master, such objection shall have the effect of a rejection by ballot and shall be reported to the Grand Secretary. No reason need be given for the objection, and it may be renewed after withdrawal.

*[Amended: 2016.] [Source: Section 26240 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§804.530. OBJECTION BY A MEMBER AFTER INITIATION.**

If objection to advancement is made by any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Lodge after the candidate's initiation, before being raised, the cause for the objection must be stated. If no cause is stated, the Master may disregard the objection and proceed to confer the remaining degree or degrees. If the cause seems insufficient to the Master, he shall relate the matter to the Lodge at its next Stated Meeting, and the Lodge shall then decide, by majority vote, whether or not further investigation shall be made. If the objection seems to the Master to be sufficient or to merit investigation, or if the Lodge shall so decide, the Master shall:

- A. Appoint a committee to inquire into the cause of the objection;
- B. Fix the time and place for its meeting;
- C. Have the objector and the applicant notified thereof; and
- D. Have Masons whose statements seem necessary or proper summoned to appear.

*[Amended: 2013, 2016.] [Source: Section 26250 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.540. COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE OBJECTION.**

The Committee appointed to resolve an objection shall meet at the time and place fixed. The Master shall be a non-voting member and chairman of the Committee. The Secretary, or a member appointed in his place, shall record the proceedings. The Committee may receive the statements of Masons or non-Masons in such manner as it determines. Any oral statements made shall be taken down in narrative or other form by the Secretary or, at the Master's option, by electronic recording. The Committee may adjourn from time to time and shall have complete charge of the investigation. It may hear the statements privately or in the presence of the objector and applicant or either of them. Neither shall be allowed any objection to the Committee or its methods. The Committee shall report at the next Stated Meeting, unless further time is given by the Master or the Lodge. The Committee's report shall state fully the cause of objection and its conclusions thereon. The statements upon which the report is based shall be read in the Lodge, if required. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26260 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.550. DECISION OF LODGE ON OBJECTION.**

After receiving the report from the Committee appointed to resolve the objection, the Lodge shall vote by ballot on whether or not the objection is valid and Masonic. If in the opinion of two-thirds of the members present, the objection is not a valid and Masonic one, the Lodge may confer the degree in the same manner as if no objection had been made, and the Master shall not allow the same objection to be made a second time. The decision is final and may not be reconsidered, and no appeal may be taken.

If the objection is found to be valid and Masonic, that part of the fee for the degree or degrees not taken by the applicant shall be returned to him. The candidate denied advancement shall have the status of one rejected for the unconferrred degrees. His status shall be reported to the Grand Secretary, and the time interval applying to other rejections of an application must elapse before a new application may be made for advancement. The application shall be made on the form approved by Grand Master and shall take the usual course of investigation and ballot.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 26270 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.560. OBJECTION BY A NON-MEMBER.**

A Lodge must give immediate attention to a proper objection made by another Lodge, a Mason of any Lodge or a non-Mason to the election for the degrees, initiation or advancement of an applicant or candidate. The Master should appoint a committee to investigate and report on the validity of the objection. If the committee determines that the objection is proper and valid, proceedings should be taken as provided for elsewhere in this Article as if the objection had been made by a Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Lodge. If the committee determines that the objection is not proper and valid, no further action is required.

*[Amended: 2013, 2016.] [Source: Section 26220 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.570. CONFERRAL OF DEGREE AFTER OBJECTION.**

If for any reason there is an erroneous conferral of a degree or degrees after an objection, the candidate retains the status reached but must wait one year and present an application for a higher degree or degrees. *[Added: 2012.]*

***ARTICLE 6 - CONFERRING OF DEGREES***

**§804.610. PRESENTATION FOR INITIATION.**

A candidate, elected to receive the degrees in a Constituent Lodge, shall present himself to be initiated within three months after election. Failure to do so shall have the effect of a rejection by ballot and shall be reported to the Grand Secretary, unless the Lodge shall direct otherwise. *[Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.620. ADVANCEMENT.**

A Lodge may advance an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to a higher degree only if:

- A. He has given satisfactory evidence, by examination in a tiled Lodge, that he is proficient and well qualified in the degrees which he has already taken. To demonstrate such proficiency, an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall only be required to recite from memory the obligation of each degree, together with the signs and modes of recognition of each degree. Any number of applicants may be examined at a meeting, but not more than five shall be examined at any one time with the questions being asked in rotation. Such examination shall be held in front of the East between the altar and the Master's station.
- B. He has completed the Basic Masonic Education Course in the degrees which he has already taken. He shall demonstrate such completion by:
  - 1. Answering in writing and in open book fashion the questions appertaining to each of the pamphlets of the Basic Masonic Education Course, as such questions and pamphlets may be promulgated from time to time by the Grand Master for this purpose. The candidate's written answers shall be approved by a committee of

three elective officers of the Lodge or three Past Masters of the Lodge or a combination thereof and shall be retained as a part of the Lodge records for a period of not less than one year, or

2. Completing the course of study, review, reflection and examination through the Candidate Learning Center as it may be promulgated from time to time by the Grand Master for this purpose. The candidate's results shall be retained in the Candidate Learning Center.

*[Amended: 2012; 2015.] [Source: Section 26340 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.630. LODGE MEMBERSHIP OF APPLICANTS FOR THE DEGREES.**

Membership in the Lodge to which a candidate has been elected to the degree of Master Mason shall commence as of the date of his raising. *[Amended: 2011; 2012.]*

#### **§804.640. INITIATION IN ANOTHER LODGE.**

An elected candidate of a Constituent Lodge may receive the Entered Apprentice degree in another Constituent Lodge, provided a:

- A. Request of the candidate for courtesy work is approved by a majority of the members present at a Stated Meeting of the Lodge in which he was elected; and
- B. Certified copy of the approval has been forwarded to the Grand Secretary and approved by the Grand Master or his designee.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26350 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.650. ADVANCEMENT, COACHING AND EXAMINATION IN ANOTHER LODGE.**

An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft of a Constituent Lodge may receive the remaining degree or degrees and coaching and examinations for proficiencies in any degree in another Constituent Lodge, provided a request of the candidate for courtesy work is approved by a majority of the members present at a Stated Meeting of the Lodge in which he was elected.

A member of a Constituent Lodge may receive coaching and examination for proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree in another Constituent Lodge, provided a request of the member for the coaching or examination is approved by a majority of the members present at a Stated Meeting of his Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26360 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.660. RECEIVING DEGREES IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION.**

An elected candidate of a Constituent Lodge may receive the Entered Apprentice degree in a Lodge in another Jurisdiction and an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of a Constituent Lodge may receive the remaining degree or degrees and coaching and examinations for proficiencies in any degree in a Lodge in another Jurisdiction, provided a:

- A. Request of the applicant for the courtesy work is approved by a majority of the members present at a Stated Meeting of the Lodge in which he was elected; and
- B. Certified copy of the approval has been forwarded to the Grand Secretary of this Jurisdiction and approved by the Grand Master of this Jurisdiction or his designee.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26370 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.670. COURTESY WORK FOR ANOTHER JURISDICTION.**

Any candidate elected to receive any or all of the degrees in a Lodge in another Jurisdiction recognized by this Jurisdiction may receive any or all of the degrees and the necessary coaching and examination for proficiency in a Constituent Lodge, provided the request of the candidate has been transmitted by the Grand Master or Grand Secretary of the other Jurisdiction to the Grand Secretary of this Jurisdiction and approved by the Grand Master of this Jurisdiction or his designee. No application, reference to investigating committee, ballot or fee shall be required in the Constituent Lodge conferring a courtesy degree, and the candidate shall not thereby become a member of the Lodge conferring the courtesy work. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 26380 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.680. CONFERRAL OF DEGREES IN THIS JURISDICTION BY ANOTHER JURISDICTION.**

After consultation with the Grand Lecturer and the Committee on Ritual, the Grand Master may grant a dispensation for a Constituent Lodge to invite a Lodge or a degree team from another Jurisdiction to confer a degree in the inviting Lodge upon a candidate, Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft from the inviting Lodge, or from the invited Jurisdiction, using the ritual of such other Jurisdiction. Any such invitation must be in writing and transmitted by the Grand Master or Grand Secretary of this Jurisdiction to the Grand Secretary of the invited Jurisdiction. A candidate from another Jurisdiction may receive a degree under this section as long as the requirements of Section 804.670 of this Code are followed. *[Amended: 2007; 2010; 2012.] [Source: Section 26385 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.685. CONFERRAL OF DEGREES IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION.**

After consultation with the Grand Lecturer and the Committee on Ritual, the Grand Master may grant dispensation for a Constituent Lodge to accept an invitation from a Lodge in another Jurisdiction to confer a degree in the inviting Lodge upon a candidate, Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft from the invited Lodge, or from the inviting Jurisdiction, using the ritual of this Jurisdiction. Any such invitation must be in writing and transmitted by the Grand Master or

Grand Secretary of the inviting Jurisdiction to the Grand Secretary of this Jurisdiction. An elected candidate of a Constituent Lodge may receive the Entered Apprentice degree under this section and an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of a Constituent Lodge may receive a degree under this section as long as the requirements of Section 804.660 of this Code are followed. *[Added: 2007; 2010; 2012.]*

#### **§804.690. FORFEITURE OF FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.**

When a candidate does not present himself qualified for the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees within a period of three years from the date of his initiation as an Entered Apprentice, the Master shall appoint a committee of two or more members of the Lodge to investigate and report back to the Master the reasons why the candidate has not presented himself for advancement. If the candidate does not supply any explanation satisfactory to the Lodge, the Master shall direct the Secretary to forward to such candidate by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, deposited in the U.S. Post Office, addressed to him at his last known address, a notice advising him that unless he shall present himself qualified for advancement, on or before a specified date (at least 60 days in advance), his fees for the unconferrred degrees and all of his previous contributions shall be declared forfeited.

On the date specified, the Master shall declare the fees and contributions forfeited unless further time shall have been granted by a vote of the Lodge.

A candidate thus denied advancement shall be considered only as an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of the Lodge with the right to apply for the remaining degree or degrees, and again paying the fees and contributions therefor, subject to investigation and election, the same as any other candidate.

*[Amended: 2007; 2010.] [Source: Section 26330 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### ***ARTICLE 7 –AFFILIATION***

#### **§804.710. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.**

An application for affiliation from an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft or a Master Mason shall be balloted upon with no requirement for investigation unless an objection is made by any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Lodge to a ballot without an investigation, in which case the application shall be referred to an investigating committee for a report using the same procedure as is provided for the investigation of an application for the degrees in Article 3 above.

*[Amended: 2016.] [Source: Section 26120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.720. OBJECTION BY A MEMBER BEFORE BALLOT.**

At any time after an application for the affiliation is received and before the ballot, objection to the applicant's election may be made orally or in writing by any Master Mason who is a member

in good standing of the Lodge privately to the Master. No ballot shall be taken unless the objection is withdrawn. The Investigating Committee need not be appointed, or if appointed need not act, unless the objection is withdrawn. If an objection is made, the Master shall report the fact to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting. If the objection is made at a Stated Meeting, the Master shall report the fact to the Lodge at that meeting. Unless the objection is withdrawn within 60 days of the Stated Meeting at which it was reported by the Master, such objection shall have the effect of a rejection by ballot and shall be reported to the Grand Secretary.

*[Amended: 2016.] [Source: Section 26230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.730. REQUIRED BALLOT.**

An applicant may affiliate with a Lodge only if so elected by a unanimous ballot using balls and cubes of the Lodge's members. Balloting shall be conducted using the same procedure as is provided for the election of an applicant for the degrees in Article 4 above, except that no Investigating Committee report shall be required unless otherwise provided in this Article 7. The Lodge shall vote on applications for advancement from Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts transferring from another Lodge in the same manner as it would on applications for affiliation by Master Masons. *[Source: Sections 23100 and 26190 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.740. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF MASTER MASONS BY AFFILIATION.**

Upon election to membership of an applicant for affiliation who is a member in good standing of another Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction and who desires to transfer his membership, the Secretary of the electing Lodge shall immediately complete and forward the Request for Demit to the applicant's Lodge. Membership in the electing Lodge shall commence as of the date of the issuance of the Demit. Dues shall commence, and be prorated, as of the first day of the next succeeding month. The receipt of the Demit and the date it was issued shall be reported to the Lodge by the Secretary at the next Stated Meeting.

Upon election to membership of an applicant for affiliation who is a member in good standing of another Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction and who desires to hold multiple membership, membership in the electing Lodge shall commence as of the date of the election and dues shall commence, and be prorated, as of the first of the month next succeeding.

Upon election to membership of an applicant for affiliation who is not then a member of any Lodge, membership in the electing Lodge shall commence as of the date of the election and dues shall commence, and be prorated, as of the first of the month next succeeding.

*[Amended: 2011.] [Source: Section 26050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§804.750. AFFILIATION BY ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS.**

Upon election of an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to receive his remaining degrees or degree, the Secretary of the electing Lodge shall immediately request a Demit from the first Lodge (if one has not already been issued). The effective date of the transfer shall be the date of the election in the electing Lodge. Dues shall commence, and be prorated, as of the first day of the next succeeding month.

*[Amended: 2012; 2015.] [Source: Section 23100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**ARTICLE 8 – RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MASONS**

**§804.810. GENERALLY.**

A Mason has all of the rights applicable to him in the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual, subject to the limitations applicable to demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Masons. Every Mason, including a demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Mason, is subject to all of the duties applicable to him in the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the Ritual.

**§804.815. RIGHT TO ATTEND MEETINGS.**

Except as otherwise provided in Section 807.020 of this Code, it is the right of every member of a Lodge at all times to be present and participate in its proceedings while he conducts himself with due order and propriety. For a breach of propriety, the Master may refuse him admission or exclude him. The Master should refuse admission to any member who presents himself in a state of intoxication. *[Amended: 2012.] [Source: Section 23080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§804.820. RIGHT TO BURIAL.**

It is the right of every Mason, other than a demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Mason, to a Masonic memorial service or interment with Masonic honors. The foregoing notwithstanding, a demitted Master Mason has the right to a Masonic memorial service or interment with Masonic honors if he dies within a year after receiving a Demit.

It is the duty of the Lodge to inter an eligible Mason of that Lodge, wherever he may have died, and an eligible Mason of another Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction who dies within the vicinity of the Lodge. If such deceased Mason's financial circumstances require it, the Lodge shall pay the necessary expenses of the interment, even if the deceased Mason's Lodge refuses to reimburse the Lodge for such expenses. The Lodge shall reimburse any other Lodge for the reasonable expenses incurred by it in suitably interring one of its deceased Masons. No Lodge shall fix in advance the amount to be paid for such interment.

When financial circumstances require it, it is also the duty of the Lodge to pay all the necessary expenses of the interment for one of its deceased member's widow and orphans dependent upon her and to reimburse any other Lodge for the reasonable expenses incurred by it in suitably interring them. No Lodge shall fix in advance the amount to be paid for such interment.

When financial circumstances require the Lodge to pay the necessary expenses of interment, the Charity Committee may draw upon the funds of the Lodge to pay only the necessary and required expenses for the interment of the decedent and then only in such amount as shall be determined appropriate in the discretion of the Charity Committee. Additionally, when financial circumstances require it, the Charity Committee may, in its discretion, pay only the necessary and required expenses for the interment of the deceased spouse, widow, child or orphan of a living or deceased Master Mason of the Lodge. These necessary and required interment expenses shall be limited to the basic itemized professional fees of a funeral home; the casket, urn or cremation container (and grave liner if required); a grave marker; and any additional necessary and required cash advance items. These interment expense payments are exempt from any expenditure limitations of this Code and any limitations in the standing resolution of the Lodge for charity expenditures. The Charity Committee shall provide a written report to the Secretary of the Lodge to authorize any such payments, signed by a majority of the members of the Charity Committee, upon receipt of which the Lodge Secretary shall execute as the agent of the Lodge any documentation required of the Lodge for a funeral and/or interment under these provisions.

The Charity Committee shall provide a written report to the Lodge of any and all of their actions under this section, signed by a majority of the members of the Charity Committee. Such report shall be presented by the Charity Committee at the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge and included with the minutes.

A Lodge may, in its discretion, conduct Masonic funeral or memorial services for a Mason of the Lodge suspended for non-payment of dues, if there is no other Masonic offense established against him, but it shall not pay the expenses of the interment.

*[Amended: 2012; 2014.] [Source: Section 28030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.825. DUTY TO OBEY MASONIC LAW.**

It is the duty of every Mason to obey the Masonic law, as established by the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry and the rights and duties contained in the Ritual.

#### **§804.830. DUTY TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP.**

It is the duty of every Master Mason to be a member of some Lodge. However, it is not a Masonic offense to hold a valid Demit. *[Source: Section 23040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.835. DUTY TO PROTECT THE ESOTERIC OR SECRET PORTION OF THE RITUAL.**

It is the duty of every Mason to protect from improper disclosure the esoteric or secret portion of the Ritual. A Mason may not reduce 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). A Mason may not possess, reproduce or distribute the esoteric or secret portion of the Ritual in any medium capable of being rendered into clearly intelligible form (other than in cipher).

A Mason may have Masonic Communication with Masons of a Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to this Grand Lodge or to a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge. Except as otherwise permitted in this Code, a Mason shall not have Masonic Communication with any other person, including a withdrawn, expelled or suspended Mason or a Mason who has held a Demit for more than one year.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 15040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.840. DUTY TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF LODGE TRANSACTIONS.**

It is the duty of every Mason to maintain the confidentiality of Lodge transactions. No proceeding of the Lodge not proper to be made public shall be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person not otherwise entitled to the same. Such confidential Lodge proceedings include any discussions or transactions which may have taken place on the rejection of an applicant for initiation or affiliation, or the reprimand, suspension or expulsion of a Mason.

*[Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§804.845. DUTY TO OBEY NOTICE.**

It is the duty of every Mason to comply with a notice if he can do so without great inconvenience. A notice may be written or printed and shall, when practicable, be personally served upon the Mason to be notified by the Tiler or some other Mason properly designated for the purpose. If personal service cannot conveniently be accomplished, the notice shall be left at the residence or usual place of business of the Mason, or be sent by first class mail to him at his usual address in a sealed envelope. If a notice is to be given to all members of a Lodge, it may be given by insertion in the Lodge bulletin or sent by United States mail.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Sections 23160 and 23170 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§804.850. DUTY TO OBEY SUMMONS.**

It is the duty of every Mason to obey a summons. This obligation is absolute and the penalty for disobedience shall be expulsion, unless it is shown that such disobedience was unavoidable or was occasioned by some pressing necessity. The summons shall be served on a Mason by:

- A. Personal delivery by the Tiler or some other member of the Lodge authorized by the Master;
- B. Being left with an adult occupant at his ordinary residence or with an adult employee at his place of business during regular business hours; or
- C. Being mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address as shown in the Lodge's records by the Secretary. Service by mail shall be presumed complete on depositing the documents in the mail in a sealed envelope with sufficient postage.

The Master Mason performing the service shall provide proof of service in the form of a Certificate of Service which is filed with the Secretary.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 23180 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.855. DUTY TO ATTEND FUNERAL.**

It is the duty of every member, Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft to attend the funeral of a deceased member of his Lodge or any other Master Mason residing within the vicinity of his Lodge at the time of death, if he can do so without great inconvenience. *[Amended: 2013.] Source: Section 28040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§804.860. ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OF AND PROHIBITIONS ON ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS.**

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft may sit in the Lodge in which he has received the degree or degrees, or in a Lodge with which he has affiliated, when open in a degree taken by him, while he conducts himself with due order and propriety. He may speak but may not vote on any matter coming before the Lodge. He may advance after satisfactorily passing a strict examination in a tiled Lodge. He may visit another Lodge working in a degree taken by him, with the consent of the Master of his Lodge and the consent of the Master of the Lodge visited, if accompanied by a Master Mason who has sat with him in a tiled Lodge and vouches for him.

He may attend Masonic Funeral Services and participate in the processions thereof and wear the white apron in a manner appropriate to his degree.

He may be buried with Masonic honors upon the request of his family, unless he was a demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Mason at the time of his death. Neither he nor his widow or orphans are entitled to relief from the Lodge.

He shall not exercise any control over Lodge funds for charity or for other purposes.

*[Amended: 2012; 2013.] [Source: Section 23090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 5 OFFICERS**

### **§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, 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.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2015.] [Source: Sections 19040, 23020 and 25180 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§805.020. PAST MASTERS.**

The title of Past Master applies only to a member who:

- A. Has been regularly elected or named in a Charter as Master of a chartered Lodge in this Jurisdiction (other than a Research Lodge or a Historic Lodge);
- B. Has been installed as Master of a chartered Lodge in this Jurisdiction (other than a Research Lodge or a Historic Lodge);
- C. Has served until the installation of his successor, except in the case of death or consolidation, as provided below, or has served until his own installation as Master of such Lodge for the subsequent year; and
- D. Is at the time in good standing in a Constituent Lodge.

If a Master resigns before the installation of his successor, he forfeits all right to the title of Past Master and to membership in Grand Lodge, unless otherwise qualified.

If a member has been regularly elected or named in a Charter and installed as Master of a chartered Lodge in this Jurisdiction and dies while serving as Master, he may by resolution of his Lodge be designated as a Past Master.

A member in good standing in a Constituent Lodge who has been regularly elected or named in a Charter and installed as Master of a chartered Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall have the title of Past Master, if the Lodge consolidated while he was serving as Master and he did not become Master of the consolidated Lodge.

A member in good standing in a Constituent Lodge who has been regularly elected or named in a Charter, installed as Master and served until the installation of his successor in a chartered Lodge in another Jurisdiction may take the honorary title of "Past Master," but he shall not thereby become a member of this Grand Lodge.

If Grand Lodge charters a Lodge formed by a Grand Body recognized by this Grand Lodge, it may by resolution provide that the title of Past Master shall apply to the Past Masters of such Lodge and entitle them to the rights and privileges of Past Masters of this Jurisdiction.

*[Amended: 2007; 2010; 2015.] [Source: Sections 25190 and 25200 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.030. COMPENSATION.**

No Lodge officer may receive compensation for his services as such, except as provided in Sections 805.230, 805.320, 805.330 and 809.550.F of this Code. *[Amended: 2011.]*

### ***ARTICLE 1 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE MASTER***

#### **§805.110. POWERS OF MASTER.**

The Master shall have power to:

- A. Congregate his Lodge whenever he deems it proper;
- B. Issue, or cause to be issued, all summonses or notices which may be required;
- C. Discharge all the executive functions of his Lodge; and
- D. Perform all such acts, by ancient usage proper to his office, which are not prohibited by this Code, the General Regulations of Masonry or the Ritual.

If any officer, elected or appointed, fails to qualify or neglects the performance of his duties, the Master shall remove him from office.

*[Source: Section 25130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.120. DUTIES OF MASTER.**

It shall be the duty of the Master to:

- A. Preside at all meetings of the Lodge;
- B. Confer or have conferred all degrees in strict accordance with the Ritual;
- C. Give, or have given, in full, the lectures appertaining to each degree, at the time it is conferred, in accordance with the Ritual;
- D. Appoint those officers as provided in Section 805.010 of this Code;
- E. Appoint an Auditing Committee and a Member Retention Committee at the Stated Meeting next succeeding his installation;
- F. Appoint a chairman to coordinate with any Grand Lodge program charged with Masonic education;
- G. Attest at each Stated Meeting of his Lodge all minutes or records of proceedings as approved at such meetings by the Lodge;
- H. Superintend the official acts of all the officers of his Lodge and to see that their respective duties are properly discharged;
- I. Carefully guard against any infraction, by the Masons of his Lodge, of its own Bylaws, the *California Masonic Code*, the General Regulations of Masonry or any of the rights or duties set forth in the Ritual; and
- J. Provide for the installation of his successor.

*[Amended: 2008; 2011; 2015; 2018.] [Source: Section 25140 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§805.130. DECISION OF MASTER.**

There shall be no appeal to the Lodge from any decision of the Master. Objections to a decision of the Master may be presented to the Grand Master and dealt with by him. *[Source: Section 25150 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§805.140. MASTER'S DECIDING VOTE.**

The Master shall have a regular vote in all matters before the Lodge. In case of a tie vote, he may also cast the deciding vote. *[Source: Section 25160 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 2 - DUTIES OF ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS**

### **§805.210. DUTIES OF WARDENS.**

It shall be the duty of the Wardens to assist the Master in the performance of his duties, and to discharge all those duties which ancient usage has assigned to their respective stations. During the absence of the Master, the Senior Warden, and in his absence the Junior Warden, shall succeed to and be charged with all the powers and duties of the Master. *[Source: Section 25210 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§805.220. DUTIES OF TREASURER.**

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

- A. Receive all monies from the Secretary and shall keep an accurate and just account thereof, giving his receipt therefor, and shall pay the same out only when an order is duly signed by the Master, countersigned by the Secretary, and approved by vote of the Lodge;
- B. Safely keep all monies, property and other assets of the Lodge, except to the extent they are entrusted to the Lodge Trustees by resolution, disburse or transfer the same, or any part thereof, upon the order of the Master, duly attested by the Secretary with the approval of the Lodge;
- C. Keep a book or books wherein a correct account of his receipts and disbursements shall be exhibited in detail, accounting for sources of income and expenditures, and all monies, property and other assets of the Lodge;
- D. Present to the Lodge at each Stated Meeting in August a comprehensive statement of the Lodge's income and expenditures, assets and liability, on a form promulgated by the Grand Master, for the six month period ending on the preceding June 30<sup>th</sup> and present at each February Stated Meeting a similar statement for the twelve month period ending on the preceding December 31<sup>st</sup>; and
- E. Perform such other duties, appertaining to his office, as the Bylaws of the Lodge or this Code may require or the Lodge may direct.

The Lodge may at any time when considered necessary cause the Treasurer to present an account of his receipts and disbursements, and of monies, property and other assets of the Lodge on hand.

*[Amended: 2014.] [Source: Sections 19040 and 25220 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§805.230. DUTIES OF SECRETARY.**

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- A. Record all proceedings at each meeting proper to be written, under the direction of the Master, and to transcribe the same in a minute book to be kept for that purpose, and at the next Stated Meeting to read the minutes to the Lodge and, after they are approved, to present them to the Master for his signature. After approval no change may be made except by appropriate motion properly recorded;
- B. Present to the Lodge at each August Stated Meeting, a statement of income from dues, fees and contributions and the payment of receipts to the Secretary and a comprehensive statement of membership activity transactions, on a form promulgated by the Grand Master, for the six months ending on the preceding June 30th, and at each February Stated Meeting similar statements for the twelve months ending on the preceding December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>. The Secretary shall also submit a copy of the Treasurer's twelve month statement to the Inspector of the district to which the Lodge is assigned and to the Grand Master on or before the following March 15th;
- C. Prepare and transmit a copy of such record, or of any part thereof, to Grand Lodge, when required;
- D. Receive all monies due the Lodge, and pay the same monthly or more frequently as necessary, to the Treasurer; or shall deposit the same not less frequently than monthly to the credit of the Treasurer of the Lodge, in some bank or trust company designated by the Lodge, taking duplicate deposit tags or receipts therefor, one to be immediately delivered to the Treasurer, the other to be kept by the Secretary as a voucher;
- E. Keep the seal of the Lodge and affix it with his attestation to all papers issued under its authority or in obedience to all the requirements of this Code;
- F. Transmit a Certificate of Election, accompanied by a copy of the dispensation, if required, when the election is held at a time other than prescribed, to the Grand Secretary, immediately after each election in the Lodge;
- G. Transmit reports to the Grand Secretary in such form and with such frequency as the Grand Secretary shall determine, but in no event more frequently than monthly nor less frequently than annually;
- H. Transmit with the annual report to the Grand Secretary the number of life members, the amount of the fund thus created, and the manner in which the fund is invested;
- I. Transmit with the annual returns to the Grand Secretary the names, dates of initiation, passing and raising, and the dates of death of all permanent members of Grand Lodge;
- J. Report all rejections for the degrees, demits, withdrawals, expulsions, suspensions, and restorations to the Grand Secretary, immediately after their occurrence, in the forms provided;

- K. Promptly notify an applicant who is not elected in writing of his rejection, and refund all those fees and contributions paid which are refundable under this Code;
- L. Send the required notification to those Masons of the Lodge who are delinquent in their dues and notify all Masons of the Lodge at least annually of the consequences of not being in good standing;
- M. Keep, in such form as may be provided, the following books of the Lodge;
  - 1. A minute book, in which he shall record all the transactions of the Lodge proper to be written of all Stated and Special Meetings;
  - 2. A book of Bylaws, for the signatures of the members in the order of their admission, in which he shall see that each member signs his name in full, or if such member cannot sign his full name, then his mark attested to by two members of the Lodge other than the Secretary. All entries shall be in ink or other permanent writing;
  - 3. A roll book, in which he shall record, upon pages alphabetically arranged, the:
    - a. Full name or names of all Masons of the Lodge;
    - b. Dates of their initiation, passing, raising, or affiliation;
    - c. Name, number and location of the Lodges of which those affiliated last were Masons;
    - d. Age and occupation of each when received; and
    - e. Dates of their withdrawal, expulsion, suspension, death, or restoration;
  - 4. A register, to be kept in the Tiler's room, in which all Masons of the Lodge and all visiting Masons of other Lodges shall record their names, and the names, numbers, and locations of their respective Lodges, before entering the Lodge. All entries shall be in ink or other permanent writing; and
  - 5. A set of such account books as may be necessary to present clearly:
    - a. The account of each Mason with the Lodge;
    - b. The receipts of the Secretary which provide a clear and permanent record of all monies received and from whom received with accounts outstanding, if any;
    - c. His payments to the Treasurer;

- N. Preserve the *California Masonic Code* which may from time to time be published, together with all the printed proceedings; and
- O. Perform such other duties, appertaining to his office, as the Bylaws of the Lodge or this Code may require or the Lodge may direct.

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

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

*[Amended: 2009; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015.] [Source: Sections 19030, 19040 and 25230 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **ARTICLE 3 - DUTIES OF APPOINTED LODGE OFFICERS**

#### **§805.310. DUTIES OF APPOINTED OFFICERS GENERALLY.**

The appointive officers shall perform such duties consistent with the usages of the Craft and relating to their respective offices as may be required by this Code or as may be directed by the Master. *[Source: Section 25240 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.320. DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**

If the office of Assistant Secretary is authorized by the Lodge, that officer shall assist the Secretary in the performance of all of his duties. The Assistant Secretary shall receive such compensation for his services as the Lodge may direct. *[Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.330. DUTIES OF THE TILER.**

The Tiler, in addition to the necessary duties of his office, shall serve all notices and summonses and perform such other services as may be required of him by the Lodge. He shall receive such compensation for his services as the Lodge may direct. *[Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **ARTICLE 4 – SELECTION OF THE LODGE OFFICERS**

#### **§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. 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.

*[Source: Sections 25010 and 25060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.420. FAILURE TO HOLD ANNUAL ELECTION.**

If any Lodge fails to hold the annual election of officers on the day fixed or one or more officers were not elected at that time, an application shall promptly be made by the Lodge requesting the Inspector or Grand Master to issue a dispensation to hold the election at another time. *[Source: Section 25020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.430. APPOINTED OFFICERS.**

All appointive Lodge officers shall be appointed by the Master-elect before the Lodge's installation. *[Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### ***ARTICLE 5 – INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS***

#### **§805.510. INSTALLATION.**

Lodge officers, including incumbents succeeding themselves in office, shall be installed as soon as is practical after their election or appointment. There can be no installation by proxy. The installation may be private or public. Two Lodges may participate in a joint installation.

Lodge officers shall be installed using the Installation Ceremony for Constituent Lodges, with the Master serving as the Installing Officer. Alternatively, by invitation of the Master, the Installing Officer may be any qualified Past Master of any Jurisdiction. It is not the privilege of the Master-elect to select the Installing Officer or in any way interfere with the duty and privilege of the Master to install his successor in office, if he so chooses. If the Installing Officer is a Past Master, the Master or a Warden of the Lodge must be present.

Lodge officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors have been duly elected or appointed and installed.

*[Source: Section 25120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§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;
- B. He has received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree; and
- C. He is proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

*[Amended: 2008; 2013.] [Source: Sections 25070 and 25120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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;
- B. He has received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree; and
- C. He is proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

*[Amended: 2008; 2013.] [Source: Sections 25080 and 25120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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;
- B. He has received a Certificate of Proficiency in the Candidate's Lecture of the Master Mason Degree; and
- C. He is proficient in those portions of this Code that relate to the government of a Lodge.

*[Amended: 2008; 2013.] [Source: Sections 25090 and 25120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§805.550. CONDITIONS TO INSTALLATION OF A SENIOR DEACON.**

Before a member can be installed as Senior Deacon, 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 he has personally examined the member appointed as Senior Deacon and that the member is duly qualified to give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees and the Senior Deacon's lecture of the Fellow Craft Degree.

*[Amended: 2008; 2013.] [Source: Sections 25100 and 25120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§805.560. FAILURE TO QUALIFY OR APPEAR FOR INSTALLATION.**

If the Master-elect or a Warden-elect is not installed within 90 days of his election because he failed to present himself for installation or he failed to procure the necessary Certificate of Qualification, the Lodge shall apply to the Inspector or Grand Master at its next Stated Meeting to issue a dispensation to hold an election for such office. The member elected under the dispensation shall not be the one who had been previously elected. If the member has not been installed solely because he failed to procure the necessary Certificate of Qualification in time, the Inspector may, for good cause, grant additional time to procure the Certificate of Qualification without a dispensation.

*[Source: Section 25110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**ARTICLE 6 – VACANCIES IN LODGE OFFICES**

**§805.610. VACANCY IN OFFICE.**

An office becomes vacant by death, removal by the Master, resignation, removal from the Jurisdiction, ceasing to be a member in good standing of the Lodge (if such office must be filled by a member of the Lodge) or suspension or expulsion as a Mason. An office also becomes vacant when the holder is installed in another Lodge office. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 25030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§805.620. VACANCY IN ELECTED OFFICE.**

If an elected office becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by election and no dispensation shall be required. Until the election and installation of another Master, the Senior Warden, if available and if not the Junior Warden, succeeds to the powers and duties of the Master and acts as Master. Until the election and installation of another Treasurer, the Master shall be the custodian of all monies, property and other assets of the Lodge that are not entrusted to Trustees. Until the election and installation of another Secretary, the Master may appoint a qualified member of the Lodge to act as Secretary.

*[Amended: 2011; 2015.] [Source: Sections 25020 and 25050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§805.630. VACANCY IN APPOINTED OFFICE.**

If an appointed office becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by the Master for the unexpired portion of the current term. *[Source: Section 25040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§805.640. SUSPENSION OF MASTER.**

The Grand Master may suspend the Master of any chartered Lodge from the exercise of the powers and duties of the office until the next Annual Communication for neglect or violation of any duty imposed upon him as Master. The suspension of the Master is a temporary deprivation of his office and prohibits all recognition of him in that capacity until he is restored. During his suspension, the Senior Warden, if available and if not the Junior Warden, succeeds to the powers and duties of the Master and acts as Master.

In the case of a Lodge under dispensation, the Grand Master may remove the Master and appoint another qualified member as Master.

*[Source: Sections 1050 and 25170 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 6 COMMITTEES**

### **§806.000. COMMITTEES.**

- A. The Master and Wardens shall be a Charity Committee, and shall have the power to draw upon the funds of the Lodge for any sum, not exceeding \$100 at any one time (or such greater amount as the Lodge may from time to time provide by a standing resolution), for the relief of a distressed worthy Mason and the wife, widow or orphan of a Master Mason.
- B. The Master, at the Stated Meeting next succeeding his installation, shall appoint an Auditing Committee, whose duty it shall be to examine all accounts presented against the Lodge and the books and records of the Treasurer and Secretary. Neither the Treasurer nor Secretary may serve on the Audit Committee.
- C. The Master, at the Stated Meeting next succeeding his installation, shall appoint a Member Retention Committee to personally, or otherwise, interview each delinquent Mason, ascertain the cause, and work closely with the Master and officers in a continuing effort to effect the retention of all worthy brothers unable to pay.
- D. The Lodge may have such other committees as the Master or the Lodge may deem proper to appoint. All committees shall be appointed by the Master, unless the Lodge provides otherwise.
- E. All reports of committees shall be in writing.
- F. Only members of the Lodge in good standing may serve on a Lodge's committees.

*[Amended: 2008; 2010; 2012; 2014; 2015.] [Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 7 MEETINGS**

### **§807.000. STATED MEETINGS.**

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

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

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

In the event that the Master of a Lodge determines that inclement weather, including but not limited to ice, snow, and flood conditions, or non-weather related unsafe conditions, including but not limited to flood, fire, earthquake, civil disturbance and the like, existing on the day established in the Bylaws of the Lodge for its Stated Meeting, makes it hazardous for members of the Lodge to attend the meeting, he may, with the concurrence and consent of the Inspector of the district to which the Lodge is assigned, postpone the Stated Meeting to the same day of the week next following the week scheduled for the Stated Meeting. The Master shall notify, to the extent possible, all members of the Lodge residing within fifty miles of the meeting place of the Lodge of the date of the postponed Stated Meeting.

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

*[Amended: 2015; 2017; 2018.] [Source: Sections 16010, 16030 and 16100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§807.010. SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

Except as provided in Section 807.020 of this Code, a Lodge may hold such Special Meetings in addition to its Stated Meeting on such dates and at such times as it determines or the Master shall direct. No Special Meeting shall be held on the same day as a Stated Meeting. A postponed Stated Meeting shall not be considered to be a Special Meeting.

Only the following business may be conducted at a Special Meeting:

- A. Collections or appropriations for charity;
- B. Examining a candidate in the Candidate's Lecture of any degree;
- C. Conferring of degrees;
- D. Funeral service;
- E. Installation;
- F. Electing a representative to the Annual or a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge;  
or

- G. After dispensation from the Grand Master:
1. Balloting for and conferring the degrees upon an applicant without reference to a committee, or
  2. Receiving and acting upon the application of a rejected applicant within less than 12 months after the date of his rejection.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2013.] [Source: Sections 16010 and 16040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§807.020. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO MEETINGS.**

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

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

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015.] [Source: Sections 16000, 16010, 16020, 16070, 16080, 16090, 16100 and 16140 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§807.030. ORDER OF BUSINESS AT STATED MEETINGS.**

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

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

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

*[Source: Sections 19020 and 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§807.040. MEETING PLACE.**

- A. All Stated Meetings shall be held at the Lodge's meeting place. The Lodge's meeting place shall be any safe and suitable room for tiled Lodge meetings (as determined by the Inspector of the district in which the Lodge is situated) which has been previously selected by the Lodge and which is located in the city, town or community fixed by its Charter or Dispensation. Special Meetings may be held in the Lodge's meeting place or in:
1. the Lodge rooms at the Masonic Homes at Union City and Covina;
  2. the Lodge room at the Masonic Hall at Columbia;
  3. the Lodge room at the First Masonic Hall erected in California at Benicia;
  4. the Lodge room at the Quitman Masonic Hall in the Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park;
  5. the Lodge room at the Old Masonic Hall in El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Monument at Los Angeles; or
  6. any other safe and suitable room or place in the open for a tiled Lodge meeting, approved by the Inspector of the district wherein such room or place is located in a dispensation issued for that purpose.
- B. An open Installation of Officers may be held in a place other than the Lodge's meeting place, provided that the distance from the Lodge's meeting place is not excessive and that the Lodge first opens in its meeting place.

*[Source: Section 16050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§807.050. CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE.**

- A Lodge may permanently move its meeting place from the previously selected place only after:
- A. Obtaining a determination by the Inspector of the district in which the Lodge is situated that the proposed meeting place is a safe and suitable room for a tiled Lodge meeting;
  - B. Giving notification at a Stated Meeting that a written resolution for such move will be offered at the next succeeding Stated Meeting;
  - C. Adopting such resolution by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at such succeeding Stated Meeting; and

- D. Obtaining the approval of the Grand Master.

In the case of removal to a city, town or community other than that named in the Lodge's Charter, the Charter shall be amended using the procedure set forth in Section 802.015 of this Code. In the case of removal to a city, town or community other than that named in the Lodge's Dispensation, the Grand Master shall make an appropriate endorsement to the Lodge's Dispensation when he approves the meeting place change.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 16110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§807.060. MULTIPLE MEETING PLACES.**

A Lodge may hold its Stated Meetings in more than one place, including locations not in the city, town or community fixed by its Charter or Dispensation, if the Lodge has satisfied the following procedure:

- A. Obtaining a determination by the Inspector of the district in which the Lodge is situated that each proposed, alternate meeting place is a safe and suitable room for a tiled Lodge meeting;
- B. Giving notification at a Stated Meeting that a written resolution to authorize multiple meeting places will be offered at the next succeeding Stated Meeting;
- C. Adopting such resolution by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at such succeeding Stated Meeting; and
- D. Obtaining the approval of the Grand Master.

Once this procedure has been satisfied, a Lodge may hold a Stated Meeting at one of the additional meeting places approved by such resolution if written notice shall have been given to each Lodge member of the date and location of such meeting. If the written notice has not been given with respect to the location of a particular Stated Meeting, that Stated Meeting shall be held in the approved room in the city, town or community fixed by the Lodge's Charter or Dispensation.

So long as one of the approved Lodge meeting places is in the city, town or community fixed by the Lodge's Charter or Dispensation, no change to the Charter or Dispensation shall be required. In the event that no proposed Lodge meeting place is in a city, town or community named in the Lodge's Charter, the Charter shall be amended using the procedure set forth in Section 802.015 of this Code. In the event that no proposed Lodge meeting place is in a city, town or community named in the Lodge's Dispensation, the Grand Master shall make an appropriate endorsement to the Lodge's Dispensation when he approves the meeting place change.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 16115 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§807.070. UNSAFE OR UNSUITABLE MEETING PLACE.**

In the event that a Lodge's meeting place becomes unsafe or unsuitable for tiled Lodge meetings, the Grand Master, upon written application of the Master of the Lodge or the Inspector assigned to the Lodge stating the facts, may issue a dispensation to the Lodge to hold Stated and Special Meetings in another place which is safe and suitable for such period of time and subject to such conditions and notice to the members of the Lodge as the Grand Master may prescribe in the dispensation.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 16060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§807.080. MANNER OF VOTING.**

All questions in a Lodge, except as otherwise provided in this Code, shall be decided either by a voice vote, by hand or by a rising vote, unless, before the announcement of the result thereof, three members shall demand that the vote be taken by ballot, in which event it shall be thus taken. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present except as otherwise provided in this Code. *[Source: Section 17010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§807.090. TILER'S VOTE.**

The Tiler, if a member of the Lodge, has the privilege of debating and voting on questions before the Lodge and balloting on applications. If the Tiler so requests, the Master shall direct that he be relieved of his duties as Tiler for such purposes. *[Source: Section 17020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 8  
VISITATION**

**§808.010. VISITATION.**

A Mason's attendance at a meeting of a Lodge other than his own is not a right but a privilege. A Master Mason in good standing may request permission to attend which the Master or presiding officer of the Lodge may grant or refuse.

Before visiting another Lodge, a Master Mason shall satisfy himself of its lawful authority. The Lodge is required to show a visitor its Charter or Dispensation if requested to do so. Before admitting a visitor, the Master or presiding officer of the Lodge visited shall satisfy himself that each visitor is a Mason and that each visiting Master Mason has in his possession written evidence under the seal of his Lodge showing that he is in good standing. A visitor shall prove that he is a Mason by an examination or avouchment.

A record of visitors shall be maintained by each Lodge on forms prescribed by Grand Lodge.

The Master may ask visitors to retire at any time and should do so when controversial, delicate or sensitive matters are under discussion.

*[Source: Sections 24010 and 24030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§808.020. EXAMINATION OF VISITORS.**

Unless a visitor is vouched for by a Master Mason in good standing, known as such to the Master or presiding officer of the Lodge visited, the Lodge shall make due inquiry or individual examination of the visitor before admitting him. *[Source: Section 24030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§808.030. AVOUCHMENT FOR VISITOR.**

A visitor may be vouched for only by a Master Mason in good standing, known as such to the Master or presiding officer of the Lodge visited. To vouch for a visiting Mason, a Master Mason must have sat with him in a tiled Lodge or in a tiled School of Instruction or examined him under the authority of the Master or presiding officer of the Lodge visited. A member of one Lodge who has sat in a tiled Lodge or in a tiled School of Instruction with the visitor can vouch for the visitor to a member of any other Lodge, all three being present. The member to whom such avouchment is made can then vouch for the visiting Mason to the Master or presiding officer of his Lodge.

Members of Constituent Lodges shall not vouch for any member of any unrecognized Grand Lodge or its Constituent Lodges to gain admission to a Constituent Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 24040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§808.040. OBJECTION TO VISITOR.**

A visitor shall not be admitted if, in the opinion of the Master, there is a valid objection to the admission by a member of the Lodge. The objection shall be made privately to the Master, stating the reason therefor. The Master's decision shall be governed by his discretion and is final. He shall not disclose to the visitor, any member, or any other person the name of the member objecting, but he shall privately inform the visitor that a member objects. *[Source: Section 24020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **CHAPTER 9 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **§809.000. LODGE FISCAL YEAR.**

For financial reporting and budgeting purposes, a Lodge shall use a fiscal year beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on the following December 31<sup>st</sup>. *[Added: 2009.]*

## *ARTICLE 1 – LODGE ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS*

### **§809.110. POWER AND CONTROL OVER LODGE ASSETS.**

A Lodge must retain control of and hold title to keep all monies, property and other assets of the Lodge with the power to acquire, mortgage, sell and convey property and to invest and reinvest its funds, except as follows:

- A. A Lodge may create a Trust and elect a minimum of three and a maximum of seven designated members of the Lodge to serve as trustees who shall hold, manage and distribute those Lodges assets delivered to them in trust, as follows:
1. Title to all assets to be held as part of the Trust Estate shall be in the name of the Lodge or a nominee for the benefit of the Lodge, as provided in this section;
  2. All net income earned shall be reinvested as part of the Trust Estate;
  3. The Trust Estate or any portion of it shall be distributed from time to time only as the Lodge may direct;
  4. The Trustees shall have the power to acquire, mortgage, sell and convey property comprising the Trust Estate and shall have the power to invest and reinvest the Trust Estate, if done strictly in accordance with Section 809.130 of this Code and other investment guidelines established from time to time by the Lodge;
  5. The term of office of a Trustee shall be a minimum of three and a maximum of five years, and the terms shall be staggered so that the terms of office of no more than two Trustees shall expire in the same year. A Trustee who has served as such for two consecutive terms shall not be eligible for election as a Trustee until the lapse of one year. The terms of office of Trustees shall expire at the November Stated Meeting, at which Trustees shall be elected to succeed those Trustees whose terms of office have then expired. Trustees in office may be removed at any time. Any vacancy in a Trustee's position may be filled by the Lodge. No member may be elected or continue in office as a Trustee if he acts as trustee under any other trust agreement by the terms of which the Lodge has a present or future interest, whether direct or indirect;
  6. This Trust may be revoked at any time by the Lodge;
  7. The Trustees shall act by majority vote;
  8. The Trustees shall keep books in which all financial transactions of the trust are correctly and plainly set forth. They shall render complete written statements of receipts and disbursements made by them, with vouchers, semiannually at the stated meeting of the Lodge in August and February in each year;

9. The Trustees shall serve without compensation and without bond;
  10. The Trustees shall at all times be governed by all pertinent provisions of the *California Masonic Code* and, where such Code is silent, by the laws of the State of California; and
  11. The Lodge shall exercise its rights under this Trust pursuant to the authorization of a majority of the members of the Lodge present at any duly called meeting of the Lodge at which a quorum is present, such authorization to be conclusively presumed by written instruments, executed by the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Lodge;
- B. All Lodge's investments (other than cash, cash equivalents, checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit and shares of stock or memberships in a Masonic Hall Association) not administered by trustees as provided in paragraph A above shall be administered by an investment committee appointed by the Master. Title to all assets to be administered by the Lodge investment committee shall be in the name of the Lodge or a nominee for the benefit of the Lodge, as provided in this section. The Lodge investment committee shall have the power to invest and reinvest the assets to be administered by it, if done strictly in accordance with Section 809.130 of this Code and other investment guidelines established from time to time by the Lodge. The foregoing notwithstanding, a Lodge may, at its option, retain Grand Lodge to invest and administer its Life Membership Fund on behalf of the Lodge, as provided in Section 809.150 of this Code and all or a portion of the balance of its investment funds in accordance with Section 809.130 of this Code;
- C. Lodge assets may be held in the name of a nominee or in the name of a custodian nominee as the depository for such securities or in the name of the Lodge in bank or trust company safe deposit vaults, all as selected by the Lodge. A nominee shall always be a bank or trust company chartered by the United States of America or the State of California or a securities brokerage firm covered by Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC); and
- D. A Chartered Lodge may, after receiving consent from the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties, cause the incorporation of a Masonic Hall Association for the purpose of purchasing, erecting or maintaining and holding title to real estate for a building for Lodge uses and purposes and invest Lodge assets in such corporation. A Lodge or Lodges may hold shares of stock or memberships in such corporation. Space in such building may be rented for commercial and other uses consistent with the purposes of the Lodge or the corporation and not in violation of this Code.

A Lodge shall not incorporate itself. A Lodge shall not establish or form a foundation, trust, corporation or other entity separate from the Lodge with power to receive, hold, administer, invest or reinvest Lodge assets, except as otherwise provided in this section.

A Lodge shall not sell any Lodge assets for less than their fair market value.

*[Amended: 2008; 2012; 2013; 2015.] [Source: Sections 21010 and 21040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§809.120. LODGE REVOLVING FUNDS.**

A Lodge may establish two revolving funds. One such fund, consisting of not more than \$500, may be established for the use of its Stewards or Junior Warden, as the Master may determine, in providing refreshments for all regular Lodge functions. One such fund, consisting of not more than \$500, may be established for the use of its Secretary for his incidental expenses. Each such revolving fund may be replenished monthly on presentation of receipted vouchers and shall remain subject to provisions of this Code.

*[Source: Section 21020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§809.130. LODGE INVESTMENTS.**

Exclusive of a Lodge investment in an incorporated Masonic Hall Association or any Lodge revolving funds, a Lodge may invest its funds only as provided in this section. The Lodge's investments allowed under this section (other than cash, cash equivalents, checking accounts, savings accounts and certificates of deposit) shall be administered either by an investment committee appointed by the Master or by trustees as provided in Section 809.110 of this Code. No investment committee or trustee administration shall be required for the Lodge's cash, cash equivalents, checking accounts, savings accounts or certificates of deposit.

Lodge funds shall be invested with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, including, but not limited to, the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of the Lodge, that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims to accomplish the purposes of the Lodge.

Through the Lodge investment committee or trustees, the Lodge shall confer and counsel as to any proposed or contemplated investments under this section with a Registered Investment Advisor of its choice. A Lodge may freely choose to accept or reject any and all recommendations made to it by the Advisor. Alternatively, a Lodge may retain a Registered Investment Advisor operating as an investment manager who offers standardized portfolios through a managed investment account.

A Lodge may invest its assets, exclusive of Lodge Masonic property, Lodge Masonic Hall Association securities, Life Membership Fund and Lodge revolving funds, as follows:

- A. Not less than 20% of the Lodge's assets subject to investment under this section, as valued at the time of deposit or purchase (and disregarding any automatic reinvestments of income or gains), must be invested in:
1. Tier 1 (Cash Reserves). The lesser of 8% of the Lodge's assets subject to investment under this Section 809.130 or two times the Lodge's average annual expenditures over the prior three full calendar years must be invested in:
    - a. Cash or cash equivalents,
    - b. Money market funds or accounts,
    - c. Checking accounts or savings accounts of depository institutions to the extent fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund,
    - d. Certificates of Deposit with maturities of less than two years to the extent fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund,
    - e. Obligations of the United States Government or obligations whose payment is pledged by the full faith and credit of the United States Government with maturities of less than three years, or
    - f. Investment companies or investment trusts that invest in the above referenced financial instruments;
  2. Tier 2 (Fixed Income): The balance of the 20% investment minimum under this paragraph A may be invested in:
    - a. Cash or cash equivalents,
    - b. Money market funds or accounts,
    - c. Checking accounts or savings accounts of depository institutions to the extent fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund,
    - d. Certificates of Deposit without regard to maturities to the extent fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund,
    - e. Obligations of the United States Government or obligations whose payment is pledged by the full faith and credit of the United States Government without regard to maturities,

- f. Corporate notes and bonds that are at least investment grade and are fully registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and whose issuers have a market capitalization of at least \$500 million,
  - g. Mortgage-Backed Securities,
  - h. Commercial Paper that is at least investment grade,
  - i. Banker's Acceptances,
  - j. Investment companies or investment trusts that invest in the above referenced financial instruments, or
  - k. Such other prudent and appropriate investments as may be approved from time to time by the Grand Master after consultation with the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Lodge Committee on Investments.
- B. Tier 3 (Growth Assets). No more than 80% of the Lodge's assets subject to investment under this section, as valued at the time of deposit or purchase (and disregarding any automatic reinvestments of income or gains), may be invested in:
- 1. Common stocks which must be fully registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and whose issuers have a market capitalization of at least \$500 million;
  - 2. Preferred stocks;
  - 3. Master Limited Partnerships;
  - 4. Convertible Notes and Bonds;
  - 5. Convertible Preferred Stocks;
  - 6. ADRs (American Depository Receipts) of non-U.S. companies;
  - 7. Publicly traded REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts);
  - 8. Investment companies or investment trusts that invest in the above referenced financial instruments; or
  - 9. Such other prudent and appropriate investments as may be approved from time to time by the Grand Master after consultation with the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Lodge Committee on Investments.

A Lodge may only invest its Life Membership Fund in cash equivalents, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, investment grade bonds and conservative growth investments which are

designed for total return (defined as any investment returns, including capital gains/appreciation and losses/depreciation – realized or unrealized – and all dividends and interest). A Lodge's Life Membership Fund may not be used to secure or fund any loan to a Lodge or Hall Association, nor may it be used as collateral for a mortgage or promissory note to or for the benefit of any entity or person.

Upon the recommendation of the Lodge trustees or investment committee, a Lodge may, at its option, at any time and from time to time retain the Grand Lodge to manage on behalf of the Lodge the investment and administration of such portion of the Lodge's investment funds as the Lodge may designate when taking such action. Such action must be taken at a Stated Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Such proposed action must be presented, in writing, at a preceding Stated Meeting and written notice must be given to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed action and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken. It shall have no effect until approved by the Grand Master. The Secretary of the Lodge shall note in the minutes of the Lodge the notice of the proposed action when made. When transmitting the action to the Grand Master for approval, he shall forward a certificate, under seal, showing that the law has been complied with and that the action has received the required two-thirds vote.

Upon approval by the Grand Master, the Lodge shall transfer the designated portion of its investment funds to the Grand Treasurer, to be placed in the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund. The Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund shall be physically segregated from all other funds, investments and assets of the Grand Lodge and shall be invested and administered by the Grand Lodge as provided in this Code for a Lodge investment fund. Tier 1 assets must be kept separate and may not be transferred to the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund.

The Grand Treasurer may pool all Constituent Lodge funds under its management as one common fund for investment purposes, provided that there is a separate accounting and valuation of each individual participating Lodge's funds at least semi-annually.

The Grand Lodge shall distribute to each participating Lodge such portion of its separate share of the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund as may be requested by the Lodge's Secretary and Treasurer in writing. Distributions to the Lodge from the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund may be made as often as quarterly.

A Lodge may terminate Grand Lodge's management of the investment and administration of its Lodge's investment funds by a majority vote of the members present at a Stated Meeting; and the Secretary shall note the same in the minutes of the Lodge and forward a certificate, under seal, notifying the Grand Secretary of this action, whereupon the Grand Treasurer shall return to the Lodge its full interest in the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund at the end of the following month.

No Lodge shall be required to participate in the Grand Lodge Constituent Lodge Trust Fund administered by the Grand Lodge. A Lodge shall not invest any of its funds in any manner or

obligate itself in any way for the purpose of acquiring land or building a Masonic hall except upon compliance with the provisions of this Code.

With the consent of the Grand Master, a lodge or lodges may invest in a building association, wherein the Grand Lodge holds a majority of memberships or shares, upon such terms as the Grand Master may direct.

*[Amended: 2008; 2010; 2013; 2015, 2016; 2018.] [Source: Sections 21010 and 21030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§809.140. INVESTMENT IN MASONIC HALL ASSOCIATIONS.**

A Lodge, after first obtaining the consent of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties, may also invest its funds in or maintain an investment in:

- A. Memberships or shares in a Masonic Hall Association wherein a Lodge or Lodges collectively hold a majority of memberships or shares or when a controlling interest is acquired by such investment. The Masonic Hall Association shall be one that:
  - 1. Owns real estate embracing a building suitable for the occupancy in whole or in part by a Lodge;
  - 2. Owns land upon which it is proposed to erect such a building;
  - 3. Is formed for the purpose of acquiring such real estate or building; or
  - 4. Owns such other investments in real property which have received the specific approval of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties; and
- B. A loan evidenced by:
  - 1. A duly executed promissory note amply secured by a first lien against property of a class described under paragraphs A.1 or A.2; or
  - 2. A promissory note duly executed by a Masonic Hall Association in which the Lodge owns a controlling interest.

*[Source: Section 22020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§809.150. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.**

- A. All amounts paid for a life membership shall constitute a permanent Life Membership Fund, which shall be segregated into one or more accounts which are separate from all other Lodge funds, investments and assets.

- B. A Lodge may only invest its Life Membership Fund as provided in Section 809.130 of this Code.
- C. A Lodge may make withdrawals from its Life Membership Fund for the general use of the Lodge in the following manner only:
1. The December 31<sup>st</sup> value of the Lodge's Life Membership Fund for each of the prior three years shall be averaged together. The maximum allowable withdrawal during the calendar year shall be 4.0% of that averaged value, except as follows:
    - a. If the Life Membership Fund of a Lodge has existed for less than three complete calendar years, but for at least one complete calendar year, the December 31<sup>st</sup> value for each year in which the Fund was in existence shall be averaged together. The maximum allowable withdrawal during the calendar year shall be 4.0% of that averaged value; and
    - b. If the Life Membership Fund of a Lodge was created in the prior calendar year, the maximum allowable withdrawal during the calendar year shall be 4.0% of the value on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior calendar year; and
    - c. If the Life Membership Fund of a Lodge was created during the current calendar year, no withdrawals may be made during the calendar year;
  2. Lodge withdrawals from its Life Membership Fund during each calendar year may be made in one or more increments, provided that the total withdrawal for the calendar year does not exceed the maximum allowable withdrawal as calculated in paragraph 1 above. If a Lodge fails to withdraw any or all of the amount to which it would have otherwise been entitled during a calendar year, then it shall be prohibited from taking that withdrawal in any subsequent year; and
  3. Permissible withdrawals under this section shall be transferred to the Lodge's bank or other investment accounts for the general use of the Lodge.

The Grand Secretary shall provide the Lodges with a form which may be used to make the calculations described above.

No Lodge is obligated to take withdrawals from its Life Membership Fund.

- D. Upon the recommendation of the Lodge trustees or investment committee, a Lodge may, at its option, retain the Grand Lodge to manage the investment and administration of its Life Membership Fund on behalf of the Lodge. Such action may be taken at any Stated Meeting by a two thirds vote of the members present. Such proposed action must be presented, in writing, at a preceding Stated Meeting and written notice must be given to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed action and the date of the

Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken. It shall have no effect until approved by the Grand Master. The Secretary of the Lodge shall note in the minutes of the Lodge the notice of the proposed action when made. When transmitting the action for approval, he shall forward a certificate, under seal, showing that the law has been complied with and that the action has received the required vote.

Upon approval by the Grand Master, the Lodge shall transfer its entire Life Membership Fund, including all principal and then undistributed income, to the Grand Treasurer, to be placed in a Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund. The Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund shall be physically segregated from all other funds, investments and assets of the Grand Lodge and shall be invested and administered by the Grand Lodge as provided in this Code for a Lodge Life Membership Fund. The Grand Treasurer may pool all Lodge Life Membership Funds under its management as one common fund for investment purposes, provided that there is a separate accounting and valuation of each individual participating Lodge's funds at least semi-annually.

The Grand Lodge shall distribute annually in March to each participating Lodge for its general use its permissible withdrawal, calculated as of the last market day of the prior calendar year, from its separate share of the Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund.

All future payments for life memberships purchased by any member of a participating Lodge shall be recorded by the Secretary in the Lodge's membership and financial records and then immediately transferred to the Grand Treasurer, to be placed in such Lodge's separate share of the Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund. A Lodge participating in the Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund may not keep or administer a separate Life Membership Fund.

A Lodge may terminate Grand Lodge's management of the investment and administration of its Life Membership Fund by a majority vote of the members present at a Stated Meeting; and the Secretary shall note the same in the minutes of the Lodge and forward a certificate, under seal, notifying the Grand Secretary of this action, whereupon the Grand Treasurer shall return to the Lodge its full interest in the Grand Lodge Life Membership Trust Fund.

No Lodge shall be required to participate in a Life Membership Fund administered by the Grand Lodge.

- E. A Lodge purchasing a life membership for the retiring Master as provided in Section 809.550.D of this Code must transfer the total purchase price of the life membership from its general funds to its Life Membership Fund.
- F. A life membership may be purchased as a memorial at any time for a Master Mason who, at the time of his death, was a member in good standing of the Lodge. The purchase price for such life membership shall be paid in full at the time of purchase and calculated in accordance with Section 809.320 of this Code and the current life membership plan of

the Lodge. If a Lodge uses the plan described in Section 809.320.B, the purchase price shall be calculated by using the age of the member at the time of his death.

- G. Nothing in this Code shall prevent any person from making voluntary contributions to the Life Membership Fund.
- H. A Life Membership Fund, once established, may never be dissolved or combined with general Lodge funds, even if there may be no life members currently living or if further sales of life memberships have been discontinued.

*[Amended: 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015.] [Source: Section 21050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 2 – PERMITTED LODGE FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

### **§809.210. PERMITTED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

A Lodge may solicit and receive the following types of financial support only:

- A. Dues from the Masons of the Lodge and application fees;
- B. Contributions and other financial assistance from its own Masons;
- C. Contributions and other financial assistance from such persons and entities (other than its own Masons) as may be approved by the Grand Master;
- D. Interest, dividend, rental, royalty and other forms of investment income;
- E. Proceeds from the sale or exchange of assets; and
- F. Other types of support as are specifically authorized in this Article 2.

No other forms of financial support are permitted.

Permitted financial support received, whether for fraternal, charitable, social or any other purpose, shall be Lodge funds upon receipt.

*[Amended: 2008; 2012; 2015.] [Source: Section 27500 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§809.220. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

A Lodge may solicit and receive financial support for its fraternal operations and charitable activities from the following additional sources:

- A. A Lodge may hold periodic activities to which tickets are sold to its Masons and their families and friends. No tickets to such an activity may be sold to the general public nor

may there be any other public solicitation of support for such an activity. The sponsor shall disclose that any profits from the activity will be used for the sponsor's fraternal and not charitable purposes, if such is the case. In the event that such disclosure is not given, through inadvertence or otherwise, all proceeds from the activity shall be given to a recognized Masonic charity;

- B. Advertising may be included in publications which the Lodge uses to communicate with its members, provided that:
  - 1. The advertisements are in good taste and within the bounds of propriety;
  - 2. Advertisements for controlled substances, alcohol, or tobacco are not accepted;
  - 3. Advertisements for religious or political groups are not accepted;
  - 4. Lodge mailing lists or Grand Lodge rosters are not furnished to advertisers;
  - 5. No representation is made to Masons that it is their duty to advertise;
  - 6. Advertising is accepted only from members and businesses or commercial establishments owned or operated by members of the Lodge. In joint publications to the members of the Lodge and to the members of one or more other Lodges or Masonic Organizations, advertising is accepted only from members and businesses or commercial establishments owned or operated by members of one or more of the participating Lodges and Masonic Organizations;
  - 7. Solicitation of advertisements is by a member in good standing of a Lodge or Masonic Organization for whose publication advertising is solicited; and
  - 8. Any advertising revenue in excess of the expenses of publishing, printing, and mailing such publication is donated to a recognized Masonic charity;
- C. A Lodge may participate in local community fairs, celebrations and similar community events by sponsoring, occupying and operating booths for selling food or non-alcoholic beverages to persons attending or participating in such events; and
- D. A Lodge may participate in any other activity which has been approved by the Grand Master.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 27600 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§809.230. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.**

In addition to the activities permitted by the other provisions of this Article 2, a Lodge may also solicit and receive financial support for its charitable activities from its members and their families and friends, as well as from the general public, if the sponsor observes the following guidelines:

- A. Publicity, tickets and programs relating to the event clearly identify the charitable purpose;
- B. The net proceeds of the event are distributed to the charities named (net proceeds are defined as the proceeds available for distribution after deduction of all expenses, including advances by a co-sponsoring commercial organization);
- C. The event itself and the associated publicity are within the bounds of propriety;
- D. *California Masonic Code* provisions regarding advertising and gambling are followed; and
- E. If the activity is held in cooperation with one or more commercial sponsors, the following additional requirements are met:
  - 1. Any advances by commercial co-sponsors represent less than fifty percent of the total expenses, including these advances;
  - 2. An independent audit of the financial transaction is conducted and reported to the head of the sponsoring Lodge, subject to approval by the Grand Master; and
  - 3. The activity has been approved by the Grand Master.

*[Source: Section 27800 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

***ARTICLE 3– LODGE DUES***

**§809.310. DUES.**

A Lodge's dues shall be established in its Bylaws. The minimum annual dues shall be \$12, plus the Per Capita sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication, with the total thus determined rounded up to the next whole dollar. The Lodge Secretary shall issue to each Mason paying his dues a receipt using, without change, the uniform receipt for dues available from the Grand Secretary.

Dues shall commence with the first day of the month next following the conferring of the Entered Apprentice Degree or as provided in Sections 804.740 or 804.750 of this Code for Masons joining the Lodge by affiliation.

If a Lodge increases its dues, the increase shall become effective upon the start of fiscal year of the Lodge following the Grand Master's approval of the increase. Masons of the Lodge who have paid their dues in advance for such fiscal year must pay the increase.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012; 2014.] [Source: Sections 27010, 27040 and 27090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§809.320. LIFE MEMBERSHIP.**

A Lodge may adopt a standing resolution providing for a life membership plan, which shall forever exempt a member making the required payment into the plan from the payment of dues in the Lodge. The resolution may be adopted, amended or revoked at any Stated Meeting by a majority vote of the members present. Any such action must be presented, in writing, at a preceding Stated Meeting and written notice must be given to each Lodge member setting forth the text of the proposed action and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The plan must provide that a life membership shall be granted upon payment of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*[Amended: 2010; 2012; 2013, 2016.] [Source: Sections 27020 and 27030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§809.330. REMOVAL OF LIFE MEMBER FROM ROLL BOOK.**

In the event that the Life Membership Card is returned by the U.S. Post Office for six consecutive years as unclaimed or the addressee unknown, the Secretary shall on the seventh year send such card by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the recipient at his address of record in a sealed envelope. If such mail is returned to the Secretary by the post office, then the Secretary shall:

- A. Report the fact to the Lodge at the next Stated Meeting and note it in the minutes;
- B. Remove the member's name from the roll book of the Lodge; and
- C. Transmit to the Grand Secretary, with his annual reports, a notification that the name of the life member has been removed from the roll book and the reason.

In the event that the life member shall be located at any time subsequent to the removal of his name from the roll book, he shall immediately be restored and the fact shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary with the annual reports. The Lodge shall pay all per capita taxes accrued on the life member from the date of removal to the date of restoration.

*[Source: Section 27030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§809.340. NO ASSESSMENTS.**

A Lodge shall not levy any assessments on its Masons.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 27050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§809.350. RETURN OF DUES.**

If a Mason of the Lodge dies, is issued a Demit or discontinues his multiple membership, the Lodge shall refund to his authorized successor in interest or to him dues paid in advance of the

month when he died or his affiliation with the Lodge terminated; provided, however, that a Mason issued a Demit or discontinuing multiple membership may only obtain a refund of his dues paid in advance if he has returned his dues receipt in such Lodge with his request for a Demit or Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership. There shall be no refund of a life membership to a member who dies, is issued a Demit or discontinues his multiple memberships.

*[Amended: 2012.] [Source: Section 27080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§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 of those of its Masons who are unable to pay.

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.

*[Amended: 2012.] [Source: Section 27060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§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 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 have not been paid by the time of the Lodge's next Stated Meeting, he shall be declared suspended by the Master, unless for special reasons shown the Lodge shall remit his dues or grant him further time for payment.
- 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 24 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 24 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 24 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 24 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 24 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.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2012; 2015, 2016.] [Source: Section 27070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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 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.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Section 27100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**ARTICLE 4 – CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**§809.400. CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

A Lodge may accept contributions, gifts, bequests and other financial assistance from its own Masons at any time and from such other persons and entities (other than its own Masons) as may be approved from time to time by the Grand Master. Any such receipts may be accepted in trust for any proper Masonic purpose if so designated by the donor. If so received in trust, the trust fund may be used only for the designated purpose. Any such receipts, which are not limited to a specific purpose, may be used by the Lodge for any purpose permitted by this Code.

*[Amended: 2015.] [Source: Section 21060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**ARTICLE 5 – LODGE EXPENDITURES**

**§809.510. LODGE BUDGET.**

A Lodge shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year no later than at its January Stated Meeting for that fiscal year. *[Amended: 2009.] [Source: Section 21010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§809.520. EXPENDITURES.**

Lodge funds are trust funds set apart for the payment of the necessary, discretionary and social expenses of the Lodge and for the special calls for charity.

No Lodge funds shall be expended without the express consent of the Lodge, even though included in a Lodge budget, except that funds may be expended without Lodge consent when:

- A. Dispensed by the Charity Committee;
- B. Due Grand Lodge;
- C. Required to pay the taxes or other charges of local, State or Federal governmental agencies; or
- D. Required under Section 809.350 of this Code as a return of dues.

Lodges may approve bills against the Lodge only when the bills are supported by proper documentation, such as an invoice or receipt. No warrant shall be drawn unless there are sufficient funds to honor it.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 21010 and 21060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§809.530. PROHIBITED EXPENDITURES.**

A Lodge may not:

- A. Expend Lodge funds for alcoholic beverages;
- B. Divide its monies, property or other assets with its members, even those withdrawing to form a new Lodge or with the new Lodge thus formed;
- C. Divide its funds with an existing Lodge by way of a contribution;
- D. Invest Lodge funds in its life membership fund, other than to purchase a life membership for its retiring Master; or
- E. Use any of its funds to subsidize, directly or indirectly, any organization, except Masonic Youth Orders or as otherwise provided in this Code.

*[Source: Sections 21010 and 21060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§809.540. REQUIRED EXPENDITURES.**

The expenditure of funds for any program required by Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, shall be deemed to be part of the necessary expenses of the Lodge. *[Source: Section 21070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§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;
- 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.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 21080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§809.560. SOCIAL AND FRATERNAL EXPENDITURES.**

A Lodge may expend Lodge funds for the following purposes, subject to the following limitations:

- A. A Lodge may expend Lodge funds for purposes of its social and fraternal activities, promoting fraternal intercourse, community improvement, its charitable activities and its programs that will benefit residents of the community in which the Lodge is located. Except for expenditures from funds collected for specific social purposes as otherwise provided in this section, the aggregate annual expenditures by the Lodge for the purposes described in this section shall not exceed thirty percent of the Lodge's total revenue derived that year from dues, application fees, withdrawals from a Life Membership Fund and net income from other investments;
- B. Contributions, gifts, bequests and other financial assistance received, receipts on trust funds, financial support received for the Lodge's fraternal operations or charitable activities and profits realized from the sale of capital assets shall not be included in total revenue for purposes of calculating the thirty percent limitation;
- C. Expenditures of financial support received for the Lodge's fraternal operations or charitable activities shall not be subject to this thirty percent annual limitation when spent as follows:
  - 1. To pay the expenses of the activity through which such support was raised, such as the expenses of staging the event at which the support was received or the expenses of printing and distributing the publication in which the permitted paid advertising appeared; or

2. To pay the expenses of the Lodge's other social and fraternal activities, promoting fraternal intercourse, community improvement, its charitable activities and its programs that will benefit residents of the community in which the Lodge is located;
- D. Lodge contributions to the Masonic Homes of California, California Masonic Memorial Temple or California Masonic Foundation shall not be subject to this thirty percent annual limitation; and
  - E. In the discretion of the Lodge, any portion of the annual thirty percent limitation not expended in one year may be carried forward to future years until spent.

*[Amended: 2008; 2012; 2015.] [Source: Section 21090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

## **CHAPTER 10 OPERATIONS**

### **§810.010. SEAL AND ITS USE.**

Each chartered Lodge shall, within two months from the date of its Charter and after approval of the design by the Grand Secretary, provide a suitable seal, bearing such devices as may be deemed proper, and having inscribed thereon the name and number of the Lodge, the date of its Charter, and the city, town or community of its location.

All documents or papers of every kind, emanating from the Lodge, or from its Master or Secretary in his official capacity, should bear the impress of the seal as evidence of authenticity.

*[Source: Section 19010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§810.020. APRONS.**

The apron appropriate to one's rank or station may be worn at any gathering of Masons at which officers of Lodges are authorized to wear the apron of their respective stations. A Past Master, as defined in Section 805.020 of this Code, may wear an apron having the jewel of a Past Master upon it. A Past Master shall not wear a Past Master's apron while occupying any officer's station but shall wear the apron of the station that he is occupying. However, when a Past Master occupies an officer's station on the occasion of a Lodge's Past Master's Night, he may wear his Past Master's apron. *[Source: Section 18020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§810.030. PUBLIC PROCESSIONS, PARADES OR MEETINGS.**

Except for burial of a Mason or for the performance of some other strictly Masonic duty or ceremony, neither a Lodge, nor any Mason, shall appear in Masonic Clothing or Masonic Regalia:

- A. In any public procession or parade, except in accordance with a dispensation of the Inspector; or
- B. At any public meeting, except in accordance with a dispensation of the Grand Master.

The Flag of our country shall be carried on all ceremonial occasions except at funerals.

*[Source: Sections 16100 and 18010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§810.040. LODGE PUBLICATIONS.**

A Lodge may publish and mail a Lodge bulletin informing the members of the Lodge of its activities and including news items relating to any of the Masonic Organizations so as to promote Masonic intercourse. The bulletin may be a joint publication of the Lodge and one or more other Lodges and Masonic Organizations if each participating organization pays its prorata share of the cost to publish and mail the bulletin. However, the sponsors of a joint publication may permit any Masonic Youth Order to include material in the publication without charge, and the sponsors may assume the cost of mailing the publication to members of the Masonic Youth Order.

The foregoing notwithstanding, no Lodge may publish in the public domain any personally identifying information about a Mason of the Lodge which he has requested in writing be withheld.

*[Amended: 2013; 2014.] Source: Section 15115 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§810.050. LODGE ROSTERS.**

A Lodge may publish a roster for Masonic purposes and for the benefit of its Masons containing the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of all of its Masons. A Lodge may also include in its published roster an electronic mail address for a Mason of the Lodge. However, no Lodge may include in its published roster any personally identifying information about a Mason of the Lodge which he has requested in writing be withheld. *[Amended: 2011; 2013; 2014.]*  
*[Source: Section 15115 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§810.060. PUBLICITY.**

A Lodge may:

- A. Post at the entrance of the community where the Lodge is located, a sign or plaque exhibiting the Masonic emblem and giving the name and number of the Lodge and information as to when and where it meets; and
- B. Publish in a newspaper of general circulation an announcement showing the Masonic emblem, the name and number of the Lodge and the dates of meetings. A Lodge may also publish advertisements in a newspaper of general circulation relative to a Lodge's public relations program that may inform the public about Masonry in general and the activities of the Lodge in particular, provided that:
  - 1. The advertisements do not violate Masonic law relative to solicitation of members;
  - 2. Funds used to pay for such advertisements comply with the requirements of all applicable sections of fund expenditures as provided in Section 809.560 of this Code; and
  - 3. Such advertisements do not promote one Lodge as being more important or desirable than another Lodge or other Lodges located in the area of publication.

*[Source: Section 15115 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

## **CHAPTER 11 RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

### **§811.010. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

Alcoholic beverages may be sold, served, and consumed on property owned by or leased to a Lodge and at Masonic activities held elsewhere only if the following requirements are observed:

- A. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold, served, or consumed in a Lodge room or in a room in which Masonic ceremonies are normally conducted except when such room serves a dual purpose as a ceremonial room and social room;
- B. A Lodge may not maintain, on a regular or permanent basis, a bar stocked with alcoholic beverages;
- C. The funds of a Lodge may not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages;
- D. Alcoholic beverages may not be served, consumed, or sold during the course of a meeting of a Lodge;

- E. A Lodge may not directly or indirectly apply for, assume title to, or operate under any government license or permit for the purpose of consuming, serving or selling alcoholic beverages, whether in, on, or away from premises owned, leased, or rented by it;
- F. A Lodge may not rent or lease property in which it has an ownership interest to business establishments wherein alcoholic beverages are served, consumed or sold unless such service, consumption, and sale are incident to and not the primary purpose of the business; and
- G. Any sale, service, or consumption of alcoholic beverages pursuant to this section must comply with all applicable laws of the State of California.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 15050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§811.020. FINANCIAL AID SOLICITATION.**

No Mason shall circulate, on Lodge premises, a petition asking financial aid for any non-Masonic matter or thing whatever, however worthy it may be, except for statewide public school purposes, and then only as a duly appointed member of an authorized Lodge committee.  
*[Source: Section 15070 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§811.030. FRAUDULENT OR ILLEGAL VENTURES.**

Neither a Lodge nor a Mason thereof shall, directly or indirectly, engage in or give any aid or support to any business, project, venture, promotion, scheme or plan which is unethical, fraudulent, misleading or illegal.

Neither a Lodge nor a Mason thereof shall engage in or give any aid or support to any business, project, scheme, plan, individual or concern asserted to be Masonic in character or using any term, name or words implying a connection with Masonry, whenever facts presented to the Grand Master prove to his satisfaction that:

- A. Any such business, project, scheme or plan is unmasonic, unethical, fraudulent, or misleading; or
- B. The individual, group or concern in charge of or employed in the prosecution, promotion, operation or product of any such business, project, scheme or plan has indulged in unmasonic, unethical, fraudulent, misleading acts or practices in connection therewith.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Sections 1050 and 15080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§811.040. GAMBLING.**

Neither a Lodge nor a Mason shall, directly or indirectly, give or attempt to give the aid or countenance of Masonry to, or participate in, the conduct or preparation of any raffle, lottery or other form of gambling, conducted in the name of, or directly or indirectly for the monetary benefit of, any Lodge or of any Masonic Organization. A Lodge shall not accept any of the proceeds or profits of any raffle, lottery or other gambling enterprise. Prizes may be awarded if not purchased from monies collected as admission fees and if no separate charge is made for the chance to win. *[Source: Section 15090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§811.050. BINGO AND BUNCO.**

A Lodge may sponsor a bingo or bunco game, if the Lodge observes the following rules:

- A. Attendance at the event is limited to the Masons of the Lodge, their families and friends;
- B. There are no signs or other advertising visible to the general public referring to the game;
- C. No donation, admission fee, meal purchase or other charge is accepted or required for the opportunity to participate; and
- D. Prizes of minimal value may be awarded if purchased by the sponsor or donated.

*[Amended: 2014; 2015] [Source: Section 15095 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 12  
RELIEF**

**§812.010. GENERALLY.**

It is the duty of every Lodge to aid and assist every needy Master Mason of that Lodge, wherever he may reside, and every needy Master Mason of another Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction who resides within the vicinity of that Lodge. This duty extends to the needy widow and dependent orphans of a Master Mason of that Lodge and the needy widow and dependent orphans of a Master Mason of another Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction who reside within the vicinity of that Lodge. A Lodge's duty of relief is limited only by its own circumstances and ability.

For purposes of this Code, a "widow" is one who was married to a Master Mason at the time of his death. A widow who remarries forfeits all rights to Masonic relief from her previous husband pursuant to this section, even though such remarriage is later terminated by divorce, dissolution, or otherwise.

For purposes of this Code, an “orphan” is the son or daughter under the age of majority of a deceased Master Mason. No man or woman over the age of majority shall be entitled to relief as a matter of right. However, a Lodge may, in its discretion, provide relief in exceptional circumstances to the adult child of a deceased Master Mason where a need arises by reason of a physical or mental impairment.

Every Lodge may, at its discretion, aid and assist every needy Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of that Lodge, wherever he may reside, and every needy Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of another Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction who resides within the vicinity of that Lodge.

Money given a Mason or his family as relief by a Lodge cannot be charged to him.

*[Amended: 2011.] [Source: Section 28010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§812.020. REFUNDING RELIEF ADVANCES.**

A Lodge of which a needy Mason is a member shall refund to any other Lodge or Masonic Service Bureau all sums not exceeding \$100 advanced in any one case for the relief of a Mason of that Lodge. Should the Master of the needy Mason’s Lodge authorize the other Lodge or Masonic Service Bureau to advance sums in excess of \$100 in any one case, all sums so advanced shall be refunded by such Lodge. *[Source: Section 28050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§812.030. BURIAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES.**

It is the duty of every Lodge to bury a Mason, other than a demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Mason, and his family, to the extent provided in Section 804.820 of this Code. *[Source: Section 28030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§812.040. MASONIC FUNERAL SERVICES.**

The Funeral Service of this Jurisdiction must be used for the burial of a Mason conducted by a Constituent Lodge. Before the funeral of a Master Mason, the Lodge may be opened in due form in the Lodge room. Alternatively, and for the funeral of an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, the Master shall call the members of his Lodge together at the place designated for the funeral, there put on the proper regalia and conduct the funeral without a formal opening of the Lodge. If the funeral is conducted without a formal opening of the Lodge, the Secretary shall enter in the minutes of the next Stated Meeting the fact that the funeral had been conducted by the Lodge. The officiant at the Funeral Service must be a Master Mason certified to conduct Masonic funeral services pursuant to Section 405.050 of this Code.

No Lodge shall attend any funeral or take part in any funeral service or procession unless it is under the direction of the Grand Lodge, the Lodge itself, a Masonic Service Bureau, or another Constituent Lodge. The Lodge conducting the service may assign positions in the service and/or procession to other Masonic Lodges and their members.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011.] [Source: Section 28040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

## **CHAPTER 13 CONSOLIDATION, DISSOLUTION AND SUSPENSION**

### **§813.010. CONSOLIDATION.**

- A. Two or more Lodges, located near each other, may consolidate into one Lodge upon such terms as may be agreed between the Lodges, provided they perform the following in consecutive order:
1. Adoption of a written resolution by each Lodge at a Stated Meeting to the effect that a consolidation is expedient and that a consolidation committee be formed to meet and arrange terms;
  2. Giving of notice in writing of the adoption of this resolution to all members of the Lodge without delay;
  3. Appointment by each Master of a consolidation committee;
  4. Agreement by the respective consolidation committees upon the terms of a consolidation;
  5. Reporting by the consolidation committees of the terms to their respective Lodges, in writing, at a Stated Meeting, and acceptance of the terms by a majority vote of those present; and
  6. Receipt of the signatures of at least three-fourths of the members of each Lodge on a consent form agreeing to the proposed terms of the consolidation.

If the Grand Master finds it impracticable for a Lodge to secure the required number of written consents, he may approve the consolidation upon the written consent of not less than a majority of the members of each Lodge.

At a Stated Meeting not earlier than the third Stated Meeting after adoption of the first resolution, the Master of each Lodge shall examine the consent forms of the members of his Lodge received to date, and if he finds the required number of valid signatures, he shall declare the consolidation to be approved by his Lodge. If a Master of a Lodge participating in the foregoing proceedings does not find the required number of valid

signatures and if the Grand Master has not approved the consolidation as provided in the preceding paragraph, then the consolidation committees shall be dismissed and there shall be no consolidation without starting the foregoing proceedings again.

- B. When all of the foregoing proceedings are completed resulting in approval of the consolidation, they shall be entered upon the records of the existing Lodges. The written consents and a certificate of the proceedings and action taken by the Lodges must then be certified to the Grand Secretary by the respective Secretaries under the seals of their respective Lodges.

No consolidation shall go into effect until all the relative proceedings have been submitted to and approved by Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master during the intervals between the Annual Communications of Grand Lodge.

- C. A consolidated Lodge may bear:

1. The name and number of one of the Lodges comprising it, in which event it may retain the Charter and seal of that Lodge;
2. The name of one and the number of another of the Lodges;
3. A combination of the names of the Lodges and the number of one of the Lodges; or
4. An entirely new name (not similar to the name of an existing Lodge nor selected to honor a living person) and the number of one of the Lodges.

If the consolidated Lodge does not bear the name and number of one of the Lodges comprising it, the consolidated Lodge shall obtain a new seal and shall either receive a new Charter without charge or have an endorsement of the authorization of the consolidation by Grand Lodge made upon the Charter of one of the component Lodges.

- D. The consolidated Lodge succeeds to all the funds and property of its constituents and is responsible for the debts of each Lodge. The pro rata portion of the dues paid in excess of the dues established by the consolidated Lodge shall be either refunded to each such member or, at his discretion, credited as dues paid in advance. The Past Masters and life members of each Lodge become such of the new Lodge. The consolidated Lodge shall combine the Life Membership Fund, if any, of each of its constituents into a single Life Membership Fund, whether or not the consolidated Lodge will have a Life Membership Plan.

*[Amended: 2012.] [Source: Section 20010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§813.020. DISSOLUTION.**

A Lodge shall be dissolved by:

- A. The voluntary surrender of its Charter, as follows:
1. Notification shall have been given at a Stated Meeting of such Lodge that a resolution to surrender the Lodge's charter shall be presented at the next succeeding Stated Meeting;
  2. At the next Stated Meeting, the resolution to surrender the Lodge's charter shall have been adopted by majority vote and there shall not have been thirteen members present who oppose the resolution; and
  3. Such surrender has been accepted by Grand Lodge at an Annual or Special Communication; or
- B. The revocation of its Charter by action of Grand Lodge at an Annual or Special Communication after one or more charges against the Lodge have been presented to and investigated by Grand Lodge, and the accused Lodge has received due notice of the charge or charges.

*[Source: Sections 20020, 20030 and 20060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§813.030. SUSPENSION.**

Upon an arrest of its Charter by the Grand Master, the status of a Lodge is suspended. *[Source: Section 20050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§813.040. GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION.**

A Lodge's Charter may be revoked by Grand Lodge or suspended by the Grand Master for:

- A. The neglect or violation of any duty imposed upon a Lodge in its Charter or in this Code;
- B. The neglect or violation of any duty imposed upon the Lodge Secretary;
- C. Disregard of the lawful authority of the Grand Master; or
- D. Failure to meet for a period of six successive months.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2012.] [Source: Sections 20040 and 20060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§813.050. EFFECT OF SUSPENSION.**

The suspension of a Lodge is a temporary prohibition to assemble or work as a Lodge, until the Charter is restored. The suspension shall be lifted automatically at the close of the next succeeding Annual Communication unless continued by the newly installed Grand Master.

Lodges while under suspension shall not be entitled to representation at any Annual or Special Communication. With the consent of the Grand Master, and after notice to the members of the Lodge, Lodge meetings may be held for the purpose of:

- A. Granting relief;
- B. Paying bills and other obligations of the Lodge;
- C. Granting Demits; or
- D. Other actions authorized by the Grand Master.

The places and stations of the officers shall be filled by members of the Lodge designated by the Grand Master. Upon completion of the transaction of business for which the meeting was called, the member acting as Secretary shall prepare and forward to the Grand Master a statement setting forth that notice was given of the meeting and the action taken on the matter or matters presented. On the approval of the proceedings by the Grand Master, the regular Secretary of the Lodge shall draw such warrants, and the Treasurer shall pay the same from the assets of the Lodge. The Secretary is also directed to issue such Demits, certificates or other documents as may be authorized at the meeting and approved by the Grand Master.

*[Source: Section 20050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§813.060. EFFECT OF DISSOLUTION.**

The dissolution of the Lodge upon the surrender or revocation of its Charter shall be conclusive upon the Lodge and its members. Upon the dissolution of a Lodge, the Grand Secretary, or his duly authorized representative, shall, in such manner as shall seem to him most judicious:

- A. Proceed at once to receive its funds on hand, except the Life Membership Fund;
- B. Collect outstanding dues;
- C. Dispose of its jewels, furniture, and other property; and
- D. Place the proceeds thereof, after the payment of all just debts and necessary expenses, among the unrestricted funds of Grand Lodge.

The dissolved Lodge's Life Membership Fund shall be held, managed and distributed as provided in Section 815.000.K of this Code.

Upon dissolution of the Lodge, all memberships in the dissolved Lodge shall terminate. No Demits shall be issued to any of the candidates or members of the dissolved Lodge. Those of the dissolved Lodge's Master Masons who are plural or dual members in other Lodges shall remain members of such other Lodges. Those of the dissolved Lodge's remaining Master Masons and

all of the dissolved Lodge's Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts shall become members of the Grand Master's Lodge, as provided in Section 815.000 of this Code.

If on the dissolution of Santa Barbara Lodge No. 192 or on the dissolution of any successor Constituent Lodge or Constituent Lodges the dissolved Lodge or Lodges own a majority of the membership interests in Masonic Properties of Santa Barbara, Inc., or its successor, which in turn owns the property with the Masonic hall at 16 E. Carrillo Street in Santa Barbara, California, the Grand Lodge shall retain such majority membership interest for so long as such property is financially self-sufficient as a meeting place for Masonic Lodges, Masonic Organizations and/or Masonic Youth Orders even if no Constituent Lodge meets there.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2012.] [Source: Sections 20080 and 21100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 14 RESEARCH LODGES**

### **§814.000. RESEARCH LODGES.**

Research Lodges are a special classification of Constituent Lodge with authority to conduct research, hold discussions, gather and preserve Masonic information, maintain a library, supply papers or speakers at the request of other Lodges, and conduct a program of general service to the Craft in the field of Masonic education and information. Research Lodges shall be subject to all provisions of this Code applicable to Constituent Lodges, except as follows:

- A. The word "Research" shall be included in the name of the Lodge;
- B. Membership:
  - 1. Shall consist exclusively of Master Masons in good standing of Constituent Lodges or of Lodges under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge;
  - 2. Shall cease if a member loses such status; and
  - 3. May be voluntarily severed at any time by resignation;

No member of a Research Lodge shall, by reason of that membership alone, be considered a member of a Constituent Lodge for any purpose of this Code.

- C. Only Master Masons in good standing of a Constituent Lodge shall hold office and vote;
- D. Grand Lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge, their Lodges and Masonic Organizations in this or any other Jurisdiction, composed exclusively of Master Masons under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge or any other Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand

- Lodge, may become “Subscribing Members,” entitled only to receive bulletins and publications;
- E. Receipts for dues must accompany a Petition for Dispensation, but no Demit or Request for Demit shall be received or issued by a Research Lodge;
  - F. The provisions of this Code requiring certain recommendations, notifications and certificates from an Inspector dealing with qualifications of officers and membership in a Lodge seeking a Dispensation or Charter shall be deemed complied with if an Inspector designated by the Grand Master certifies to the standing of the petitioners, the provision for a suitable Lodge room and the qualification of the officers for their duties. The Dispensation and Charter shall be issued without charge;
  - G. A member may be the Master, a Warden or the Secretary of a Research Lodge at the same time as he is the Master, a Warden or the Secretary of one or more other Lodges. The provisions of this Code dealing with the qualifications of Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Senior Deacon shall not apply to the officers of Research Lodges. When the Master-elect or a Warden-elect or a Senior Deacon appointed is not a Past Master of a Constituent Lodge, before he can be installed he must produce a certificate from the Inspector of the district in which the Research Lodge is situated certifying to the proficiency of such officer in the opening and closing ceremonies;
  - H. They shall not:
    - 1. Confer degrees,
    - 2. Be liable for the relief of a member, his wife, widow or orphan, and a member of a Research Lodge shall not be eligible for admission to the Masonic Homes of California unless he is a member in good standing in a Constituent Lodge, or
    - 3. Be entitled to representation in Grand Lodge or any vote therein;
  - I. Research Lodges shall be exempt from the contributions levied by Grand Lodge on Lodges, and applicants for membership in Research Lodges shall be exempt from the contributions levied by Grand Lodge on applicants;
  - J. No officer or former officer of a Research Lodge shall, by reason of that position alone, be a member of Grand Lodge. Sections of this Code dealing with the title of Past Master shall not be applicable to one who has served as Master of a Research Lodge only, and the Master of a Research Lodge shall not, upon death or completion of his term of office, by reason of that fact alone, become or be known as or designated as a Past Master, and shall possess none of the rights, powers or privileges of a Past Master of a Lodge;
  - K. Their Stated Meetings shall be held at least once quarterly. All business shall be done in a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. However, at the discretion of the Master, all business may be done in a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons or in a Lodge of Master

Masons with at least 30 days written notice to each of its members. By a vote of its members, the Lodge may change the place, date and time of a Stated or Special Meeting to something other than what is fixed in its Charter or Bylaws. The meeting place must be safe and suitable for a tiled Lodge meeting in this Jurisdiction as determined by the Inspector of the district in which the Research Lodge is situated. Business may be transacted immediately following the opening of any Stated Meeting. Members shall be given notice of any change to the place, date and time of Stated Meetings. At a Stated Meeting, the Lodge may be called up to receive papers in a Lodge of Fellow Craft or Master Masons;

- L. The forms of Petition for Dispensation, Petition for Charter, Charter and Uniform Code of Bylaws shall be adopted insofar as the provisions may be applicable to such Lodges;
- M. They shall have no judicial powers;
- N. The giving of notice of receipt of applications for membership and the referral of applications for membership to a committee of three for investigation and report thereon provided for elsewhere in this Code are dispensed with, and applications for membership may be voted on at the same Stated Meeting at which they are submitted and read;
- O. Suspension of a member for non-payment of dues shall not affect his membership in any other Lodge;
- P. They shall be chartered only by name and without a Lodge number;
- Q. They shall be exempt from the minimum annual dues requirement imposed by this Code; and
- R. They may provide complimentary memberships to Junior Wardens, Senior Wardens or Masters of a Constituent Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2014; 2015, 2016.] [Source: Section 20090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 15 GRAND MASTER'S LODGE**

### **§815.000. GRAND MASTER'S LODGE.**

The Grand Master's Lodge is a special classification of Constituent Lodge which shall be subject to all provisions of this Code applicable to Constituent Lodges, except as follows:

- A. There shall be only one Grand Master's Lodge in this Jurisdiction, and it shall be chartered with the name "Grand Master's Lodge" without a Lodge number;

- B. The officers of the Grand Master's Lodge shall be the Grand Master as Master, the Senior Grand Warden as Senior Warden, the Junior Grand Warden as Junior Warden, the Grand Treasurer as Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary as Secretary, each of whom shall serve in this office *ex officio*;
- C. Membership shall consist only of:
  - 1. As *ex-officio* members, the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary; and
  - 2. Those Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons of a Constituent Lodge at the time that the Lodge's charter is surrendered or revoked who are not at the time a plural or dual member in another Lodge;
- D. Membership in the Grand Master's Lodge shall cease for any member upon taking a Demit therefrom or by a plural or dual membership in another Lodge;
- E. The Grand Master's Lodge shall hold no meetings nor confer any degrees but may request courtesy work for its Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts in another Lodge;
- F. The provisions of this Code requiring certain recommendations, notifications and certificates from an Inspector dealing with qualifications of officers and membership in a Lodge seeking a Dispensation or Charter shall not apply to the Grand Master's Lodge. Its Dispensation and Charter shall be issued without charge or vote of Grand Lodge;
- G. The forms of Petition for Dispensation, Petition for Charter, Charter and Uniform Code of Bylaws shall be adopted insofar as the provisions may be applicable to the Grand Master's Lodge, except as required to comply with the provisions of this section;
- H. The provisions of this Code dealing with the qualifications of the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of a Constituent Lodge shall not apply to the officers of the Grand Master's Lodge;
- I. The Grand Master's Lodge shall not be entitled to representation in Grand Lodge or any vote therein;
- J. Dues for the operation of the Grand Master's Lodge shall be established by the Grand Master each year in an amount sufficient to offset any cost to Grand Lodge for the operation of the Grand Master's Lodge, imposing no burden on the per capita. These dues shall be sufficient not only to pay the costs of the operation of the Grand Master's Lodge, but also the per capita due Grand Lodge each year;
- K. The life members of a Constituent Lodge at the time that the Lodge's charter is surrendered or revoked who become members of the Grand Master's Lodge shall be life

members of the Grand Master's Lodge and shall be forever exempt from the payment of dues in the Grand Master's Lodge.

The Life Membership Fund of the dissolved Lodge shall be kept by Grand Lodge in a separate fund, and the interest or dividends paid in cash on such fund shall be used to offset any cost to Grand Lodge for the operation of the Grand Master's Lodge. If a life member's membership in the Grand Master's Lodge shall cease for any reason, his life membership in the Grand Master's Lodge shall cease also.

The foregoing notwithstanding, if a life member of the Grand Master's Lodge is elected to membership in a Constituent Lodge which then offers life memberships, his interest in Grand Master's Lodge Life Membership Fund shall be transferred to the Life Membership Fund of such Lodge. If such member's interest in the Grand Master's Lodge's Life Membership Fund is less than the current cost of a life membership in the Lodge to which he has applied, he must pay the difference within 60 days of the notice of his election to membership. Upon his payment, he shall become a life member of that Lodge. If he does not make such payment within 60 days of the notice of his election, he shall forfeit his interest in the Grand Master's Lodge's Life Membership Fund to the Lodge to which he has been elected. Should he later purchase a life membership in that or any other Lodge, he shall receive no credit for these forfeited amounts.

The life member's interest in the Grand Master's Lodge Life Membership Fund shall be equal to the lesser of the original sum of money paid to purchase his life membership or his share of the fair market value of the Grand Master's Lodge's Life Membership Fund at the time of his election to membership in the Constituent Lodge which then offers life memberships, as determined by the Grand Treasurer. In making this determination, the Grand Treasurer shall compute the interest of each living life member in the Grand Master's Lodge's Life Membership Fund and the interest of the Grand Master's Lodge in it, on a just and equitable basis.

The Life Membership Funds of every dissolved Lodge may be combined into one common Grand Master's Lodge Life Membership Fund at the option of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary; and

- L. All other actions requiring the consent or vote of the Lodge shall be effected by the Grand Master acting alone.

*[Amended: 2006; 2010; 2012.] [Source: Section 20085 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **CHAPTER 16 HISTORIC LODGES**

### **§816.000. HISTORIC LODGES.**

Historic Lodges are a special classification of Constituent Lodge with authority to preserve historic buildings owned, or leased by them, together with any historic paraphernalia, and/or to

preserve a historic connection to a community. Historic Lodges shall be subject to all provisions of this Code applicable to Constituent Lodges, except as follows:

- A. The word “Historic” shall be included in the name of the Lodge;
- B. Membership:
  - 1. Shall consist exclusively of Master Masons in good standing of Constituent Lodges or of Lodges under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge;
  - 2. Shall cease if a member loses such status; and
  - 3. May be voluntarily severed at any time by resignation;

No member of a Historic Lodge shall, by reason of that membership alone, be considered a member of a Constituent Lodge for any purpose of this Code.

- C. Only Master Masons in good standing of a Constituent Lodge shall hold office and vote;
- D. Grand Lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge, their Lodges and Masonic Organizations in this or any other Jurisdiction, composed exclusively of Master Masons under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge or any other Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, may become “Subscribing Members,” entitled only to receive bulletins and publications;
- E. Receipts for dues must accompany a Petition for Dispensation, but no Demit or Request for Demit shall be received or issued by a Historic Lodge;
- F. The provisions of this Code requiring certain recommendations, notifications and certificates from an Inspector dealing with qualifications of officers and membership in a Lodge seeking a Dispensation or Charter shall be deemed complied with if an Inspector designated by the Grand Master certifies to the standing of the petitioners, the provision for a suitable Lodge room and the qualification of the officers for their duties. The Dispensation and Charter shall be issued without charge;
- G. A member may be the Master, a Warden or the Secretary of a Historic Lodge at the same time as he is the Master, a Warden or the Secretary of one or more other Lodges. The provisions of this Code dealing with the qualifications of Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Senior Deacon shall not apply to the officers of Historic Lodges. When the Master-elect or a Warden-elect or a Senior Deacon appointed is not a Past Master of a Constituent Lodge, before he can be installed he must produce a certificate from the Inspector of the district in which the Historic Lodge is situated certifying to the proficiency of such officer in the opening and closing ceremonies;
- H. They shall not:

1. Confer degrees,
  2. Be liable for the relief of a member, his wife, widow or orphan, and a member of a Historic Lodge shall not be eligible for admission to the Masonic Homes of California unless he is a member in good standing in a Constituent Lodge, or
  3. Be entitled to representation in Grand Lodge or any vote therein;
- I. Historic Lodges shall be exempt from the contributions levied by Grand Lodge on Lodges, and applicants for membership in Historic Lodges shall be exempt from the contributions levied by Grand Lodge on applicants;
  - J. No officer or former officer of a Historic Lodge shall, by reason of that position alone, be a member of Grand Lodge. Sections of this Code dealing with the title of Past Master shall not be applicable to one who has served as Master of a Historic Lodge only, and the Master of a Historic Lodge shall not, upon death or completion of his term of office, by reason of that fact alone, become or be known as or designated as a Past Master, and shall possess none of the rights, powers or privileges of a Past Master of a Lodge;
  - K. Their Stated Meetings shall be held at least once annually. By a vote of its members, the Lodge may change the place, date and time of a Stated or Special Meeting to something other than what is fixed in its Charter or Bylaws. The meeting place must be safe and suitable for a tiled Lodge meeting in this Jurisdiction as determined by the Inspector of the district in which the Historic Lodge is situated. Business may be transacted immediately following the opening of any Stated Meeting. Members shall be given notice of any change to the place, date and time of Stated Meetings;
  - L. The forms of Petition for Dispensation, Petition for Charter, Charter and Uniform Code of Bylaws shall be used or adopted insofar as the provisions may be applicable to such Lodges;
  - M. They shall have no judicial powers;
  - N. The giving of notice of receipt of applications for membership and the referral of applications for membership to a committee of three for investigation and report thereon provided for elsewhere in this Code are dispensed with, and applications for membership may be voted on at the same Stated Meeting at which they are submitted and read;
  - O. Suspension of a member for non-payment of dues shall not affect his membership in any other Lodge;
  - P. They shall be chartered only by name and without a Lodge number;
  - Q. They shall be exempt from the minimum annual dues requirement imposed by this Code; and

- R. They may provide complimentary memberships to Junior Wardens, Senior Wardens or Masters of a Constituent Lodge.

*[Added: 2012.] [Amended: 2015.]*

## **PART 9 MASONIC HALL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **§900.010. ORGANIZATION.**

All Lodges shall use an incorporated Masonic Hall Association for the purpose of purchasing, erecting or maintaining and holding title to real estate for a building for Lodge uses and purposes, and a Lodge or Lodges may hold shares of stock in such corporation. Lodges shall seek and receive the consent of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties before establishing such corporation, and may reduce the annual per capita payment to Grand Lodge by the amount of the California corporation filing fee(s) incurred in establishing and maintaining such corporation. All Masonic Hall Associations shall be organized as follows:

- A. A Masonic Hall Association may be organized either as a nonprofit or as a general law corporation under the laws of the State in which it owns or is to acquire real estate, land or a building;
- B. The exclusive purpose for which a Masonic Hall Association may be organized is to hold title to property, collect income therefrom and turn over the entire amount thereof, less expenses, to its members or shareholders, all of which must be organizations described in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. A Masonic Hall Association shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of this exclusive purpose. No part of the net earnings of a Masonic Hall Association shall inure to the benefit of any member or private shareholder, as defined for purposes of Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and
- C. Uniform Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for Masonic Hall Associations written by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties, with the approval of the Grand Master, shall be adopted for use by each Masonic Hall Association. Any amendments to such Uniform Articles or Bylaws by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties, with the approval of the Grand Master, also shall be adopted for use by each Masonic Hall Association. Appropriate revisions to the Uniform Articles and Bylaws may be authorized by the Committee on Masonic Properties for Masonic Hall Associations with more than one member or shareholder.

*[Source: Sections 21060 and 22010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§900.020. OPERATIONS.**

All Masonic Hall Associations shall operate as follows:

- A. A Masonic Hall Association shall operate in strict compliance with its Articles of Incorporation, its Bylaws and this Code;
- B. A Masonic Hall Association may not hold or administer funds for any purpose not specifically set forth in this Code;
- C. Masonic Hall Association funds, not Lodge funds, must be used to compensate Association employees;
- D. No Masonic Hall Association shall use any of its funds and property to subsidize, directly or indirectly, any organization using or occupying its property, except a Constituent Lodge or Masonic Organization which is a member or shareholder of the Masonic Hall Association or a Masonic Youth Order;
- E. A Masonic Hall Association may 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; and
- F. A Masonic Hall Association shall comply with all contract approval requirements of Section 406.060 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 21060 and 22010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§900.030. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

Alcoholic beverages may be sold, served, and consumed on property owned by or leased to a Masonic Hall Association only if the following requirements are observed:

- A. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold, served, or consumed in a Lodge room or in a room in which Masonic ceremonies are normally conducted except when such room serves a dual purpose as a ceremonial room and social room;
- B. Masonic Hall Association may not maintain, on a regular or permanent basis, a bar stocked with alcoholic beverages;
- C. The funds of a Masonic Hall Association may not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages;
- D. Alcoholic beverages may not be served, consumed, or sold during the course of a meeting of a Masonic Hall Association;

- E. A Masonic Hall Association may not directly or indirectly apply for, assume title to, or operate under any government license or permit for the purpose of consuming, serving or selling alcoholic beverages, whether in, on, or away from premises owned, leased, or rented by it;
- F. A Masonic Hall Association may not rent or lease property in which it has an ownership interest to business establishments wherein alcoholic beverages are served, consumed or sold unless such service, consumption, and sale are incident to and not the primary purpose of the business; and
- G. Any sale, service, or consumption of alcoholic beverages pursuant to this section must comply with all applicable laws of the State of California.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 15050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§900.040. EXERCISE OF LODGE'S RIGHTS AS AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER OR SHAREHOLDER.**

A Lodge shall exercise its rights as a member or shareholder of a Masonic Hall Association, including its right to elect or remove directors, pursuant only to the authorization of a majority of members of the Lodge present at a Stated Meeting of the Lodge at which a quorum is present. Such authorization shall not be contested if written instruments, executed by the Master or Secretary of the Lodge, setting forth the authorization are filed with the Secretary of the Masonic Hall Association. The Lodge may exercise its rights through the Master of the Lodge, or any person authorized by a proxy or power of attorney duly executed by him, who is authorized to execute any documents and to vote the Lodge's membership or shares at any members' or shareholders' meeting of the Masonic Hall Association in accordance with the terms of any action previously authorized by the Lodge. *[Source: Sections 21060 and 22010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§900.050. REPORTING.**

A Masonic Hall Association shall submit a written report to each Lodge which is a member or shareholder of the Association on August 1st of each year and on the following February 1st. The report shall be presented at the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge. The August 1st report shall include a statement of income and expenditures for the six month period ending on the preceding June 30th, together with a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Association on the preceding June 30th. The February 1st report shall include a statement of income and expenditures for the twelve month period ending on the preceding December 31st, together with a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Association on the preceding December 31st. A copy of each such report shall be given to the Inspector of the district to which such Lodge is assigned.

Annually on or before the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of its fiscal year, each Masonic Hall Association shall submit to the Grand Secretary a full and correct report of its transactions for that preceding fiscal year on a form as may be provided. The report shall include a statement of assets, liabilities and net worth as of the end of the twelve month period. Masonic Hall Associations formed during the twelve month period shall transmit a report from the date of incorporation.

*[Source: Sections 21060 and 22010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§900.060. DISPOSITION OF REAL ESTATE.**

A Masonic Hall Association may sell, lease, convey, exchange, transfer, encumber or otherwise dispose of all or any part of its real estate when the principal terms of the transaction have been:

- A. Approved by its board;
- B. Approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes of its members or shareholders. A Lodge which is a member or shareholder of such Masonic Hall Association may approve such a transaction only as follows:
  - 1. The principal terms of any such transaction are presented, in writing, at a Stated Meeting;
  - 2. 15 day's written notice is given to each Lodge member setting forth such principal terms and the date of the Stated Meeting at which the vote is to be taken;
  - 3. At such Stated Meeting, such principal terms are approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present who are in good standing;
  - 4. The Secretary of the Lodge shall note in the minutes of the Lodge the notice of the proposed transaction when made; and
- C. Approved by the Committee on Masonic Properties as and to the extent provided in Section 406.060 of this Code.

The lease of real property, as lessor or lessee, for no more than three years shall not require member or shareholder approval under clause B above.

*[Amended: 2016.]*

**PART 10  
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.

*[Source: Section 20110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**PART 11  
MASONIC SERVICE BUREAUS**

**§1100.010. PURPOSES.**

Masonic Service Bureaus shall be for the purpose of:

- A. Properly relieving the distress of Masons who are members of Lodges of this or any other Jurisdiction, their widows and orphans, while residing or visiting in the area assigned to the Masonic Service Bureau;
- B. Arranging and conducting funerals of such deceased Masons;
- C. Making investigations requested by Lodges of this or any other Jurisdiction;
- D. Visiting sick sojourning Masons;
- E. Operating a clearing house as to applicants for the degrees and for dual or plural membership by affiliation of Lodges in the area assigned to that Masonic Service Bureau; and
- F. Such Masonic activities as may be provided in this Code or authorized by the Grand Secretary, subject to appeal and review of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

*[Source: Section 28020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1100.020. FORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP.**

Lodges may form a Masonic Service Bureau under a compact to be agreed upon among themselves and approved by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master before becoming effective. They

may provide, among other things, for paying the expenses of the work of the Bureau in such manner as they shall deem proper.

The Grand Secretary shall, with the consent and by direction of the Grand Master, have the power to compel any Constituent Lodge to become a member of the Masonic Service Bureau nearest its place of meeting. The Grand Secretary may, when the interests of the Craft will be served, cause to be organized with the consent of and by direction of the Grand Master additional Masonic Service Bureaus.

A Lodge may withdraw from a Masonic Service Bureau for good cause, subject to the approval of the Grand Secretary.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 28020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§1100.030. OPERATIONS.**

The Grand Secretary shall supervise the activities of Masonic Service Bureaus, assist them to standardize their operations, and formulate rules and amendments necessary for their effective operation.

Masonic Service Bureaus shall report annually to the Grand Secretary showing their work, receipts and disbursements in detail, specifying separately what, if any, has been expended for relief of Masons, their widows and orphans, funerals of deceased Masons, and how much thereof has been repaid. Grand Lodge may not appropriate any of its funds to any Bureau not so reporting.

All applications to Grand Lodge from Masonic Service Bureaus for funds or reimbursements shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary at least 60 days prior to the commencement date of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall make a thorough investigation of the merits of each application and report his findings and recommendations to the Committee on Finance on or before the opening day of the Annual Communication. If, in the opinion of the Grand Secretary, good cause is shown that immediate reimbursement is essential, reimbursement may be made with the approval of the Grand Master.

*[Amended: 2012.] [Source: Sections 2040 and 28020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **PART 12 MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS**

### **§1200.010. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.**

All members of Masonic Organizations within this Jurisdiction shall be subject to the same standards of conduct and propriety as are or may be imposed upon Master Masons in this Jurisdiction, except as otherwise provided in this Part 12. Neither a Masonic Organization nor any of its members shall, directly or indirectly, engage in or give any aid or support to any causes, organizations, business or entertainment schemes or other activities which would reflect

adversely on Masonry or violate this Code. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 1050 and 23190 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1200.015. MEMBERSHIP IN MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS.**

Except as provided below, a Mason residing in this Jurisdiction shall not be, become or remain a member of any Masonic Organization with activities in this Jurisdiction, unless:

- A. The Masonic Organization was established or organized in this Jurisdiction on September 27, 1957; or
- B. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Masonic Organization have first been submitted to Grand Lodge for approval at a subsequent Annual Communication.

This section shall not be construed as a recognition of any organization whether or not in existence on September 27, 1957; nor shall it be construed as prohibiting clubs organized for the purpose of instituting a new Lodge. This section shall not apply to organizations or associations composed exclusively of Past Masters, Masters and/or Wardens of a Constituent Lodge or Constituent Lodges. This section shall not apply to Masonic Organizations which do not confer degrees and, except for ceremonies of installation, do not have a ritual other than the Ritual of this Jurisdiction. This section shall not apply to any group, chapter, order, club, association or organization established or organized by or under the control of a Masonic Organization which was established or organized in this Jurisdiction on September 27, 1957.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Section 15130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1200.020. SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED MASONS.**

No Masonic Organization in this Jurisdiction may permit any man suspended or expelled as a Mason in this or any other Jurisdiction to retain membership in it, or to attend its tiled meetings. *[Source: Section 15040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1200.025. FRAUDULENT OR ILLEGAL VENTURES.**

No Masonic Organization or any of its members shall, directly or indirectly, engage in or give any aid or support to any business, project, venture, promotion, scheme or plan which is unethical, fraudulent, misleading or illegal. *[Source: Section 15080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1200.030. PERMITTED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

A Masonic Organization may solicit and receive the following types of financial support only:

- A. Dues from its members and application fees;
- B. Contributions and other financial assistance from its own members;

- C. Contributions and other financial assistance from such persons and entities (other than its members) as may be approved by the Grand Master;
- D. Interest, dividend, rental, royalty and other forms of investment income;
- E. Proceeds from the sale or exchange of assets; and
- F. Other types of support as are specifically authorized in this Part 12.

No other forms of financial support are permitted.

*[Source: Section 27500 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1200.035. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

A Masonic Organization may solicit and receive financial support for its fraternal operations and charitable activities from the following additional sources:

- A. A Masonic Organization may hold periodic activities to which tickets are sold to its members and their families and friends. No tickets to such an activity may be sold to the general public nor may there be any other public solicitation of support for such an activity. The sponsor shall disclose that any profits from the activity will be used for the sponsor's fraternal and not charitable purposes, if such is the case. In the event that such disclosure is not given, through inadvertence or otherwise, all proceeds from the activity shall be given to a recognized Masonic charity;
- B. A Masonic Organization may solicit and receive financial support for its fraternal operations and charitable activities from its members and their families and friends, as well as from the general public, if the sponsor observes the following guidelines:
  - 1. The square and compass, the words "Mason", "Masonic", "Masonry," "Freemasonry", "Freemason" and any variation of any such words may not be used in connection with the activity or any publicity associated with it;
  - 2. The activity may not be unethical, fraudulent, misleading or illegal under applicable state and federal laws;
  - 3. The sponsor shall disclose that any profits from the activity will be used for the sponsor's fraternal and not charitable purposes, if such is the case. In the event that such disclosure is not given, through inadvertence or otherwise, all proceeds from the activity shall be given to a recognized Masonic charity;
  - 4. Solicitation of support shall not occur on the premises of any Constituent Lodge.

Permitted fund-raising activities shall include the solicitation of advertising from any individual or business;

- C. A Masonic Organization may participate in local community fairs, celebrations and similar community events by sponsoring, occupying and operating booths for selling food or non-alcoholic beverages to persons attending or participating in such events;
- D. A Masonic Organization may solicit its members and their families to participate in third party credit card, insurance policy and other commercial activities and receive financial support from the businesses for which these solicitations are issued. This financial support may be used for the fraternal operations and/or charitable activities of the soliciting Masonic Organization. Among others, these solicitations may be in the form of direct mailings sent to the Masonic Organization's members and families and in the form of advertisements in the Masonic Organization's print or electronic publications which are distributed primarily to its members and their families. These solicitations must be within the bounds of propriety and the prices charged must be fair. The entire activity must be conducted strictly in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws; and
- E. A Masonic Organization may participate in any other activity which has been approved by the Grand Master.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 27700 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§1200.040. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.**

In addition to the activities permitted by the other provisions of this Part 12, a Masonic Organization may also solicit and receive financial support for its charitable activities from its members and their families and friends, as well as from the general public, if the sponsor observes the following guidelines:

- A. Publicity, tickets and programs relating to the event clearly identify the charitable purpose;
- B. The net proceeds of the event are distributed to the charities named (net proceeds are defined as the proceeds available for distribution after deduction of all expenses, including advances by a co-sponsoring commercial organization);
- C. The event itself and the associated publicity are within the bounds of propriety;
- D. *California Masonic Code* provisions regarding advertising and gambling are followed; and

- E. If the activity is held in cooperation with one or more commercial sponsors, the following additional requirements are met:
  - 1. Any advances by commercial co-sponsors represent less than fifty percent of the total expenses, including these advances; and
  - 2. An independent audit of the financial transaction is conducted and reported to the head of the sponsoring Masonic Organization, subject to approval by the Grand Master.

*[Source: Section 27800 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1200.045. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

Alcoholic beverages may be sold, served, and consumed on property owned by or leased to a Masonic Organization and at its activities held elsewhere only if the following requirements are observed:

- A. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold, served, or consumed in a Lodge room or in a room in which Masonic ceremonies are normally conducted except when such room serves a dual purpose as a ceremonial room and social room;
- B. A Masonic Organization may not maintain, on a regular or permanent basis, a bar stocked with alcoholic beverages;
- C. Alcoholic beverages may not be served, consumed, or sold during the course of a meeting of a Masonic Organization;
- D. A Masonic Organization may not rent or lease property in which it has an ownership interest to business establishments wherein alcoholic beverages are served, consumed or sold unless such service, consumption, and sale are incident to and not the primary purpose of the business; and
- E. Any sale, service, or consumption of alcoholic beverages pursuant to this section must comply with all applicable laws of the State of California.

*[Source: Section 15050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§1200.050. GAMBLING.**

Neither a Masonic Organization nor any of its members shall, directly or indirectly, give or attempt to give the aid or countenance of Masonry to, or participate in, the conduct or preparation of any raffle, lottery or other form of gambling, conducted in the name of, or directly or indirectly for the monetary benefit of, any Lodge or of any Masonic Organization. A Masonic

Organization shall not accept any of the proceeds or profits of any raffle, lottery or other gambling enterprise. Prizes may be awarded if not purchased from monies collected as admission fees and if no separate charge is made for the chance to win.

The foregoing notwithstanding, Masonic Organizations and their members may conduct raffles for the benefit of their charities, if conducted strictly in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and with the provisions hereunder related to financial support.

*[Amended: 2006.] Source: Section 15090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

#### **§1200.055. BINGO AND BUNCO.**

A Masonic Organization may sponsor a bingo or bunco game, if the sponsor observes the following rules:

- A. Attendance at the event is limited to the sponsor's members, their families and friends;
- B. There are no signs or other advertising visible to the general public referring to the game;
- C. No donation, admission fee, meal purchase or other charge is accepted or required for the opportunity to participate; and
- D. Prizes of minimal value may be awarded if purchased by the sponsor or donated.

*[Amended: 2014] [Source: Section 15095 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **PART 13 MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS**

#### **§1300.010. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.**

All members and advisors of each of the Masonic Youth Orders within this Jurisdiction shall be subject to the same standards of conduct and propriety as are or may be imposed upon Master Masons in this Jurisdiction, except as otherwise provided in this Part 13. Neither a Masonic Youth Order nor any of its members or advisors shall, directly or indirectly, engage in or give any aid or support to any causes, organizations, business or entertainment schemes or other activities which would reflect adversely on Masonry or violate this Code.

#### **§1300.020. SPONSORING MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS.**

A Lodge, by resolution, may sponsor a Masonic Youth Order provided that the applicable laws, rules or regulations of the particular Youth Order permit such sponsorship.

A Lodge may invite a Masonic Youth Order to exemplify, before the Lodge, at any public meeting, all or any portion of the public ceremonies or non-secret ritualistic work of such youth order.

*[Source: Section 15160 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§1300.030. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS.**

A Masonic Youth Order may solicit and receive financial support for its fraternal operations and charitable activities from its members, advisors and their families and friends, as well as from the general public, when done within the bounds of propriety and when fair prices are charged.

Masonic Youth Orders may conduct raffles for their charities and special needs such as leadership development and travel to special events, if conducted strictly in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and with the foregoing provisions.

A Masonic Youth Order may sponsor a bingo or bunco game and charge a reasonable admission fee or meal purchase price for the opportunity to participate, if the sponsor observes all of the other rules of Section 811.050 of the Code.

*[Amended: 2006; 2014.] [Source: Section 27900 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **PART 14 MASONIC TRIALS**

### **CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The following sections apply to each of Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of this Part 14:

### **§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,
    - 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.

*[Amended: 2009; 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 32020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§1401.020. NOT UNMASONIC CONDUCT.**

The following do not constitute unmasonic conduct sufficient to support the filing of a charge against a Mason:

- A. A business dispute not involving fraud, or other violation of the moral law or a material breach of the obligations of the degrees;
- B. A business dispute that involves the innocent inability to pay a just debt as promised;
- C. Political differences and acts in respect thereto;
- D. A possible conflict of interest arising from a transaction between a Mason in his private capacity and his Lodge or Masonic Hall Association where a full disclosure of the possible conflict has been made prior to the transaction;
- E. Actions allegedly violating the laws of other fraternal or social organizations, including Masonic Organizations; or
- F. Accidental or unforeseeable injury or humiliation to a candidate, preliminary to, during or following a degree.

*[Amended: 2009; 2010.] [Source: Section 32030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1401.030. CONFIDENTIALITY.**

It is the duty of every Mason to maintain the confidentiality of any matters arising under this Part 14. The name of the Accused, any charge or evidence against him, the findings, the penalty imposed and any other portion of any proceeding under this Part 14 may not be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person other than a member of a Constituent Lodge or as otherwise authorized in this Code or by the Grand Master. Unless otherwise authorized by Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, nothing about any proceeding under this part shall be published beyond the written and oral notifications provided in this part. Every notification provided in this part shall include a reminder of the requirements of this section. *[Added: 2010.]*

**CHAPTER 2  
TRIAL OF THE GRAND MASTER**

**§1402.010. CHARGES.**

A charge may be preferred for any or all of the following reasons against the Grand Master of this Jurisdiction during his tenure in office, by the Masters of any five Constituent Lodges, for:

- A. Abuse of his power as Grand Master;
- B. Violation of the Constitution or Ordinances; or

C. Unmasonic conduct.

Any such charge shall be in writing, signed by the Accusers, and presented to the most junior Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge who is then residing in this Jurisdiction and who is a member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge. In the event that such Past Grand Master is unable or unwilling to act, then the next previous Past Grand Master, who is then residing in this Jurisdiction, who is a member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge and who is able and willing to serve, shall assume the duties set forth herein.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 29010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1402.020. FORMATION OF TRIBUNAL.**

The Past Grand Master who received any such charge shall designate a date, time and place for trial, which place shall be one convenient for the parties. He shall summon four or more other Past Grand Masters of this Jurisdiction, who shall at the time be residing in this Jurisdiction and members in good standing of Constituent Lodges, to assemble with him on the date and at the time and place designated, to then and there try the Accused. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 29030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1402.030. PROCEDURE.**

The Past Grand Master who received any such charge shall summon the Accused to appear and answer as follows:

- A. At least 30 days before the time designated for the trial, if the Accused is served in this Jurisdiction; or
- B. At least 90 days before the time designated for the trial, if the Accused is served out of this Jurisdiction.

Included with the summons shall be a copy of each such charge and a notice to the Accused to attend on the date and at such time and place as is therein designated.

If the summons cannot be given so that the trial may be completed on any such charge prior to the commencement date of the next Annual Communication, each such charge shall be dismissed and no trial on any such charge under this chapter shall be held.

Within 15 days from the Accused's receipt of the charge or charges against him, the Accused may file with the tribunal a statement in writing that the Accused is either guilty or not guilty of each charge against him or that he is pleading no contest.

Any Master Mason in good standing may, at the request of the Accusers (as a group) or the Accused, appear as counsel to assist in the prosecution or defense of each charge.

The Past Grand Master who received any such charge shall have power to summon witnesses as he shall see fit or at the request of the Accused or at the request of an Accuser. The tribunal shall receive such testimony as it shall deem proper by majority vote of all its members.

The proceedings at the trial of the Grand Master, not fully prescribed in this chapter, shall be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 4 of this part for trial of individual Masons so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. The provisions of Chapter 4 for actions by the Trial Master shall be undertaken under this chapter by the Past Grand Master who received any such charge.

The tribunal shall, by a majority vote of all of its members, determine the guilt or innocence of the Accused upon each specification. The guilt of the Accused must be established by a preponderance of the evidence: it is more likely than not that the Accused committed an act which constitutes abuse of his power as Grand Master, a violation of the Constitution or Ordinances or other unmasonic conduct. The verdict of the tribunal shall be final. There shall be no appeal of the verdict nor any review of it by Grand Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 29020, 29030 and 29050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1402.040. PENALTY AND ITS IMPOSITION.**

The adjudged shall be removed from office without further action upon the tribunal's determination that he is guilty of one or more of the specifications. No other penalty may be imposed on the adjudged under this chapter. However, after his removal from office, the adjudged may be subject to a charge of unmasonic conduct under Chapter 4 of this part. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 29060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1402.050. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS.**

The Grand Secretary shall attend at the trial of the Grand Master and keep a record of the proceedings and of the verdict, which shall be filed in his office and shall be presented at the first Annual Communication of Grand Lodge convened after the trial. An electronic recording of the testimony and other proceedings at the trial, properly monitored and certified, may be used in place of a written record. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 2040 and 29050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1402.060. EXPENSE OF TRIBUNAL.**

All necessary expenses of the members of the tribunal shall be paid by Grand Lodge, in the same manner as those of Grand Lodge officers attending Grand Lodge Communications as provided in Section 407.070 of this Code. *[Source: Section 29040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**CHAPTER 3  
TRIAL OF A LODGE MASTER**

**§1403.010. CHARGES.**

A charge may be preferred for any or all of the following reasons against the Master of a Constituent Lodge during his tenure in office, by any five Master Masons who are members in good standing of his Lodge, for:

- A. Abuse of his power as Master;
- B. Violation of the Constitution or Ordinances; or
- C. Unmasonic conduct.

Any charge to be preferred against a Master under suspension from his office shall be brought under this chapter and not under Chapter 4.

Any such charge shall be in writing, signed by the Accusers, and presented to Grand Lodge, if in session, or otherwise to the Grand Master.

When presented to the Grand Master, he shall determine whether the specifications properly charge an offense under this section, and there shall be no appeal from his determination. When presented to Grand Lodge in session, it shall determine whether the specifications properly charge an offense under this Code, and there shall be no appeal from its determination.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 30010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1403.020. FORMATION OF COMMISSION.**

Upon the presentation of any specifications properly charging one or more offenses under Section 1403.010 of this Code, the Grand Master shall promptly appoint and summon three, five or seven disinterested Brethren, who each shall be either a Master or a Past Master of a Constituent Lodge and residing in this Jurisdiction, to assemble as Commissioners to try the accused. The Grand Master shall designate one of the Commissioners to preside. Promptly after receiving notification of his appointment, the presiding Commissioner shall designate a date, time and place for trial, which place shall be one convenient for the parties. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 30020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1403.030. PROCEDURE.**

The presiding Commissioner shall summon the Accused to appear and answer as follows:

- A. At least 30 days before the time designated for the trial, if the Accused is served in this Jurisdiction; or

B. At least 90 days before the time designated for the trial, if the Accused is served out of this Jurisdiction.

Included with the summons shall be a copy of each such charge and a notice to the Accused to attend on such date and at such time and place as is therein designated.

Within 15 days from the Accused's receipt of the charge or charges against him, the Accused may file with the presiding Commissioner a statement in writing that the Accused is either guilty or not guilty of each charge against him or that he is pleading no contest.

Any Master Mason in good standing may, at the request of the Accusers (as a group) or the Accused, appear as counsel to assist in the prosecution or defense of each charge.

The presiding Commissioner shall have the power to summon witnesses as he shall see fit or at the request of the Accused or at the request of an Accuser. The Commissioners shall receive such testimony as they shall deem proper by majority vote.

The Commissioners may adjourn from time to time at their own convenience or for good cause shown by the Accused or an Accuser. Their duties shall be concluded within 30 days of the start of the trial, except where the adjournment is at the request of the Accused or where the Grand Master grants further time.

The proceedings at the trial of the Master, not fully prescribed in this chapter, shall be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 4 of this part for trial of individual Masons so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. The provisions of Chapter 4 for actions by the Trial Master shall be undertaken under this chapter by the presiding Commissioner.

The Commissioners shall, by a majority vote, determine the guilt or innocence of the Accused upon each specification. The guilt of the Accused must be established by a preponderance of the evidence: it is more likely than not that the Accused committed an act which constitutes abuse of his power as Master, a violation of the Constitution or Ordinances or other unmasonic conduct. The verdict of the majority of all the Commissioners shall be conclusive, subject to review as provided for in Section 1403.060 of this Code.

Once a charge has been preferred under this chapter, the proceeding shall continue to completion even though the Accused may have been suspended from office by the Grand Master, resigned his office as Master, ceased to be a member of the Lodge or been suspended or expelled as provided in Article 8 of Chapter 4 of this part. If a member other than the Accused is installed as Master of the Lodge after a charge has been preferred under this chapter, the proceeding shall continue to completion even though the Accused is no longer Master.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 30030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1403.040. PENALTY AND ITS IMPOSITION.**

The Accused shall be removed from office without further action upon the Commissioners' determination that he is guilty of one or more of the specifications. In addition, if the Accused is found guilty of one or more specifications which constitute unmasonic conduct, the Commissioners shall proceed to vote upon a penalty under Section 1404.620 of this Code. A majority of the Commissioners shall be required to determine the penalty.

The Commissioners shall provide the Grand Secretary with a signed written report of the results of the proceedings. The Grand Secretary shall then notify the Accused of these results, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the Accused's last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records. The Grand Secretary shall also notify the Accusers and the Accused's Lodge of these results. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall provide notification of these results to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records.

If the penalty includes suspension or expulsion, it shall be effective immediately upon the Grand Secretary's receipt of the Commissioners' written report fixing the penalty. The notice to the Accused shall include an explanation of his status as a suspended or an expelled Mason.

If the penalty is reprimand, the Commissioners shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of the Constituent Lodge of which the Accused has been removed from office as Master. The Commissioners, or such other person as the Grand Master may designate, shall deliver the reprimand.

If the Accused has completed his term of office prior to the determination of his guilt and if he has not been found guilty of a specification which constitutes unmasonic conduct, the Accused shall be reprimanded in the manner set forth in Section 1404.630 of this Code, and the presiding Commissioner, or his designee, shall deliver the reprimand.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011.] [Source: Section 30040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1403.050. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS.**

The Commissioners shall keep a complete written record of their proceedings and of their verdict. They shall transmit the same to the Grand Secretary at the conclusion of the trial who shall forward a copy to the Committee on Trial Review. An electronic recording of the testimony and other proceedings at the trial, properly monitored and certified, may be used in place of a written record. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 30050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1403.060. GRAND LODGE REVIEW.**

All trial records under this chapter shall be reviewed and acted upon in conformity with the provisions of Article 9 of Chapter 4 of this Part 14 of the Code, so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. In addition, the provisions of Section 1404.950 of this Code

shall apply to charges previously brought under this chapter. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 30060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1403.070. EXPENSE OF COMMISSIONERS.**

Each Commissioner shall be entitled to reimbursement for his reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties under this chapter. If the trial is not held in the Lodge of which the Accused is Master, the Lodge in which the trial is held shall be entitled to reimbursement for its reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred in providing the place for the trial. These expenses shall be billed to and paid by Grand Lodge which may in turn bill and receive reimbursement for these expenses from the Accused's Lodge. Failure of a Lodge to reimburse Grand Lodge for expenses billed under this section shall have the same effect as a failure to pay the per capita assessment described in Section 407.025 of this Code. *[Added: 2010.]*

**§1403.080. ACTIONS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS.**

The Master of a Lodge is subject to suspension or expulsion under the provisions of Sections 1404.810.A, 1404.810.B and 1404.820 of this Code while in office without any action under this chapter. *[Added: 2010.]*

**§1403.090. RESTORATION.**

A Mason who has been suspended or expelled pursuant to this chapter may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry under the provisions of Sections 1404.1000 and 1404.1050 of this Code. However, a restoration under any of those provisions shall not restore him to the office of Master from which he had been removed pursuant to this chapter. *[Added: 2010.]*

**CHAPTER 4  
TRIAL OF AN INDIVIDUAL MASON**

**ARTICLE 1 – DISCIPLINARY JURISDICTION**

**§1404.110. DISCIPLINARY JURISDICTION OF GRAND LODGE.**

Any Mason from a Constituent Lodge who commits an act of unmasonic conduct may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled in the manner provided for in this chapter. Any Mason from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction who resides in this Jurisdiction and commits an act of unmasonic conduct may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled in the manner provided for in this chapter. This jurisdiction includes every demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Mason from a Constituent Lodge and every demitted, withdrawn, suspended or expelled Mason from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction who resides in this Jurisdiction. The passage of time shall not bar prosecution for any act of unmasonic conduct.

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may be charged and tried in the same manner as are Master Masons and are subject to the same penalties.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 23110 and 32010 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.120. GRAND MASTER AND LODGE MASTERS.**

The Grand Master of this Jurisdiction, or the Master of a Constituent Lodge, shall not be subject to any charge under this chapter until after leaving such office. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**ARTICLE 2 – CHARGES**

**§1404.210. CHARGES BY ANY MASTER MASON.**

One or more charges of unmasonic conduct may be preferred by any Master Mason in good standing. All charges shall be in writing over the signature of the Accuser. The Master Mason preferring the charges shall remain the Accuser throughout the proceedings. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.220. CHARGES BY THE JUNIOR WARDEN.**

- A. It shall be the duty of the Junior Warden to investigate any information, from any source, brought to his attention of possible unmasonic conduct by any Mason of his Lodge, wherever residing, or by any Mason of any Lodge, residing nearer to the meeting place of the Junior Warden's Lodge than to the meeting place of any other Constituent Lodge (other than a Research Lodge or Historic Lodge). Where more than one Lodge has the same meeting place, the Junior Wardens of these Lodges shall obtain from the Grand Master a determination of which of them shall discharge the duty under this section. This duty to investigate extends to previously suspended or expelled Masons.
- B. If, for the period of 30 days following the completion of his investigation, no Master Mason in good standing has preferred a charge against such Mason and if the Junior Warden has reasonable cause to believe that the Mason is guilty of unmasonic conduct, then it shall become the official duty of the Junior Warden to prefer in writing one or more charges of unmasonic conduct. He does so as a Master Mason and remains the Accuser throughout the proceedings.
- C. If the Junior Warden is the Accused or if the information is against the Junior Warden, it shall be the official duty of the Senior Warden to investigate the facts and prefer any such charge if the facts investigated give reasonable cause to believe that the Junior Warden is guilty of unmasonic conduct. He does so as a Master Mason and remains the Accuser throughout the proceedings.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 32060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.230. ACQUITTAL IN COURTS NO BAR.**

Acquittal or discontinuance of charges in the courts or the refusal of a Grand Jury to indict for an offense is not a bar to a Masonic trial based on the same offense. *[Source: Section 32300 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.240. CHARGES MUST BE SPECIFIC.**

The charge of unmasonic conduct shall be set forth in a specification or specifications stating clearly and precisely the facts giving rise to the offense or offenses and why the Accused's actions or failure to act constitute unmasonic conduct. The specification or specifications shall give time, place, and all necessary particulars as distinctly as possible, so that the Accused may have full knowledge of all that he may be called upon to explain, disprove or justify. A specification may be supplemented by attaching such documentation, reports and other evidence of the facts giving rise to the offense as may be in the possession of the Accuser. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.250. STANDARDIZED FORMS REQUIRED.**

Standardized forms as approved by the Committee on Trial Review and maintained by the Grand Secretary shall be used for any preferment of a charge of unmasonic conduct against and for Masonic trials of individual Masons. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32080 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**ARTICLE 3 – PRESENTATION, REVIEW AND SERVICE OF CHARGES**

**§1404.310. PRESENTATION OF CHARGES.**

Any charge of unmasonic conduct shall be presented to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall provide the Grand Master and the Committee on Jurisprudence with a copy upon receipt. The Grand Secretary shall notify the Accused, the Master of the Accused's Lodge and the Inspector assigned to the Accused's Lodge of the filing of each such charge. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the notification shall be given to the Master of every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge. *[Amended: 2010; 2013.] [Source: Section 32100 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.315. REVIEW OF THE CHARGES BY THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.**

The Committee on Jurisprudence shall review all charges and specifications received by the Grand Secretary, strike out those portions of any charge which are not supported by a clear and precise specification of unmasonic conduct and revise those portions of any charge which are incorrect, ambiguous or insufficient, based on the specifications. The committee may work with the Accuser during its review. The committee shall append to the charge or charges a statement setting forth the portion or portions of Section 1401.010 under which each charge is being

brought and every essential factual element of the unmasonic conduct specified which must be proven at trial in order for the Accused to be found guilty of that specification. After its review, the Committee on Jurisprudence shall provide the Grand Secretary with the charge or charges as they may have been revised by the committee. The Grand Secretary shall provide the Grand Master with a copy of the charge or charges as revised by the committee upon receipt.

If in the judgment of the Committee on Jurisprudence all of the facts set forth in any of the charges and specifications, if true, would not warrant a verdict of unmasonic conduct, then any such charge shall be dismissed by it and the committee shall so advise the Grand Secretary. Such a dismissal shall not prevent any subsequent filing of a charge with more evidence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall prepare a written report on its action and file it with the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall provide the Grand Master with a copy upon receipt. The Grand Secretary shall notify the Accuser and the Accused of the action taken, as well as the Accused's Lodge and the Inspector assigned to the Accused's Lodge. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the notification shall be given to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge. The Grand Master may at his discretion appoint one or more Master Masons to mediate any dispute giving rise to the filing of any dismissed charges of unmasonic conduct. Alternatively, the Grand Master may reinstate the dismissed charges as filed if in his view the facts set forth in any of the charges and specifications, if true, would warrant a verdict of unmasonic conduct.

*[Added: 2010.] [Amended: 2013; 2015.]*

#### **§1404.320. TRIAL MASTER'S APPOINTMENT.**

Upon being advised by the Grand Secretary that the Committee on Jurisprudence has completed its review and provided the Grand Secretary with the pending charge or charges as they may have been revised by the committee, the Grand Master (or his authorized designee) shall appoint a Trial Master and refer each such charge to him.

The Trial Master shall be appointed from a list maintained by the Committee on Trial Review of qualified Master Masons, each of whom then is and has been for a period of not less than five years a member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge and who is skilled in Masonic Law. A member of the Accused's Lodge or of any other Lodge of which the Accused is a member is disqualified to serve as the Trial Master. A Master Mason who cannot fairly try the matter, or who is a potential witness, is disqualified to serve as Trial Master with respect to any such matter.

Upon being advised of the appointment, the Grand Secretary shall send a notification of the Trial Master's appointment, together with each such charge as he has received them from the Committee on Jurisprudence, to the Trial Master, to the Accuser, to the Accused's Lodge and to the Inspector assigned to the Accused's Lodge. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the notification and charges shall be given to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2013.] [Source: Sections 32190, 32200 and 32210 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§1404.325. SERVICE OF CHARGES ON THE ACCUSED.**

Upon receipt of the Grand Secretary's notification of the Trial Master's appointment with a copy of the charge or charges, the Trial Master shall cause a true copy of the notification of the Trial Master's appointment and each such charge to be served upon the Accused together with the following statement, printed in no less than 12-point type:

You are hereby notified that the enclosed charge or charges of unmasonic conduct have been filed against you. If you are found guilty of any charge of unmasonic conduct, the penalty may be fixed at reprimand in open lodge or suspension or expulsion from Masonry.

Within 30 days from your receipt of this notice, if personally delivered, or within 30 days from the date of mailing of this notice to you, you must file with the Trial Master a statement in writing that you are either guilty or not guilty of each charge against you or that you are pleading no contest. If you plead guilty or no contest or you fail to enter a plea, there will be no trial and you may be found guilty and a penalty may be imposed without further notification. If you enter a plea of guilty or no contest, you may submit with your response to this notice any evidence of mitigating or extenuating circumstances which you wish the Trial Master to consider in determining the verdict and penalty.

You have the right to have your trial held before either a Trial Master sitting alone or a Trial Master sitting with Commissioners. You must designate in your statement whether you request a trial by a Trial Master alone or before a Trial Master sitting with Commissioners. If you fail to make such a designation, the trial shall be held before a Trial Master sitting alone.

You have the right to be present at any hearing on this matter. You are entitled to represent yourself. You also have the right to be represented by counsel of your choice. Your counsel, if any, must be a Master Mason in good standing in this Jurisdiction but need not be an attorney. You are not entitled to the appointment of counsel to represent you at Lodge expense or to reimbursement of your legal expenses. You are entitled to present any relevant evidence and call witnesses. You are entitled to the issuance of notices to compel the attendance of Masons to testify at trial. You will be given full opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses testifying against you.

You must comply with those provisions of Part 14 of the California Masonic Code applicable to this matter. A copy of Part 14 of the California Masonic Code is enclosed.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32120 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.330. TIME AND MANNER OF SERVICE.**

Service of any charges and notice upon the Accused shall be made personally by any disinterested Master Mason authorized by the Trial Master. If personal service cannot be effected upon the Accused after reasonable attempt, as determined by the Trial Master, the Trial Master shall serve the Accused by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records, in which case the date of mailing shall be the date of service. The service of any charges and notice is mandatory, and in its absence, the Trial Master has no authority to proceed. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32130 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.335. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE.**

A Certificate of Service of a true copy of the charge and specifications, and the notice to the Accused, shall be executed by the Master Mason making the service showing the method by which it was accomplished. The Certificate shall be filed with the Trial Master.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011.] [Source: Section 32140 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.340. RIGHTS PENDING TRIAL.**

Pending the withdrawal or dismissal of all charges, a finding of not guilty on all charges or the notification to the Grand Secretary of the penalty, if any, fixed by the Trial Master, the Grand Master may suspend the Accused from all the rights and benefits of Masonry. Absent such suspension, the Accused shall retain all of his rights and privileges, except the right to demit, until a charge is proven and penalty has been imposed as provided in this chapter. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.345. WITHDRAWING CHARGES.**

The Trial Master may allow a charge to be withdrawn by the Accuser at any time after the Trial Master's appointment. 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 and sign a written report on his action and make it a part of the trial record. The Trial Master shall provide a signed copy 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. 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. *[Added: 2010.]*

## **ARTICLE 4 – ACCUSED’S RESPONSE**

### **§1404.400. ACCUSED’S RESPONSE.**

Within 30 days from the Accused’s receipt of the charge or charges against him, if personally delivered, or within 30 days from the date of mailing to him of such charge or charges, the Accused shall file with the Trial Master a statement in writing that the Accused is either guilty or not guilty of each charge against him or that he is pleading no contest. The Trial Master shall provide a copy to the Accuser of any response received from the Accused.

If the Accused pleads guilty or no contest or he fails to enter a plea, there shall be no trial and the proceeding shall conclude as provided in Sections 1404.410 or 1404.420 of this Code. The Accused may submit with his response any evidence of mitigating or extenuating circumstances which he wishes the Trial Master to consider in determining the verdict and penalty.

If the Accused pleads not guilty, the Trial Master shall proceed as provided in Section 1404.430.

*[Added: 2010.]*

### **§1404.410. PROCEDURE IF THE ACCUSED FAILS TO PLEAD.**

If the Accused fails, within 30 days as required, to file a statement in writing containing a plea of guilty, not guilty or no contest, the Trial Master shall, without further notice to the Accused:

- A. Personally make a complete investigation, including, but not limited to, a review of documents and interviews to gather relevant information as to guilt or innocence of the Accused and the penalty, if guilty;
- B. Determine whether the charge and specifications are true;
- C. Cause the facts relating thereto to be reduced to writing;
- D. Make a finding as to the guilt or innocence of the Accused; and
- E. If the Trial Master makes a finding of guilty, fix the penalty under Section 1404.620 of this Code. No other penalty may be imposed.

The Trial Master shall prepare a written report of his investigation, the verdict and the penalty fixed, if any, including the facts upon which he relied in fixing the penalty. The Trial Master shall sign the written report and provide a signed copy to the Grand Secretary. The Trial Master shall cause his signed written report to be made a part of the trial record.

The Grand Secretary shall notify the Accused of the findings and the penalty, if any, fixed by the Trial Master, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the

Accused's last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records. The Grand Secretary shall also notify the Accuser, the Accused's Lodge and the Inspector assigned to such Lodge of these results. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall provide notification of these results to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge.

At the next Stated Meeting of each Constituent Lodge receiving the Grand Secretary's notification, the Master shall announce the Trial Master's findings and the penalty, if any, fixed. The Master shall admonish the members present that the name of the Accused, any charge or evidence against him, the Trial Master's findings and the penalty imposed may not be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person not otherwise entitled to the same. The Secretary shall record in the minutes of the meeting the Trial Master's findings and the penalty fixed.

If the penalty includes suspension or expulsion, it shall be effective immediately upon the Grand Secretary's receipt of the Trial Master's written report fixing the penalty. The notice to the Accused shall include an explanation of his status as a suspended or an expelled Mason.

If the penalty is reprimand, the Trial Master shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of any Constituent Lodge selected by the Trial Master of which the Accused is a member. If the Accused is not a member of a Constituent Lodge, the Trial Master shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of any Constituent Lodge selected by the Trial Master. The Trial Master or his designee shall deliver the reprimand.

*[Amended: 2010; 2013; 2015.] [Source: Sections 32120 and 32150 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.420. PROCEDURE IF THE ACCUSED PLEADS GUILTY OR NO CONTEST.**

If the Accused files, within 30 days as required, a statement in writing containing a plea of guilty or no contest, the Trial Master shall, without further notice to the Accused:

- A. Personally make a complete investigation, including, but not limited to, a review of documents and interviews to gather relevant information as to guilt or innocence of the Accused and the penalty, if guilty;
- B. Determine whether the charge and specifications are true;
- C. Cause the facts relating thereto to be reduced to writing;
- D. Make a finding as to the guilt or innocence of the Accused; and
- E. If the Trial Master makes a finding of guilty, fix the penalty under Section 1404.620 of this Code. No other penalty may be imposed.

The Trial Master shall prepare a written report of his investigation, the verdict and the penalty fixed, if any, including the facts upon which he relied in fixing the penalty. The Trial Master

shall sign the written report and provide a signed copy to the Grand Secretary. The Trial Master shall cause his signed written report to be made a part of the trial record.

The Grand Secretary shall notify the Accused of the findings and the penalty, if any, fixed by the Trial Master, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the Accused's last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records. The Grand Secretary shall also notify the Accuser, the Accused's Lodge and the Inspector assigned to such Lodge of these results. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall provide notification of these results to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge.

At the next Stated Meeting of each Constituent Lodge receiving the Grand Secretary's notification, the Master shall announce the Trial Master's findings and the penalty, if any, fixed. The Master shall admonish the members present that the name of the Accused, any charge or evidence against him, the Trial Master's findings and the penalty imposed may not be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person not otherwise entitled to the same. The Secretary shall record in the minutes of the meeting the Trial Master's findings and the penalty fixed.

If the penalty includes suspension or expulsion, it shall be effective immediately upon the Grand Secretary's receipt of the Trial Master's written report fixing the penalty. The notice to the Accused shall include an explanation of his status as a suspended or an expelled Mason.

If the penalty is reprimand, the Trial Master shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of any Constituent Lodge selected by the Trial Master of which the Accused is a member. If the Accused is not a member of a Constituent Lodge, the Trial Master shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of any Constituent Lodge selected by the Trial Master. The Trial Master or his designee shall deliver the reprimand.

*[Amended: 2010; 2013; 2015.] [Source: Sections 32120 and 32150 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.430. PROCEDURE IF THE ACCUSED PLEADS NOT GUILTY.**

If the Accused files, within 30 days as required, a statement in writing containing a plea of not guilty, the Trial Master shall proceed as follows:

- A. If the Accused has requested, in writing, that the trial be held before the Trial Master sitting with Commissioners, the Trial Master shall notify the Grand Master (or his authorized designee) that the trial shall be held before Commissioners, whereupon the Grand Master (or his authorized designee) shall promptly appoint as Commissioners for the trial two, four or six disinterested Master Masons in good standing, each of whom resides in this Jurisdiction and has been a member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge for not less than five years. No Commissioner may be appointed from any Lodge of either the Accuser or the Accused. The Grand Secretary shall notify the Trial Master and the Commissioners of these appointments, whereupon the Trial Master shall proceed to trial as provided in Section 1404.510 of this Code; and

- B. In all other cases, the Trial Master shall proceed to trial as provided in Section 1404.510 of this Code.

*[Amended: 2010; 2013.] [Source: Sections 32160, 32170 and 32180 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 5 – TRIAL**

### **§1404.510. NOTICE OF TRIAL.**

Once authorized to proceed to trial as provided in Section 1404.430 of this Code, the Trial Master shall:

- A. Establish the date, time and place for the trial of the Accused, considering the convenience of the parties and the time allowed to the Accused after notification for appearance;
- B. If the trial will be held before the Trial Master sitting with Commissioners, notify each Commissioner of the date, time and place of the trial;
- C. Notify the Accuser of the date, time and place of the trial; and
- D. Cause a summons to be served, together with a list of the names of the appointed Commissioners, if the trial shall be held before the Trial Master sitting with Commissioners, notifying the Accused of the date, time and place of his trial and requiring the Accused to appear at the trial and answer each charge against him.

The obligation to obey a trial summons is absolute and the penalty for disobedience, if established after a trial as provided for in this chapter, shall be expulsion, unless such disobedience was unavoidable or was occasioned by some pressing necessity, as determined by the Trial Master.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 32220 and 32250 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

### **§1404.515. SERVICE OF TRIAL SUMMONS.**

- A. The trial summons shall be delivered to the Accused as follows:
  - 1. At least 30 days before the time designated for the trial, if the Accused is served in this Jurisdiction; or
  - 2. At least 90 days before the time designated for the trial, if the Accused is served out of this Jurisdiction.
- B. Service shall be performed by:

1. Personal delivery by any disinterested Master Mason authorized by the Trial Master;
  2. Being left with an adult occupant at his ordinary residence or with an adult employee at his place of business during regular business hours; or
  3. Being mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records by the Trial Master.
- C. Service by mail shall be presumed complete on depositing the documents in the mail in a sealed envelope with sufficient postage.
- D. The Master Mason performing the service shall provide proof of service in the form of a Certificate of Service which is filed with the Trial Master.
- E. If personal service on the Accused cannot be effected and if his address is unknown, the Trial Master shall order the trial to proceed in the absence of the Accused and the record shall contain a full statement of the fact constituting due diligence in the effort to locate the Accused.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32260 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.520. COUNSEL.**

Any Master Mason in good standing may, at the request of the Accuser, the Accused or the Trial Master, appear as counsel to assist in the prosecution or defense of each charge. Such counsel need not be an attorney. No Lodge funds may be used to pay the counsel or other expenses of an Accused or an Accuser resulting from the trial. Counsel for the Accused may appear and represent the Accused even if the latter cannot be present at the trial. Counsel for the Accuser may appear and represent the Accuser even if the latter cannot be present at the trial. *[Added: 2010.]*

#### **§1404.525. DISQUALIFICATION OF COMMISSIONERS AND VACANCIES.**

Objections may be made to any Commissioner at or before the Pre-Trial Conference, and the reasons for objection must be stated at the time thereof. No person who acted as a witness or Commissioner at a prior trial of the Accused may act as a Commissioner. The Trial Master shall decide and rule upon the validity of all objections. One who cannot fairly try the matter may not act as a Commissioner.

A Commissioner is automatically removed if he fails to attend on the date appointed by the Trial Master, or if he fails to attend on any adjourned date.

Any vacancy among the Commissioners, because of an objection, failure to attend, resignation or otherwise, may be filled by the Trial Master with a disinterested Master Mason in good standing who resides in this Jurisdiction and has been a member in good standing of a Constituent Lodge for not less than five years. There shall not at any time be any fewer than two Commissioners, regardless of the number of Commissioners originally appointed. No Commissioner may be appointed by the Trial Master from any Lodge of either the Accuser or the Accused. If a vacancy occurs after the start of the first evidentiary hearing in the trial, then the vacancy may only be filled by a Master Mason who has been present during all evidentiary hearings before his appointment or all evidence introduced before his appointment must be introduced again.

*[Added: 2010.] [Amended: 2013; 2015.]*

**§1404.530. TRIAL PROCEDURES, GENERALLY.**

- A. The Trial Master shall ensure that the trial is conducted in all respects in accordance with this Code and with due order and propriety.
- B. The Trial Master or a disinterested Master Mason, appointed for the purpose by and acting under the supervision of the Trial Master, shall keep a full record of the trial proceedings and the verdict. The testimony and other proceedings at the trial shall be electronically recorded or shall be recorded and transcribed by a certified shorthand reporter who is a Master Mason. The written record shall include the names of those called to testify and the originals or copies of the documentary testimony, including answers to interrogatories, depositions and affidavits, marked for identification and identified as to whether each was received as evidence.
- C. There shall be no communication, direct or indirect, by the Accuser, the Accused and/or their respective counsel with any Commissioner regarding the merits of any issue in the proceeding, except at a trial hearing. Neither the Accuser, the Accused nor their respective counsel shall communicate with the Trial Master on any matter other than procedure and practice without notification to and an opportunity for all of the Accuser, the Accused and their respective counsel to participate in the communication.
- D. The Trial Master may adjourn a trial at any time to a specified time for his convenience or for the convenience of any or all of the Commissioners, or for sufficient cause shown by the Accuser or the Accused. A reasonable continuance should be allowed the Accuser or Accused for good cause shown. The trial shall be concluded within 30 days of its scheduled start unless the Trial Master grants further time for good reason.
- E. When the charge is for an offense that is the subject of proceedings in court or a pending appeal, the Masonic trial may, in the discretion of the Trial Master, be deferred until such court proceedings are concluded.
- F. Any Master Mason in good standing may be present at all times at a Masonic trial. However, the Trial Master may, for good cause and in the interest of justice, exclude any Master Mason whose presence is not necessary to the actual conduct of the trial. Under

no circumstances shall one who is not a Master Mason in good standing (other than the Accused) be permitted to be present at a Masonic trial, except for the limited purpose of testifying. Except for good cause shown, each potential witness (other than the Accuser, the Accused, the counsel for each and such other Master Mason designated by the Accuser's counsel to assist in the presentation of the evidence and approved by the Trial Master) shall be excluded from the trial room until he testifies.

- G. The Trial Master shall advise all in attendance at a Masonic trial of the requirements of Section 1401.030 of this Code regarding confidentiality.
- H. The Trial Master may, at any time before the matter is submitted for decision, allow amendments to any charge which will tend toward justice and shall afford the Accused sufficient time to gather and present evidence on the amended charges.
- I. At any time before a verdict is rendered, the Accused may change his plea of not guilty to one of guilty or no contest. The Trial Master shall then dismiss the Commissioners, if any, and proceed in the manner provided for in Section 1404.420 of this Code, as if a guilty or no contest plea had been originally entered by the Accused.

*[Amended: 2010; 2013.] [Source: Sections 32190, 32320, 32330 and 32340 of the 1991 California Masonic*

#### **§1404.535. PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE.**

The Trial Master shall convene a pre-trial conference, at a convenient time and place before the start of the trial, which the Accused, the Accuser and/or their respective counsel, if any, must attend. At the pre-trial conference, the Trial Master may address any of the following issues:

- A. An explanation of trial process and types of evidence admissible;
- B. Exploration of settlement possibilities which, with the consent of the parties, may include a settlement conference with or without the participation of the Trial Master;
- C. Preparation of stipulations;
- D. Clarification of issues;
- E. Rulings on identity and limitation on the number of witnesses;
- F. Objections to evidence;
- G. Order of presentation of evidence and cross-examination, not in conflict with Section 1404.545 of this Code;
- H. Schedules for the submission of written briefs, if any, and schedules for the commencement and conduct of the hearing;

- I. Exchange of witness lists and of exhibits or documents to be offered in evidence at the hearing;
- J. Requests for change of the Lodge in which the trial is to be held;
- K. Challenges by either the Accused or the Accuser to one or more of the Commissioners;
- L. Exploration of the possibility of using other ways to resolve the dispute within Masonry, such as mediation; and
- M. Any other matters as shall promote the orderly and prompt conduct of the trial.

*[Added: 2010.]*

**§1404.540. DISCOVERY.**

Following the pre-trial conference, the Trial Master shall issue a written order containing the date, no less than 10 days before the trial date, by which discovery must be completed, witness and exhibit lists exchanged, and such other matters as he deems appropriate to the orderly conduct of the trial. Pre-trial discovery shall be conducted as follows:

- A. Each of the Accuser, the Accused and/or their respective counsel is entitled to inspect and make a copy of any of the following in the possession or custody or under the control of the other party:
  - 1. Written statements made by the Accused, Accuser or any witness that are relevant to the issues (relevance being defined as having some reasonable tendency to prove or disprove a fact or issue in dispute);
  - 2. All writings and things which the Accused or Accuser then proposes to offer in evidence (this is a continuing obligation so that if documents or witnesses are discovered after the discovery cut-off date, the same must be disclosed and, if intended to be used at trial, an explanation as to why it was not uncovered during the discovery period); and
  - 3. Any other writing or thing which is relevant and which would be admissible even if not intended to be offered by the Accused or Accuser at trial;
- B. For the purpose of this section, “statements” includes written statements by the person, signed or otherwise authenticated by him or her, stenographic, mechanical, electrical or other recordings, or transcripts thereof, of oral statements by the person, and written reports or summaries of these oral statements;
- C. Nothing in this section shall authorize the inspection or copying of any writing or thing which is privileged from disclosure by federal or California law;

- D. No depositions shall be taken without the prior authorization of the Trial Master; depositions shall not be authorized unless the Trial Master determines the proposed deponent is a witness who is not available for trial; any deposition shall be video-recorded and all expenses associated therewith shall be borne by the party requesting the deposition;
- E. The Trial Master shall have the authority to preclude the presentation of any evidence, by the Accused or the Accuser, for that party's failure, without good cause, to comply with discovery requirements; and
- F. These discovery provisions do not apply to any evidence that is intended to be used solely for purposes of impeachment or rebuttal.

*[Added: 2010.]*

#### **§1404.545. BURDEN AND STANDARD OF PROOF.**

The Accuser has the burden of proving every charge. The Accuser (or his counsel) has the duty of first presenting evidence to support each charge, after which the Accused (or his counsel) may present evidence in defense. The Accused may be found guilty of a charge of unmasonic conduct only if, after considering all of the evidence presented by or on behalf of the Accuser and the Accused, both of the following two items are found: (a) it is more likely than not that the Accused committed the act or acts described in the charge and (b) the act or acts committed by the Accused and described in the charge constitute unmasonic conduct under this Code. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32270 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.550. TESTIMONY.**

The Trial Master shall decide what and how much testimony shall be allowed. Each of the Accuser and the Accused may request witnesses to appear and testify at the trial. At the request of the Accuser or the Accused, the Trial Master may summons a Mason to testify.

Witnesses who are Master Masons in good standing shall testify upon their honor as such, and all others shall testify under oath or affirmation.

Whenever the attendance of a witness cannot be procured, his testimony may be taken by deposition as described in Section 1404.540.D of this Code. Whenever the testimony of a witness cannot reasonably be procured by deposition, it shall be taken upon interrogatories, agreed upon by the parties or settled by the Trial Master. Answers to the interrogatories must be in writing and made upon oath or affirmation.

No Mason against whom a charge is pending shall be required to be a witness or to testify to facts tending to incriminate himself. Before such testimony is accepted, the Trial Master must be satisfied that the Accused has been advised of his right to remain silent.

Without a waiver by the Accused set forth in the record, counsel for the Accused may not testify to facts disclosed to him by the Accused or discovered by him as a direct result of any such disclosure.

[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 32270, 32310 and 32320 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]

**§1404.555. RULES OF EVIDENCE.**

- A. The following rules of evidence shall be followed at a Masonic trial as nearly as the circumstances permit:
  - 1. Any evidence shall be admitted if:
    - a. The evidence has some tendency in reason to prove or disprove a fact or issue in dispute; and
    - b. It is the sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule which might make improper the admission of the evidence over objection in civil actions;
  - 2. Admissions or confessions of the Accused that would be admissible in the courts are admissible in a Masonic trial;
  - 3. Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence but shall not be sufficient in itself to support a finding of unmasonic conduct;
  - 4. The rules of privilege shall be effective to the extent that they are otherwise required by statute to be recognized in civil actions; and
  - 5. The Trial Master has the discretion to exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by its prejudice to the Accused, or its admission will necessitate undue consumption of time;
- B. The records and reporter's transcripts of testimony made in state and federal courts, properly authenticated, may be allowed in evidence. The certified record of final conviction in criminal proceedings, including a conviction based on a plea of *nolo contendere* (or no contest), unless rebutted, is conclusive evidence in a Masonic trial of guilt of the offense covered in the criminal proceedings;
- C. A witness shall not be examined, nor shall any testimony be taken, without an opportunity given the Accuser and the Accused to be present and cross-examine the witness. Affidavits, interrogatories or depositions taken without notification to the Accused or the Accuser may not be received;

- D. Technical objections as to form shall not be permitted;
- E. The Accused or his counsel has a right, as a part of his presentation, to introduce testimony which explains his actions and has the further right to introduce evidence in extenuation and mitigation; and
- F. Where guilt is sought to be proven by one witness, great caution is to be exercised.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32320 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.560. SUMMATION.**

The Accuser (or his counsel) shall, at the conclusion of the testimony, have the right to make an oral summation. The Accused (or his counsel) shall thereafter have the right to make such a summation after which the Accuser (or his counsel) shall again have the right to make a final summation. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32270 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.565. DETERMINATIONS OF LAW AND FACT.**

The Trial Master shall decide all questions of law (including the admissibility of evidence and other trial procedures) which may arise during a trial. The Trial Master may consult with the Committee on Jurisprudence regarding any question of law.

In those cases wherein the trial is conducted before the Trial Master alone, the Trial Master is the sole judge of the facts to be proven. In those cases wherein the trial is conducted before a Trial Master sitting with Commissioners, the Trial Master and the Commissioners are the sole judges of the facts to be proven.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 32320 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.570. DISMISSAL.**

If in the Trial Master's judgment all of the evidence introduced at trial, taken together, would not warrant a guilty verdict on a charge of unmasonic conduct, then he shall dismiss such charge. The trial record shall set forth the dismissal and the Trial Master's reasons for it. Such a dismissal shall not prevent any subsequent filing of the same or similar charge but with more evidence.

The Trial Master shall notify the Grand Secretary of such dismissal and the reasons for it. The Grand Secretary shall then notify the Accuser and the Accused of the action taken, as well as the Accused's Lodge and the Inspector assigned to such Lodge. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the notification shall be given to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge.

*[Added: 2010.] [Amended: 2013.]*

## **ARTICLE 6 – VERDICT AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTY**

### **§1404.610. DELIBERATIONS AND VERDICT.**

After all testimony has been received in a trial and summations made:

- A. In a trial before a Trial Master sitting with Commissioners, the Trial Master and Commissioners shall proceed without delay to deliberate upon the guilt or innocence of the Accused. During their deliberations, only the Trial Master and Commissioners may be present, and they alone shall determine the guilt or innocence of the Accused. Only the Trial Master and those Commissioners who have participated in every evidentiary hearing during the trial are entitled to participate in these deliberations and findings. The Trial Master and at least two Commissioners must participate in the deliberations, regardless of the number of Commissioners originally appointed. The Commissioners may consult with the Trial Master, during their deliberations and voting, on questions involving interpretation of this Code and trial procedures.

After sufficient consultation and deliberation, the Trial Master and Commissioners shall vote by ballot upon each specification, and the ballots shall have written on them “yes” or “no.” Each vote shall be recorded. For each specification, two separate votes shall be taken. The Trial Master and Commissioners shall first vote by “yes” or “no” on the first question: “Is it more likely than not that the Accused committed the act or acts described in the specification?” If a majority of the Trial Master and Commissioners votes “yes”, then the Trial Master and Commissioners shall proceed to vote by “yes” or “no” on the second question: “Do the act or acts committed by the Accused and described in the specification constitute unmasonic conduct under the *California Masonic Code*?” If a majority of the Trial Master and Commissioners votes “yes” on both questions, the Accused is guilty of the specification. If the Trial Master and Commissioners cannot find the Accused guilty of the specification, they may delete any part which they do not find against the Accused, and return a verdict, for that portion of the specification or charge of which they find the Accused guilty. If the Trial Master and Commissioners cannot find the Accused guilty of the specification with deletions, the Accused shall be found not guilty of the specification.

The final vote on each question shall be recorded, giving the number of votes, both yes and no, upon each question. This record of the findings at trial shall be signed by the Trial Master and Commissioners and given to the Trial Master at the end of the deliberations and vote. The Trial Master shall provide a signed copy of this record to the Grand Secretary. The Trial Master shall cause the signed report of the findings at trial to be made a part of the trial record. After the Trial Master has signed this record, the Commissioners are discharged and shall have no further part in the proceedings.

Should the Accused be found guilty of one or more of the specifications, as originally charged, or as modified by the Trial Master and Commissioners, the Trial Master shall proceed to set the penalty under Section 1404.620 of this Code. No other penalty may be

imposed. The Trial Master shall record the penalty fixed. He shall sign the record of the penalty fixed and provide a signed copy to the Grand Secretary. The Trial Master shall cause a copy of the signed record of the penalty fixed to be made a part of the trial record; or

- B. In a trial before a Trial Master sitting without Commissioners, the Trial Master shall proceed alone without delay to deliberate upon the verdict and penalty. The Trial Master alone shall determine the guilt or innocence of the Accused and shall decide on the penalty. For each specification, the Trial Master shall answer each of the following two questions: “Is it more likely than not that the Accused committed the act or acts described in the specification?” “Do the act or acts committed by the Accused and described in the specification constitute unmasonic conduct under the *California Masonic Code*?” If the Trial Master has answered “yes” on both questions, the Accused is guilty of the specification. The Trial Master may delete any part of a specification which he does not find against the Accused, and return a verdict, for that portion of the specification or charge of which he does find the Accused guilty. If the Trial Master cannot find the Accused guilty of the specification with deletions, the Accused shall be found not guilty of the specification.

Should the Trial Master find the Accused guilty of one or more of the specifications, as originally charged, or as modified by him, he shall proceed to set the penalty under Section 1404.620 of this Code. No other penalty may be imposed.

The Trial Master shall record his answer upon each question and the penalty fixed. He shall sign the record of the findings at trial and the penalty fixed and provide a signed copy to the Grand Secretary. The Trial Master shall cause the signed report of the findings at trial to be made a part of the trial record.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Sections 32350, 32360 and 32390 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.620. PENALTIES.**

The penalty upon a finding of guilt on one or more specifications shall be fixed at one of reprimand in open Lodge, suspension for a definite period of no more than one year, suspension for an indefinite period or expulsion, subject to review by Grand Lodge as provided in Article 9 of this chapter. The penalty fixed shall also be subject to the following requirements:

- A. Absent mitigating circumstances, the penalty shall be set at expulsion upon a finding of guilt on one or more specifications involving moral turpitude or the conviction of a crime involving a violation of the moral law;
- B. Absent aggravating circumstances, the penalty shall not be set at expulsion unless there is a finding of guilt on one or more specifications involving moral turpitude or another violation of the moral law or a conviction under the criminal laws of the United States or of any other governmental entity;

- C. Absent aggravating or mitigating circumstances, the penalty shall be set at suspension for a definite or an indefinite period upon a finding of guilt on one or more specifications involving a knowing refusal to obey the Grand Master's authority properly exercised but which do not involve moral turpitude nor another violation of the moral law;
- D. Absent aggravating circumstances, the penalty shall be set at reprimand in open Lodge upon a finding of guilt on specifications, all of which:
  - 1. Involve neither moral turpitude nor another violation of the moral law nor a conviction under the criminal laws of the United States or of any other governmental entity;
  - 2. Involve no breach of a fiduciary duty;
  - 3. Do not involve a knowing refusal to obey the Grand Master's authority properly exercised;
  - 4. Resulted in no material harm to Masonry or any individual; and
  - 5. Involved conduct not likely to be repeated; and
- E. The penalty upon a finding of guilt on any other specification shall be set as determined during the proceeding, subject to review by Grand Lodge as provided in Article 9 of this chapter.

*[Added: 2009.] [Amended: 2010.]*

**§1404.630. NOTIFICATION OF VERDICT AND IMPOSITION OF ANY PENALTY.**

The Grand Secretary shall notify the Accused of the findings and the penalty, if any, fixed at trial, by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the Accused's last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records. The Grand Secretary shall also notify the Accuser, the Accused's Lodge and the Inspector assigned to such Lodge of these results. If the Accused is a member of more than one Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall provide notification of these results to every Lodge of which the Accused is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records, and the Inspector assigned to each such Lodge. The notification to the Accused shall include a copy of Section 1404.910 of this Code.

At the next Stated Meeting of each Constituent Lodge receiving the Grand Secretary's notification, the Master shall announce the Trial Master's findings and the penalty, if any, fixed. The Master shall admonish the members present that the name of the Accused, any charge or evidence against him, the Trial Master's findings and the penalty imposed may not be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person not otherwise entitled to the same. The Secretary shall record in the minutes of the meeting the Trial Master's findings and the penalty fixed.

If the penalty includes suspension or expulsion, it shall be effective immediately upon the Grand Secretary's receipt of the written report fixing the penalty. The notice to the Accused shall include an explanation of his status as a suspended or an expelled Mason.

If the penalty is reprimand, the Trial Master shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of any Constituent Lodge selected by the Trial Master of which the Accused is a member. If the Accused is not a member of a Constituent Lodge, the Trial Master shall summon the Accused to appear at a Stated Meeting of any Constituent Lodge selected by the Trial Master. The Trial Master or his designee shall deliver the reprimand.

*[Amended: 2013.] [Added: 2010.]*

## **ARTICLE 7 – OTHER TRIAL PROVISIONS**

### **§1404.710. ASSISTANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.**

The Trial Master may use the Grand Secretary or any other qualified Master Mason to assist the Trial Master in the performance of his administrative duties. However, the Trial Master may not delegate those responsibilities requiring the exercise of discretion or the ultimate exercise of his authority. The Trial Master remains responsible for all of his duties listed in this chapter even if he has delegated particular tasks to someone else. *[Added: 2010.]*

### **§1404.720. TRIAL RECORD.**

The Trial Master shall cause a trial record to be prepared for any and all charges referred to him, whether or not a trial was held. The trial record shall consist of:

- A. A copy of the appointment of the Trial Master and any appointments of Commissioners;
- B. A record of the proceedings, including copies of each charge (as originally filed and thereafter modified), summons, notice, Certificate of Service, order and written report, the evidence considered and the written record of testimony or, in the alternative, the electronic recording of the testimony;
- C. The record of the findings and the penalty fixed, if there was no trial, as signed by the Trial Master;
- D. The record of the findings at trial, if there was a trial, as signed by the Trial Master and by the Commissioners, if the matter was tried before Commissioners, and the penalty fixed, as signed by the Trial Master; and
- E. All other original papers in the record.

The Trial Master shall carefully examine the trial record to see that it is fairly and legibly written, and that it otherwise complies with this Code, and shall certify the trial record as complete. The endorsed trial record shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary.

A trial record shall never, except upon order of court or as otherwise authorized by the Grand Master, be used or introduced as evidence in any litigation.

*[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Sections 32390, 32410 and 32420 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.730. NOTIFICATION TO MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS OF A SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION.**

When the Secretary of the Lodge from which a Mason has been suspended or expelled for any reason has knowledge that the Mason is also a member of a Masonic Organization, the Secretary shall notify the presiding officer or secretary of each such Masonic Organization of the suspension or expulsion. The Secretary shall, on restoration of the member, notify the presiding officer or secretary of the Masonic Organization of the restoration. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 19040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

**§1404.740. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT.**

The Trial Master and each Commissioner shall be entitled to reimbursement for his reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of his official duties under this chapter. If the trial is not held in the Accused's Lodge or a Lodge of which the Accused is a member, the Lodge in which the trial is held shall be entitled to reimbursement for its reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred in providing the place for the trial. These expenses shall be billed to and paid by Grand Lodge which may in turn bill and receive reimbursement for these expenses from the Accused's Lodge. If the Accused is a member of more than one Constituent Lodge, each such Lodge shall share equally in the reimbursement, if billed. If the Accused's Lodge is not in this Jurisdiction, Grand Lodge shall pay these expenses without reimbursement. Failure of a Lodge to reimburse Grand Lodge for expenses billed under this section shall have the same effect as a failure to pay the per capita assessment described in Section 407.025 of this Code. *[Added: 2010.]*

***ARTICLE 8 – ACTIONS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS***

**§1404.810. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION IN ANOTHER GRAND JURISDICTION.**

- A. As provided in Section 804.165.B of this Code, 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 this chapter.

- B. Suspension or expulsion of a Mason of a Constituent Lodge in any other Jurisdiction while he is a resident thereof, shall automatically suspend his membership or expel him in this Jurisdiction. If such Mason is subsequently restored by the suspending or expelling Jurisdiction, he may also be restored in this Jurisdiction, upon payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration 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 this chapter.
- C. Upon learning of the suspension or expulsion of a Mason of a Constituent Lodge in any other Jurisdiction while he is a resident or member thereof, the Grand Secretary shall procure the record of expulsion or suspension.

Upon receipt of the record, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Mason by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records, of the record of conviction and his resulting suspension or expulsion from his Lodge or Lodges in this Jurisdiction. The notification shall include an explanation of his status as a suspended or an expelled Mason. The Grand Secretary shall also notify the Mason's Lodge of his suspension or expulsion. If the Mason is a member of more than one Lodge, the notification shall be given to every Lodge of which the Mason is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records. At the next Stated Meeting of each Constituent Lodge receiving the Grand Secretary's notification, the Master shall announce the Mason's suspension or expulsion. The Master shall admonish the members present that the name of the suspended or expelled Mason, his suspension or expulsion and the reasons therefor may not be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person not otherwise entitled to the same. The Secretary shall record in the minutes of the meeting the particulars of the Grand Secretary's notification.

- D. If the record gives reasonable cause to believe that the Mason is guilty of an act or actions which constitute unmasonic conduct under this Code, it shall be the duty of the Junior Grand Warden to prefer one or more charges based on the offense or offenses of which the Mason was convicted in the other Jurisdiction. The proceedings shall be as provided for in this chapter or Chapter 3 if he be the Master of a Constituent Lodge, except that the record of conviction in the other Jurisdiction, unless rebutted, shall be received as conclusive evidence of his guilt.

[Amended: 2010; 2015.] [Source: Section 32040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]

**§1404.820. CONVICTION OF A CRIME OF MORAL TURPITUDE.**

- A. If a Mason under the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge has pleaded guilty or *nolo contendere* (or no contest) to, or has been convicted of, a crime of moral turpitude by a federal or state court, he shall be deemed automatically expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry without any further action of his Lodge or Grand Lodge. His expulsion shall be effective when he enters his plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* (or no contest) or, if he is convicted after entering a plea of not guilty, at the time of his

conviction. Expulsion is automatic, irrespective of an order granting probation following such conviction, suspending the imposition of penalty, or of a subsequent order allowing such person to withdraw his plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the plea or verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation or information, unless, for the reason that he did not commit the offense, he either has been pardoned or has had his judgment of conviction vacated or reversed.

- B. Upon learning that a Mason under the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge has pleaded guilty or *nolo contendere* (or no contest) to, or has been convicted of, a crime of moral turpitude by a federal or state court, the Grand Secretary shall procure a certified copy of the record of conviction and provide a copy to the Committee on Jurisprudence. If in the judgment of a majority of the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence the Mason has pleaded guilty or *nolo contendere* (or no contest) to, or has been convicted of, a crime of moral turpitude by a federal or state court, then, once the resulting expulsion is effective, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Mason by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address as shown in the Grand Lodge's records, of his expulsion from his Lodge or Lodges in this Jurisdiction. The notification shall include an explanation of his status as an expelled Mason.
- C. The Grand Secretary shall also notify the Mason's Lodge of his expulsion. If the Mason is a member of more than one Lodge, the notification shall be given to every Lodge of which the Mason is a member, as shown in Grand Lodge's records. At the next Stated Meeting of each Constituent Lodge receiving the Grand Secretary's notification, the Master shall announce the Mason's expulsion. The Master shall admonish the members present that the name of the expelled Mason, his criminal record and his expulsion may not be disclosed, either directly or indirectly, to any person not otherwise entitled to the same. The Secretary shall record in the minutes of the meeting the particulars of the Grand Secretary's notification.
- D. Grand Lodge shall have original jurisdiction to resolve any disputes under this section.
- E. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit a Mason from being tried for the actual conduct upon which criminal charges have been filed against him or his criminal conviction was based, regardless of the pendency of any appeal.

*[Amended: 2010; 2014.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

## **ARTICLE 9 – GRAND LODGE REVIEW AND REVERSALS**

### **§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, 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 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.
  - 2. 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 penalty, remand the matter to the Trial Master with instructions 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.

*[Amended: 2010; 2011; 2013.] [Source: Sections 33010 and 33020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.920. REVIEW OF VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL.**

A verdict of acquittal should not be reversed or disturbed except in a case of gross violation of Masonic law by the Commissioners or the Trial Master. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 33030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.930. PROCEDURAL ERROR.**

The verdict of the Trial Master sitting with Commissioners or the Trial Master sitting without Commissioners shall not be set aside, or a new trial granted, for any error of any sort as to pleading, procedure, or introduction of evidence, unless, after an examination of the entire record, including the evidence, Grand Lodge shall determine that the error committed has resulted in a miscarriage of justice. *[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 33040 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§1404.940. REVERSAL BY GRAND LODGE.**

Whenever a verdict is reversed and set aside by Grand Lodge and a new trial ordered:

- A. The suspended or expelled Mason shall be immediately entitled to all of the rights and privileges of a Mason which he had before his suspension or expulsion, subject to the provisions of Section 1404.345 of this Code. If he dies before the reversal, he shall be considered as having all of these rights and privileges at the time of his death. He shall be considered as having been in good standing at the time of his death, if his dues were current;
- B. The Accuser may not withdraw any charge; and
- C. A new trial shall be held on each original charge, with such amendments by the Trial Master as may be required, based on the Grand Lodge reversal. All notifications to the Accused and others as provided in Section 1404.510 and following of this Code shall be given again, including notification to the Accuser and Accused of any amended charge.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Section 33050 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

#### **§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, 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.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Section 33060 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## **ARTICLE 10 – RESTORATIONS**

### **§1404.1000. RESTORATION OF A SUSPENDED MASON.**

- A. A Mason suspended for a definite period as a result of any charge of unmasonic conduct filed in this Jurisdiction shall be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry upon the last to occur of (a) the expiration of the term of his suspension and (b) the payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration in this Jurisdiction.
- B. A Mason suspended for an indefinite period as a result of any charge of unmasonic conduct filed in this Jurisdiction may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry as follows:
  - 1. A suspended Mason may apply in writing for restoration to the rights and privileges of Masonry to his Lodge in this Jurisdiction. If his Lodge is not in this Jurisdiction, his application shall be made to the Constituent Lodge selected by the Grand Master. His application may be filed at any time 60 or more days after the penalty of suspension has been affirmed by Grand Lodge. His application for restoration shall be read at the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge where the application is filed. No action shall be taken on the application until the following Stated Meeting at which the Lodge shall vote. If the application is approved by an affirmative vote by ballot of two-thirds of the members present, his penalty of suspension shall be annulled and he shall be restored thereby to all his Masonic rights and privileges upon the payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration in this Jurisdiction. The Secretary shall promptly notify the applicant of the Lodge's action on his application. In the case of restoration, the Secretary shall promptly notify the Grand Secretary of the action taken.
  - 2. A suspended Mason's Lodge, if in this Jurisdiction, may, at any Stated Meeting taking place 90 days or more after the penalty of suspension has been affirmed by Grand Lodge, by an affirmative vote by ballot of two-thirds of the members present, annul any such penalty of suspension and restore the Mason thus suspended to all his Masonic rights and privileges upon the payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration in this Jurisdiction. The Lodge may take action without any application by the suspended Mason. Notification of a resolution for such restoration must have been given at the Stated Meeting next preceding the meeting at which the vote is

taken. If the suspended Mason is restored, the Secretary shall promptly notify him and the Grand Secretary of the action taken.

3. If the suspended Mason was a member of more than one Constituent Lodge when he was suspended, he may not be restored without the consent of each such Lodge, if it has not dissolved. The request for such consent shall lie over at least one Stated Meeting and must be approved by an affirmative vote by ballot of two-thirds of the members present.
  4. If the suspended Mason has moved beyond the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, he may not be restored without satisfactory evidence furnished by action of the Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he at the time resides, duly certified, that the suspended Mason is worthy, and that his standing and character are such as would entitle him to affiliation in such Lodge.
  5. Restoration of a suspended Mason by a Lodge need not be reviewed by Grand Lodge.
  6. Grand Lodge may, at any Annual Communication, if good cause is shown, restore to the rights and privileges of Masonry any Mason who has been suspended within its Jurisdiction. Grand Lodge may take action without any application by the suspended Mason. Restoration by Grand Lodge shall not restore him to membership in any Constituent Lodge. The restored Mason shall be issued a certificate, advising all concerned of his status as an unaffiliated Mason. If he fails to become a member of some Lodge within one year from the date of the Grand Secretary's Certificate, he shall not thereafter be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation. If the suspended Mason has moved beyond the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, he may not be restored without satisfactory evidence furnished by action of the Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he at the time resides, duly certified, that the suspended Mason is worthy, and that his standing and character are such as would entitle him to affiliation in such Lodge.
- C. A Mason of a Constituent Lodge who has been suspended in any other Jurisdiction may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry in this Jurisdiction, upon (1) his subsequent restoration in the suspending Jurisdiction and (2) the payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration 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 Sections 1404.1000.A, 1404.1000.B or 1404.1050.A of this Code, as applicable.

*[Amended: 2009; 2010.] [Source: Sections 33070, 33080 and 33090 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**§1404.1050. RESTORATION OF AN EXPELLED MASON.**

A. A Mason who has been expelled as a result of any charge of unmasonic conduct filed in this Jurisdiction may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry only by Grand Lodge, as follows:

1. Grand Lodge may act on an application for restoration by the expelled Mason, on an application for restoration by his Lodge or without any application.
2. An expelled Mason may apply for restoration to the rights and privileges of Masonry by filing a written application with Grand Lodge and with his Lodge, if it is in this Jurisdiction and is still in existence. If his Lodge is not in this Jurisdiction or not still in existence, his application shall be made to the Constituent Lodge selected by the Grand Master. His application shall be read at the first Stated Meeting of the Lodge following its receipt which is at least 60 days prior to the commencement date of the Annual Communication at which his application is to be presented. If the expelled Mason was a member of more than one Constituent Lodge, he shall file his application with each such Lodge, if it is in this Jurisdiction and is still in existence, where it shall be read at the next Stated Meeting.

After the reading of the application at the designated Stated Meeting in each Lodge in which the application has been filed, the Master of each Lodge shall state that a vote shall be taken then or at the next following Stated Meeting on the question of approval or disapproval of the restoration. When the vote is taken, it shall be by ballot and the result entered in the minutes. The Secretary shall promptly notify the Grand Secretary of the result of the ballot.

The Master shall announce that any member may express his endorsement of, or objection to, the restoration by direct communication to the Grand Secretary or that any member may orally state his approval or disapproval to the Master. Prior to the opening of the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the Master shall inform the Grand Secretary in writing the number of endorsers and the number of objectors.

3. Whenever any Lodge desires to apply to Grand Lodge for the restoration of an expelled Mason without any application from the expelled Mason, the Master shall give due notice to each member of his Lodge whose residence is known of the intended action and of the Stated Meeting at which it will be considered. At the meeting, he shall cause to be recorded the fact that the notice was duly given. The votes of two-thirds of the members present shall be required to authorize the presentation of the application to Grand Lodge.
4. Grand Lodge may, at any Annual Communication, if good cause is shown, without or without an application from the expelled Mason or his Lodge, restore

to the rights and privileges of Masonry any Mason who has been expelled within its Jurisdiction. Restoration shall not restore him to membership in any Constituent Lodge. The restored Mason shall be issued a certificate, advising all concerned of his status as an unaffiliated Mason. If he fails to become a member of some Lodge within one year from the date of the Grand Secretary's Certificate, he shall not thereafter be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation. If the expelled Mason has moved beyond the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, he may not be restored without satisfactory evidence furnished by action of the Lodge in whose Jurisdiction he at the time resides, duly certified, that the suspended Mason is worthy, and that his standing and character are such as would entitle him to affiliation in such Lodge.

- B. A Mason expelled pursuant to the provisions of Section 1404.820 of this Code may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry only as follows:
1. He may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry by a resolution presented and adopted by Grand Lodge in the same manner as an amendment to these Ordinances, as provided in Part 15 of this Code. Restoration shall not restore him to membership in any Lodge. The restored Mason shall be issued a certificate, advising all concerned of his status as an unaffiliated Mason. If he fails to become a member of some Lodge within one year from the date of the Grand Secretary's Certificate, he shall not thereafter be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation.
  2. If, for the reason that he did not commit the offense, he either has been pardoned or has had his judgment of conviction of the crime giving rise to his expulsion under Section 1404.820 of this Code vacated or reversed, he may be restored to his Lodge or Lodges in this Jurisdiction, upon payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration 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 Sections 1404.1000.A, 1404.1000.B, 1404.1050.A or 1404.1050.C of this Code, as applicable.
- C. A Mason of a Constituent Lodge who has been expelled by a Lodge in any other Jurisdiction may be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry in this Jurisdiction, upon (1) his subsequent restoration to membership by the expelling Lodge and (2) the payment of any dues and the performance of any other obligations required for his restoration 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 Sections 1404.1000.A, 1404.1000.B or 1404.1050.A of this Code, as applicable.

*[Amended: 2010; 2012.] [Source: Sections 33090, 33100 and 33110 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

*For more information, please refer to the Appendix on Grand Masters' Decisions.*

**PART 15**  
**AMENDMENTS**

**§1500.000. AMENDMENTS.**

Proposed amendments to these Ordinances must be adopted at an Annual or Special Communication of Grand Lodge by five-sixths of the votes cast. If so adopted, they shall become a part of these Ordinances at the close of the Communication. If the vote in favor of a proposed amendment is less than five-sixths but there is a majority, it shall lie over until the next succeeding Annual Communication and shall be published with the Proceedings. If, at the next succeeding Annual Communication, it receives two-thirds of the votes cast, it shall be adopted. At the close of that Communication, it shall become a part of these Ordinances.

The foregoing notwithstanding, a modification of any Ordinance solely for the Communication at which it is proposed shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by five-sixths of the votes cast.

*[Amended: 2010.] [Source: Sections 34010, 34020 and 34030 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]*

## APPENDIX

### Grand Masters' Decisions

Questions frequently arise in our Grand Lodge on the application of various provisions in our *California Masonic Code*. Between Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, it is the Grand Master's responsibility to answer these questions by deciding how the law applies to the circumstances at hand. A Grand Master's decision on the application of the law to a specific factual circumstance does not bind his successor. If a Grand Master wants to mandate that his successor always follow what was for him a discretionary act, then he must recommend and Grand Lodge must adopt an amendment to our Constitution and Ordinances to mandate the same result.

When the Grand Master submits to Grand Lodge for confirmation a decision on the application of the law and he does not intend to bind his successors, a simple majority vote only is required to sustain the Grand Master's action. Such a decision cannot be recorded in the Grand Lodge Constitution and Ordinances because such a decision would not have been approved by the required vote. Instead, these Grand Masters' decisions are listed in this appendix as permissible applications of the law only. They are not binding. They are recorded simply to preserve for future reference what Grand Lodge has on a prior occasion determined to be permissible applications of our law.

#### **Interpretation of Section 100.075 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

##### Moral Turpitude (2009 G.M. Decision No. 2)

For conduct to involve moral turpitude, it normally must be accompanied by an inherently evil intent. The most common examples of this inherently evil intent are:

- (1) An intent to defraud;
- (2) An intent to take a thing unlawfully (larceny); and
- (3) An intent to harm a person or a thing.

Conduct involving moral turpitude can be broken down into three general categories: actions against property, actions against people and actions against government.

#### Actions Against Property

The following actions committed against property involve moral turpitude:

- (1) Arson;
- (2) Blackmail;
- (3) Burglary;

- (4) Embezzlement;
- (5) Extortion;
- (6) False pretenses;
- (7) Forgery;
- (8) Fraud;
- (9) Larceny (grand or petty);
- (10) Malicious destruction of property;
- (11) Receiving stolen goods (with guilty knowledge);
- (12) Robbery;
- (13) Theft (if it involves the intention of permanent taking);
- (14) Transporting stolen property (with guilty knowledge); and
- (15) Similar actions.

The following actions against property do not involve moral turpitude:

- (1) Damaging private property (if intent to damage is not present);
- (2) Breaking and entering (if no specific or implicit intent to commit an act involving moral turpitude);
- (3) Passing bad checks (if intent to defraud is not present);
- (4) Possessing stolen property (if guilty knowledge is not present);
- (5) Joy riding (if the intention to take permanently is not present);
- (6) Juvenile delinquency; and
- (7) Similar actions.

#### Actions Committed Against Person, Family Relationship or Sexual Morality

The following actions committed against the person, family relationship or sexual morality involve moral turpitude:

- (1) Abandonment of a minor child (if deliberate, voluntary and with knowledge and if it results in the destitution of the child);

- (2) Assault (which includes battery) (this action is broken down into several categories, which involve moral turpitude):
  - (a) Assault with intent to kill;
  - (b) Assault with intent to commit rape;
  - (c) Assault with intent to commit robbery;
  - (d) Assault with intent to commit serious bodily harm; and
  - (e) Assault with a dangerous or deadly weapon (some weapons may be found to be dangerous or deadly as a matter of law, while others may or may not be found factually to be such, depending upon all the circumstances in the case; such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the size of the weapon, the manner of its use, and the nature and extent of injuries inflicted);
- (3) Bigamy;
- (4) Trafficking in any controlled substance;
- (5) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor;
- (6) Gross indecency;
- (7) Incest (if the result of an improper sexual relationship);
- (8) Kidnapping;
- (9) Lewdness;
- (10) Manslaughter:
  - (a) Voluntary; and
  - (b) Involuntary, if done with recklessness, which is defined as the awareness and conscious disregard of a substantial and unjustified risk which constitutes a gross deviation from the standard that a reasonable person would observe in the situation;
- (11) Mayhem;
- (12) Murder;
- (13) Pandering;
- (14) Prostitution;

- (15) Rape (by statute, a person may be convicted of statutory rape even though the female consents if she is under the statutory age at the time of the commission of the act; such is known as “statutory rape” and involves moral turpitude);
- (16) Bestiality;
- (17) Possession of child pornography; and
- (18) Similar actions.

The following actions committed against the person, family relationship or sexual morality do not involve moral turpitude:

- (1) Assault (simple) (i.e., any assault without an evil intent or depraved motive, although it may involve the use of a weapon, which is neither dangerous nor deadly);
- (2) Adultery;
- (3) Bastardy (i.e., the offense of begetting a bastard child);
- (4) Creating or maintaining a nuisance (if knowledge that premises were used for prostitution is not present);
- (5) Fornication;
- (6) Involuntary manslaughter (if the killing is not the result of recklessness);
- (7) Libel;
- (8) Mann Act violations (if coercion is not present);
- (9) Riot;
- (10) Suicide (attempted); and
- (11) Similar actions.

#### Actions Against Government

The following actions committed against governmental authority involve moral turpitude:

- (1) Bribery;
- (2) Counterfeiting;
- (3) Fraud against revenue or other government functions;

- (4) Mail fraud;
- (5) Perjury;
- (6) Harboring a fugitive from justice (if with guilty knowledge);
- (7) Tax evasion (if deliberate, voluntary and with knowledge);
- (8) Terrorism;
- (9) Espionage; and
- (10) Similar actions.

Violation of laws which are regulatory in character and do not include an element of fraud or other evil intent do not involve moral turpitude. The following actions do not involve moral turpitude, unless in violation of a law which requires an intent to defraud or commit other evil:

- (1) Black market violations;
- (2) Breach of the peace;
- (3) Carrying a concealed weapon;
- (4) Disorderly conduct;
- (5) Drunk or reckless driving;
- (6) Traffic violations;
- (7) Drunkenness;
- (8) False statements (not amounting to perjury or involving fraud);
- (9) Firearms violations;
- (10) Gambling violations;
- (11) Immigration violations;
- (12) Liquor violations;
- (13) Loan sharking;
- (14) Lottery violations;
- (15) Possessing burglar tools (if no intent to commit burglary);
- (16) Smuggling and customs violations (if no intent to commit fraud);

- (17) Tax evasion (if no intent to commit fraud);
- (18) Vagrancy; and
- (19) Similar actions.

Attempts, Aiding and Abetting, Accessories and Conspiracy

The following actions involve moral turpitude:

- (1) An attempt to commit an act involving moral turpitude;
- (2) Aiding and abetting in the commission of an act involving moral turpitude;
- (3) Being an accessory (before or after the fact) in the commission of an act involving moral turpitude;
- (4) Taking part in a conspiracy (or attempting to take part in a conspiracy) to commit an act involving moral turpitude; and
- (5) Similar actions.

**Interpretation of Section 402.010 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Use of Costumes for Second Section of Third Degree  
(2006 G.M. Decision No. 1)

At the option of the Lodge, the officers may wear costumes during the conferral of the Second Section of the Third Degree. Any costumes used must be appropriate for the degree, in good repair and well-maintained, as determined by the Inspector.

**Interpretation of Section 407.040 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Investments of Grand Lodge and Its Entities  
(2002 G.M. Decision No. 5)

The intent of the 1975 code should be followed when Section 7020 [of the 1991 Code] is read: pooling of assets belonging to two or more Grand Lodge entities for investment purposes is authorized.

**Interpretation of Section 409.020 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Fraternal Dealings with Unrecognized Masons  
(1993 G.M. Decision No. 6)

California Masons may engage in any activity with an unrecognized Mason so long as they do not share any portion of the ritual which in this jurisdiction is not monitorial. California Masons may do any of the following:

1. We may share facilities for tiled meetings. Our Masonic Hall Associations may rent their facilities to Prince Hall and any other group of unrecognized Masons just as our Masonic Hall Associations might rent to any other tenant. By like measure, a California Lodge may rent space from and hold its tiled meetings in facilities owned and operated by unrecognized Masons. The ritual is not shared when we simply share facilities.
2. In public Grand Lodge Ceremonies, unrecognized Masons may participate to the fullest extent permitted Knights of Columbus and others, so long as the unrecognized Masons do not participate during the performance of the ceremony as set forth in the Grand Lodge Book of Ceremonies.
3. We may participate with unrecognized Masons in public parades and other processions.
4. We may attend all untiled social and other events of unrecognized Masons in California so long as we do not engage in Masonic intercourse while there. We may invite unrecognized Masons to attend our untiled social and other events so long as we do not engage in Masonic intercourse while there. Of course, we may not attend any tiled meetings of unrecognized Masons nor may they attend any of our tiled meetings.
5. When our law otherwise authorizes the wearing of Masonic regalia, we may wear it when participating in joint activities with unrecognized Masons.

**Interpretation of Section 500.020 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Admission to the Masonic Homes  
(2000 G.M. Decision No. 1)

The Homes Board may admit California Master Masons, and their wives and widows, without requiring them to surrender all their assets as a condition of residency.

Masonic Homes Duty to Provide Care  
(2005 G.M. Decision No. 1)

The Board may provide the required services to its residents in the most economical manner while maintaining an acceptable quality of care. This includes contracting out of services to others who can provide those services more economically than the Homes can provide. The Board is not required to provide these services in homes, hospitals, schools and other facilities owned and operated directly by the Homes.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities  
(2006 G.M. Decision No. 3)

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Homes of California is empowered to make prudent business decisions and investments so long as such decisions and investments further the charitable mission of the Homes, and so long as such decisions and investments do not violate the terms of any trust or violate any other provisions of our code. The Homes may establish a separate continuing care retirement community as a means of utilizing property not presently required for Homes use, so long as their use is for the benefit of the primary purpose of the Homes. The Homes may lease unused land to such a retirement community to realize a financial return on its investment. The Homes may provide certain services to such a retirement community as a means of supporting the charitable mission of the Homes, so long as an arm's length consideration is paid for those services. The Homes may assist financially with launching such a retirement community so long as the funds are lent with appropriate rates of return, with an anticipated repayment with interest for the investment made, and so long as the Homes does not encumber special funds such as the Homes Endowment Fund. In addition, the financial resources of the Homes may also be utilized as collateral for the development of such a project, so long as the Homes does not encumber special funds such as the Homes Endowment Fund, and the Homes receives reasonable and competitive fees for such collateralization.

**Interpretation of Section 500.050 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Masonic Homes Right to Use Assets  
(2005 G.M. Decision No. 2)

Section 8040 of the [1991] Code allows the Board to make use of the Homes assets, such as vacant land, as it deems appropriate for the benefit of the Homes. The Board can form a wholly owned corporation if necessary to make use of its assets. The Board may not use any of its assets in such a way that would violate other provisions of the Code or force a change in the admission policies of the Homes.

## **Interpretation of Section 804.205 and the California Ritual.**

### Discussing Masonry with the Non-Mason (1993 G.M. Decision No. 2)

Masonry has distinguished itself from other fraternal and service organizations by an important tradition: no man may be solicited or invited to become a Mason. An applicant for the degrees of Masonry must be motivated by a favorable impression of the fraternity. He must seek membership of his own free will and accord.

While the tradition may be simply stated, its application in the real world has left even experienced Masons in doubt as to the propriety of discussing our fraternity with non-Masons for fear that our anti-solicitation rule will be violated. Because our anti-solicitation rule is part of our traditions and not our *California Masonic Code*, there is no place where the Mason can turn for help in understanding the boundaries of propriety in discussing Masonry with the non-Mason. It is hoped that this decision will provide guidance in this area.

Although the origin of our prohibition on solicitation is unknown, it has been widely misinterpreted by well-meaning Masons. It has been carried to extremes when a member refrains from discussing the fraternity with an interested prospective member. This attitude is far more prevalent than we like to admit and has undoubtedly deterred many good men from joining our fraternity.

There is a distinct difference between solicitation and information. Solicitation is the active and persistent attempt to influence somebody to do something. It can involve the use of pressure or promises of certain favors. This approach to a prospective member is certainly unacceptable to the Masonic fraternity.

On the other hand, a man of character will not join an organization of which he has little or no knowledge. If he is unfamiliar with the details of Masonic membership, there is little chance that he will be interested until he has been exposed to some information, through friends or relatives. Offering information is not solicitation.

A member may provide information on the purposes and principles of Freemasonry to an interested inquirer. He may freely answer questions about the organization of the fraternity, membership requirements, financial obligations, expectations of members, personal development, charities, community service, family activities and many other subjects which would help a prospective member decide whether he wishes to apply for membership of his own free will and accord. A member may not discuss the ritual of the degrees of Masonry with the prospective member, except to explain that the ceremonies contain serious lessons which are highly regarded by Masons. Any further explanation would diminish the impact of the degrees on the candidate.

Masons may sponsor programs to explain what Masonry is and invite non-Masons to the program in an attempt to create a favorable impression toward the fraternity. Our Masonic

Information programs in California have been used successfully by our Lodges to create such a favorable impression without crossing the line separating information from solicitation.

A member may ask a man whom he believes to be a worthy prospective Mason if he has considered membership in the Masonic fraternity or if he would like to have information to enable him to make such a decision. A member must inform the prospective member or inquirer that the fraternity does not extend an invitation to become a member, that his application must be made of his own free will and accord, and that he must pass a secret ballot for admission.

After providing the information, the inquirer or prospect should be left to make his own decision without persuasion. If the inquirer makes no decision within a reasonable time, the member may make a single follow-up contact to see if additional information is needed.

Great care should be taken when a Mason approaches a non-Mason under circumstances which might imply some coercion or intimidation. For example, a supervisor at work should be very careful when approaching a subordinate. An older family member should be very careful when approaching a younger family member. Under no circumstance should a prospective member be led to believe that certain favors or benefits will result from his membership, except that he may be made aware of the program of care provided for elderly members and their spouses through our Masonic Homes, if their conditions eventually warrant such care.

All communications with a prospective member should be courteous and friendly. Information about the fraternity should be factual. If questions cannot be answered adequately, the member should seek assistance from other members.

**Interpretation of Sections 804.235, 804.310, 804.320 and 804.740 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Balloting on Application for Affiliation  
(1996 G.M. Decision No. 1)

At his installation, the Master assents to the following:

You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, any regular Lodge, **without previous notice** [emphasis added], and due inquiry into his character.

While Section 26120 of the [1991] Code may make optional the requirement of “due inquiry” into the character of an applicant for affiliation, it does not alter the requirement of “previous notice.” If a petition for affiliation is read and voted upon at the same Stated Meeting, it fails to fulfill the requirement of “previous notice”. Therefore, even if an investigation is not required because no objection has been made, an application for affiliation must be voted upon **no sooner than** the next Stated Meeting after it has been read in open Lodge.

**Interpretation of Section 804.620 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Optional Long Form Proficiencies  
(1998 G.M. Decision No. 2)

Each candidate in this jurisdiction may decide on his own whether or not he proves his proficiency by learning the traditional “long form” of the proficiency, or by learning the Obligation, and the signs, words, and modes of recognition only. In each case, the demonstration of the proficiency of the candidate shall be in a tiled Lodge in the manner approved by the Grand Lecturer.

**Interpretation of Section 804.740 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Balloting on Application for Affiliation  
(1996 G.M. Decision No. 1)

See Interpretation of Section 804.235

**Interpretation of Section 804.815 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Master’s Authority to Refuse to Admit or to Exclude a Member  
(2015 G.M. Decision No. 1)

The proceedings of a Lodge are the Lodge’s Stated Meetings and Special Meetings. For a breach of propriety, the Master may refuse to admit or may exclude a member from Lodge proceedings at which the breach of propriety occurred as well as from future Lodge proceedings for a reasonable time thereafter if the Master reasonably believes the refusal or exclusion is necessary to preserve the peace and harmony of the Lodge. The Code does not give a member the right to attend any Lodge event other than the Lodge’s proceedings. Accordingly, the Master may refuse to admit or may exclude a member for a breach of propriety from any Lodge event at which the member has no affirmative right to attend. The Master may also refuse to admit or may exclude a member from future Lodge events at which the member has no affirmative right to attend for a reasonable time after the occurrence of such breach of propriety if the Master reasonably believes the refusal or exclusion is necessary to preserve the peace and harmony of the Lodge.

**Interpretation of Section 804.840 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Confidentiality of Lodge Records  
(2014 G.M. Decision No. 1)

Constituent Lodges may disclose to a non-Mason information about the Lodge’s transactions to the extent necessary to assist the Lodge in tax return preparation, preparation of financial statements and their audits, provided that the non-Mason sign a confidentiality agreement before receiving the disclosure.

**Interpretation of Section 805.550 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Senior Deacon Qualification  
(2004 G.M. Decision No. 1)

Before a Brother can be installed as Senior Deacon, he must be qualified in all the ritual work required of the Senior Deacon in each of the Three Degrees of Masonry according to the ritual adopted by the Grand Lodge, including the Senior Deacon's lecture of the Fellow Craft Degree.

**Interpretation of Section 805.560 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Installation Dates  
(1993 G.M. Decision No. 1)

Section 25110 of the [1991] Code does not require that the installation be held within 60 days of election. It only requires that a Master or a Warden receive a certificate of qualification from his Inspector within 60 days of election. [Note: The 60 day period was increased to 90 days in the 2006 Code.]

**Interpretation of Section 807.010 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Lodge Business  
(2018 G.M. Decision No. 1)

The restrictions on the conduct of business at a Special Meeting apply only to activities which must be conducted at or in conjunction with a tiled meeting. There is no requirement in our law or usage that the presentation of the Hiram Award, the Golden Veteran Award or the Diamond Jubilee Award be conducted at or in conjunction with a tiled meeting. Therefore, these presentations are not business for purposes of this section and may be conducted at a Special Meeting of the Lodge open in any degree.

**Interpretation of Section 809.120 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Use of Refreshment Revolving Fund  
(2002 G.M. Decision No. 2)

Section 21020 [of the 1991 Code] pertaining to the use of the Refreshment Revolving Fund is intended to provide complimentary refreshments for Lodge members and their guests, with no charge being made for these refreshments. The fund is a "revolving fund" in that once the fund is exhausted the Lodge may appropriate an amount not-to-exceed \$500 at any one time. This section of the Code also requires the presentation of receipts for these incidental expenses to the Lodge by the Stewards or Junior Warden, as directed by the Master, in order for another appropriation to be made. There is no other authorized use of this fund, and its use for any other purpose is prohibited by the *California Masonic Code*.

**Interpretation of Sections 809.150 and 809.320 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Modifications to Lodge Membership Programs  
(2012 G.M. Decision No. 1)

All the terms of the Lodge Life Membership program can be changed so long as no one who is then a life member is ever again required to pay dues.

**Interpretation of Sections 809.220 and 810.060 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Use of Social Networks and Websites  
(2009 G.M. Decision No. 4)

A Lodge, a Masonic group and a Mason may have a presence on social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace. A Lodge and a Masonic group may have a website and make it available to the general public, even though the website may be hosted by a provider which inserts banner, pop-up or other advertising on the Lodge's or group's site. A Lodge and a Masonic group may publish announcements relative to its activities and advertisements relative to its public relations program in a newspaper of general circulation containing advertising.

**Interpretation of Sections 809.220 and 1200.035 (formerly Section 15110 of the 1991 Code) of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Guidelines for Advertising in Masonic Publications  
(1993 G.M. Decision No. 5)  
(as modified by 1996 G.M. Decision No. 3 and Recommendation No. 1)

Guidelines Applicable to Masonic Lodges.

Our *California Masonic Code* permits Masonic Lodges to accept advertising in Lodge publications under limited circumstances. These Guidelines answer many of the questions which may arise in connection with that advertising. If a question arises which is not adequately answered by these Guidelines, Section 27600 of the [1991] *California Masonic Code* should be consulted. If questions remain, then the Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence should be contacted.

A Masonic Lodge may permit advertising only in Lodge publications. This includes any publication which the Lodge uses to communicate with its members. A Masonic Lodge may therefore accept advertising for its monthly bulletin or trestleboard. It may also accept advertising for its Lodge Roster and installation programs. It may not accept advertising which will not be printed in a Lodge publication. For example, commercial advertising material cannot be posted in the Masonic hall.

Except as noted below, advertising may be accepted only from the Lodge's members and from businesses or commercial establishments owned or operated by its members. Advertising may not be accepted from members of another Lodge. Advertising may not be accepted from

the wife or other relatives of a member. Advertising may be accepted from a business only if a member of the Lodge has an equity or other ownership interest in the business or holds an operating or managing position in the business.

If the publication is jointly sponsored with another Lodge or with the Eastern Star, York Rite or other Masonic Organizations, advertising may be accepted only from a sponsor's members and from businesses or commercial establishments owned or operated by a sponsor's members. If the Masonic groups meeting in a Masonic hall mail a joint bulletin to all of their members, all of those members and their businesses may publish advertisements in the bulletin. Again, advertising may not be accepted from a member's wife or other relatives who are not themselves members of at least one of the sponsoring organizations. Advertising may be accepted from a business only if a member of a sponsor has an equity or other ownership interest in the business or holds an operating or managing position in the business.

The advertising must be in good taste and within the bounds of propriety. While "good taste" is difficult to define, nothing should be accepted which would offend accepted standards of behavior among Masons. If a matter would be inappropriate for discussion at a Masonic social gathering where wives, families and friends are present, it should not be part of an advertisement in a Lodge publication. This standard applies to the size and subject matter of the advertisement as well as to its text, art work and color. Sexual inferences and vulgarity would not be acceptable.

Neither the advertising itself nor the products or services which it promotes may be unethical, fraudulent, misleading or illegal under applicable state and federal laws.

Advertisements may not be accepted for prescription drugs and other controlled substances. Advertisements may not be accepted for alcoholic or tobacco products. Advertisements for religious or political groups may not be accepted.

Neither the Lodge's mailing list nor the Grand Lodge Roster may be furnished to advertisers, either directly or indirectly. Even if the advertiser offers to mail the publication as a service to the Lodge, the Lodge's mailing list may not be delivered to an advertiser for any purpose.

No one may tell a Mason that it is his duty to advertise in the Lodge's publication. No pressure, either directly or indirectly, may be applied to any member to advertise in a Lodge publication. Keep in mind that pressure can be applied by what we say as well as by the implications of what we do.

Solicitation of advertisements may be made only by a member in good standing of the Lodge for whose publication advertising is solicited. The Lodge may not employ anyone, either directly or indirectly, to solicit advertising, unless the man is a Mason in good standing of the Lodge for whose publication advertising is solicited. A member of another Lodge may not solicit advertising. If the publication is jointly sponsored with another Lodge or with the Eastern Star, York Rite or other Masonic Organizations, a member in good standing of any of the sponsoring groups may solicit the advertising.

The revenue from advertising may be used only to offset the cost of publishing, printing and mailing the publication in which the advertising appears. If the revenue from advertising is greater than the expenses of publishing, printing and mailing that publication, the profit must be donated to a recognized Masonic charity, such as the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund or the California Masonic Foundation. Advertising has been permitted to help Lodges meet the cost of Lodge publications. It is not designed to generate income for the Lodge's other activities. To prevent any abuse of the advertising privilege, any funds over the amount needed for the actual publication, printing and mailing of the publication in which the advertising appears must be given to a recognized Masonic charity.

The acceptance of advertising in a Masonic publication for a gambling enterprise (whether a legal or an illegal gambling enterprise) gives the aid and countenance of Masonry to that enterprise. Because the receipts of that gambling enterprise would pay for the advertising, the conduct of that gambling enterprise has provided a monetary benefit to the Masonic publisher. Accordingly, a Lodge may not accept advertising in its publications from a gambling enterprise.

#### Guidelines Applicable to Masonic Organizations.

The foregoing Guidelines apply only to Masonic Lodges and to joint Masonic publications in which they participate. They do not apply to the Scottish Rite, the York Rite bodies, the Shrine, Eastern Star or any other prerequisite organization. The advertising rules for these organizations may be found in Sections 27700 and 27800 of the [1991] Code.

Neither the advertising itself nor the products or services which it promotes may be unethical, fraudulent, misleading or illegal under applicable state and federal laws. Because we are all concerned about the public's perception of the Masonic Family, all advertising accepted by Masonic Organizations should be in good taste and within the bounds of propriety.

Subject to these restrictions, Masonic Organizations may accept advertising from anyone. When the advertising proceeds will be retained by the sponsoring organization and will not be given to charity, the square and compass, the words "Mason", "Masonic", "Freemasonry", "Freemason" and any variation of any such words may not be used in connection with any advertising solicitation. Such advertising may not be solicited at Lodge. If the proceeds from the advertising will be donated to charity, then these restrictions do not apply. In any event, all advertising solicitation must state whether the proceeds will be used for fraternal purposes or given to charity.

The acceptance of advertising in a Masonic publication for a gambling enterprise (whether a legal or an illegal gambling enterprise) gives the aid and countenance of Masonry to that enterprise. Because the receipts of that gambling enterprise would pay for the advertising, the conduct of that gambling enterprise has provided a monetary benefit to the Masonic publisher. Accordingly, a Masonic Organization may not accept advertising in its publications from a gambling enterprise.

Lodge Publications  
(1995 G.M. Decision No. 1)

For purposes of the limitations on advertising, the term ‘Lodge publications’ includes the publication of a Masonic Hall Association or a Masonic Organization when the publication is used by a Masonic Lodge to communicate with its members.

**Interpretation of Section 809.520 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Solicitation of Funds to Participate in Foundation Outside of California  
(2002 G.M. Decision No. 4)

Lodges in our jurisdiction may not hold memberships in programs offered by tax-exempt foundations in other jurisdictions in order to raise funds for community projects.

**Interpretation of Section 809.560 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Use of Lodge Funds to Pay Dues in Community Organizations  
(1996 G.M. Decision No. 2)

Section 21090 of the [1991] Code permits a Lodge to expend not more than thirty percent of its total revenue for the purposes of refreshments and the promotion of fraternal intercourse, including community improvement. A Lodge may therefore become a member of the local Chamber of Commerce and pay the associated dues. Use of Lodge funds to pay Chamber of Commerce dues involves “community improvement, charitable activity, or sponsorship of programs that will benefit residents of the community in which the Lodge is located” as permitted by Section 21090 of the [1991] Code.

However, a Chamber of Commerce membership is different from a service club membership. Even if the membership could be taken in the name of the Lodge, a service club membership is more beneficial to the member of the Lodge participating in the club’s meetings while a Chamber of Commerce membership is more beneficial to the Lodge. The support for the community which Chamber membership implies would be the primary purpose for belonging, rather than the contacts which those participating in it might receive. There is also a significant cost difference between the two memberships. Therefore, Lodge funds may not be expended to pay the service club dues of members of the Lodge.

**Interpretation of Sections 810.040, 810.050 and 810.060 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Advertising & Public Relations by Lodges  
(2003 G.M. Decision No. 1)

Section 15115 of the [1991] *California Masonic Code* pertains only to the subjects contained in that section, namely publications pertaining to the business of the lodge, and not to a lodge public relations program which includes informing the public about Masonry in general, and the activities of the lodge in particular.

**Interpretation of Section 810.060 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Use of Social Networks and Websites  
(2009 G.M. Decision No. 4)  
See Interpretation of Section 809.220

**Interpretation of Sections 811.010, 900.030 and 1200.045 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Guidelines for Use of Alcoholic Beverages  
by Masonic Lodges and Masonic Organizations  
(1995 G.M. Recommendation No. 5,  
as revised by 2009 G.M. Decision No. 1)

Questions frequently arise with respect to permissible use of alcoholic beverages in Lodge halls, on other property owned by or leased to a Masonic body and at Masonic activities held elsewhere. These guidelines explain the Grand Lodge rules applicable to such use. These guidelines apply to Lodges, Hall Associations, the Scottish Rite, the York Rite bodies, the Shrine, Eastern Star and all other prerequisite organizations and their Hall Associations.

These guidelines address only the policy and regulations of the Grand Lodge. Your use of alcoholic beverages also must comply with the applicable laws of the State of California and the rules established by your Masonic Hall Association or other landlord. The Scottish Rite, the York Rite bodies, the Shrine, Eastern Star and other Masonic Organizations may also be subject to their own organization's regulations on alcohol.

A Masonic Lodge, Hall Association and a Masonic Organization may allow alcoholic beverages to be served on Masonic property to their members and invited guests, with one exception. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in a room where Masonic ceremonies are normally conducted unless that room is also the regular social hall.

Lodges, Hall Associations and Masonic Organizations may maintain a bar on Masonic property so long as alcoholic beverages are not regularly or permanently stored in the bar. Alcohol should not be stored elsewhere on Masonic property either.

Lodges and Hall Associations may not use funds from the Lodge's or the Hall Association's treasury to purchase alcoholic beverages. No Lodge or Hall Association funds may be used to reimburse anyone who has purchased alcoholic beverages. Proceeds from ticket sales to a Lodge or Hall Association event may never be used to purchase alcoholic beverages or to reimburse anyone who has purchased alcoholic beverages. These restrictions apply only to Lodges and Hall Associations. The Scottish Rite, the York Rite bodies, the Shrine, Eastern Star and other Masonic Organizations may use funds from their own treasuries to purchase alcoholic beverages and reimburse the purchase of alcoholic beverages by others from their treasuries, if their regulations so permit. The Scottish Rite, the York Rite bodies, the Shrine, Eastern Star and other Masonic Organizations may use proceeds from ticket sales to an event to purchase the alcoholic beverages dispensed at the event or to reimburse anyone who has purchased alcoholic

beverages for the event, if their regulations so permit and if the alcohol is served under a license from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

Alcoholic beverages may not be served, consumed, or sold during the course of a meeting of a Masonic Lodge, Hall Association, or Masonic Organization. Any alcoholic beverages must be removed from the meeting room prior to beginning the meeting. The meeting may be opened and called to refreshment, after which alcoholic beverages may be served, but the alcoholic beverages must be removed from the meeting room prior to calling back to labor. However, as noted above, alcoholic beverages are not permitted in a room where Masonic ceremonies are normally conducted unless that room is also the regular social hall.

Lodges and Masonic Organizations may hold tiled meetings and social events on non-Masonic properties where there is a permanent bar, such as a hotel or restaurant, provided that no alcoholic beverages are present during any meeting. Any bar located elsewhere in the building may remain open during the meeting.

Caterers with an ABC license may serve and sell alcoholic beverages at all Masonic events held by any Lodge, Hall Association or Masonic Organization on or away from Masonic property, if all applicable California laws are followed. If the event sponsor is a Lodge or Hall Association, the caterer with an ABC license and not the event's sponsor must sell the tickets to the event.

No Lodge or Hall Association may directly or indirectly apply for, assume title to or operate under any governmental license or permit for the purpose of consuming, serving or selling alcoholic beverages, whether in, on or away from premises owned, leased or rented by a Masonic Lodge or Hall Association. Therefore, if alcoholic beverages are not sold and served by a caterer with an ABC license, there are certain restrictions on the event which must be observed because the event has not been licensed. As a general rule, no license or permit is required if alcoholic beverages are not sold and the premises are not open to the general public when alcoholic beverages are being served or consumed.

- If alcoholic beverages cannot be sold, you cannot have a cash bar or sell drink tickets or tokens to be exchanged for alcoholic beverages. You may charge for the meal or other event at which alcoholic beverages are served, so long as the alcoholic beverages have been donated by one person and everyone pays the same price, regardless of whether they will be served an alcoholic beverage. Members and guests may not bring their own alcohol as such would be a "bottle club" which requires an ABC liquor license.
- Under no circumstances may the general public be present when alcoholic beverages are served without a license. You may not advertise to the general public an event at which alcoholic beverages will be served on Masonic property. Only members of the sponsoring Masonic body and their invited guests may be in attendance when alcoholic beverages are served on Masonic property by someone other than a caterer with an ABC license. The term "general public" does not include the members of the organization, their families or friends.

If alcoholic beverages are not sold and served by a caterer with an ABC license, Masonic Organizations are subject to these same restrictions unless the group is properly licensed by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. This may include a single event license as well as a permanent club license. Masonic Organizations, such as the Scottish Rite, the York Rite bodies, the Shrine and Eastern Star, may hold such licenses, if their regulations so permit, even though a Lodge and Hall Association may not hold such a license.

Lodges, Hall Associations and Masonic Organizations may rent or lease their land or buildings to business establishments which serve and sell alcoholic beverages as an incidental part of their businesses. For example, you may rent to a restaurant which has a bar or to a grocery store that sells alcoholic beverages. However, you may not rent to a bar business or a liquor store, even those bars and liquor stores with incidental sales of non-alcoholic products.

Lodges, Hall Associations and Masonic Organizations may rent or lease their land or buildings to non-Masonic tenants other than business establishments who serve and sell alcoholic beverages, if the sponsor or caterer is properly licensed by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. For example, you may rent your building for a wedding reception or similar activity where alcoholic beverages will be served and sold by a licensed sponsor or caterer.

As a reminder, activities of a Lodge, Hall Association or Masonic Organization are always subject to Grand Lodge rules on commercialism and permitted financial support, in addition to these guidelines.

When questions arise with respect to these Guidelines, contact your Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties.

### **Interpretation of Sections 811.040 and 1200.050 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

#### Advertising for Gambling Establishments in Masonic Publications (1996 G.M. Decision No. 3)

The acceptance of advertising in a Masonic publication for a gambling enterprise (whether a legal or an illegal gambling enterprise) gives the aid and countenance of Masonry to that enterprise. Because the receipts of that gambling enterprise would pay for the advertising, the conduct of that gambling enterprise has provided a monetary benefit to the Masonic publisher. Accordingly, neither a Lodge nor a Masonic Organization may accept advertising in its publications from a gambling enterprise.

### **Interpretation of Section 812.040 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

#### Wearing Yarmulkes at Masonic Funerals (1996 G.M. Decision No. 4)

Nothing in our Masonic law prohibits the wearing of yarmulkes at Masonic funeral services.

**Interpretation of Sections 900.010 and 809.140.A.4 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Hall Association Assets  
(2014 G.M. Decision No. 2)

A Masonic Hall Association may not hold or administer any assets, other than real estate for a building for Lodge uses and purposes and related assets, including the funds necessary for the Association's operations.

**Interpretation of Section 900.030 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Guidelines for Use of Alcoholic Beverages  
by Masonic Lodges and Masonic Organizations  
(1995 G.M. Recommendation No. 5,  
as revised by 2009 G.M. Decision No. 1)  
See Interpretation of Section 811.010

**Interpretation of Section 1200.035 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Guidelines for Advertising in Masonic Publications  
(1993 G.M. Decision No. 5)  
(as modified by 1996 G.M. Decision No. 3 and Recommendation No. 1)  
See Interpretation of Section 809.220

**Interpretation of Section 1200.045 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Guidelines for Use of Alcoholic Beverages  
by Masonic Lodges and Masonic Organizations  
(1995 G.M. Recommendation No. 5,  
as revised by 2009 G.M. Decision No. 1)  
See Interpretation of Section 811.010

**Interpretation of Section 1200.050 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Advertising for Gambling Establishments in Masonic Publications  
(1996 G.M. Decision No. 3)  
See Interpretation of Section 811.040

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

Membership in the Snakes  
(2007 G.M. Decision No. 1)

All members of the Grand and Glorious Order of Knights of the Creeping Serpents, aka "The Snakes" and aka "The Tribu," within this Jurisdiction (pursuant to Section 1200.010 of the

*California Masonic Code*) and all Master Masons of this Jurisdiction (pursuant to Section 1200.015 of the Code) who violate the provisions of the *California Masonic Code* by being members of the aforesaid Organization shall have committed acts constituting unmasonic conduct sufficient to support the filing of a charge against a Mason pursuant to Section 1401.010.F. of the Code after receipt of proper notice.

**Interpretation of Sections 1404.820, 1404.1000 and 1404.1050 of the *California Masonic Code*.**

Guidelines for Restoration  
(2009 G.M. Decision No. 3)

Section 1404.1000 of the *California Masonic Code* sets forth the procedure for the restoration of a suspended Mason. A suspended Mason may be restored only by a two-thirds vote of his lodge or by a simple majority vote of Grand Lodge.

Section 1404.1050 of the *California Masonic Code* sets forth the procedure for the restoration of a Mason who was expelled after a Masonic trial for unmasonic conduct. This Mason may only be restored by Grand Lodge. A simple majority vote is required for the restoration.

A Mason who is automatically expelled under Section 1404.820 of the *California Masonic Code* after a federal or state conviction on a crime of moral turpitude can only be restored by a resolution presented to Grand Lodge and adopted by the same vote required for an amendment to the Code: a five-sixths vote at the Annual Communication where introduced or, if it then receives a simple majority, at the next Annual Communication by a two-thirds vote.

The following guidelines are suggested for use when a Lodge or the Grand Lodge considers the restoration of a suspended or expelled Mason. Before a vote on restoration is taken in a Lodge, it is suggested that a committee of the Lodge be appointed by the Master to gather the information suggested by these guidelines and report its findings and recommendation to the Lodge. Before a vote on restoration is taken in Grand Lodge, it is suggested that the Committee on Trial Review gather the information suggested by these guidelines and report its findings and recommendation to Grand Lodge.

In considering the restoration of a Mason who has been suspended or expelled for any reason, the following items should be considered:

- Whether his current standing, conduct, character and reputation are such as would make him worthy of membership in a Lodge.
- The nature of the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.
- The seriousness and relative recentness of the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.

- The passage of a suitable length of time to avoid denigrating the seriousness of the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion or undermining the deterrent effect of the suspension or expulsion.
- The impact on the Lodge, its members and non-Masons of the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.
- The likelihood that he will repeat the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.
- His acceptance of responsibility, remorse and atonement for the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.
- His efforts to make amends for the consequences of the conduct which gave rise to the suspension or expulsion.
- Results of an interview of the suspended or expelled Mason.
- Recommendations of concerned and knowledgeable Masons and non-Masons.

When the suspension or expulsion is based on criminal activity, the following additional items should be considered.

- The police report on and court record of the crime and conviction.
- The passage of not less than five years from his release from custody and/or parole resulting from his most recent criminal conviction.
- Expungement of the conviction.
- Successful completion or early discharge from probation or parole.
- Payment of any fine and completion of any required restitution and/or community service imposed in connection with the criminal conviction.
- New and different social and business relationships.
- Significant involvement in community, charitable, church or privately-sponsored programs or other meritorious activities.
- Completion of, or enrollment in, educational or vocational training courses.
- Ability to lead a responsible and productive life for a significant period after conviction or release from confinement and parole.
- Financial and employment stability, responsibility toward family, stability of family life, fulfillment of parental and familial responsibilities and, if applicable, military record.

- Change in attitude from that which existed at the time of the commission of the criminal acts.
- Restitution to victims.

When the suspension or expulsion is based on criminal activity, we should look for evidence of rehabilitation, and one cannot just add up those criteria that have been met and those that have not in order to determine whether a person has been rehabilitated. These factors are just indicators that a person has changed his ways and is, therefore, unlikely to reoffend. No one of them alone – in fact not all of them together – can guarantee that an individual is truly rehabilitated. Therefore, merely meeting these criteria does not excuse a person from responsibility for his prior criminal conduct nor entitle him to restoration.

Rehabilitation is evaluated on the basis of two different scales. One is an internal, attitudinal scale and the other is an external objective scale. In other words, evidence must be presented of a state of mind and a state of facts showing he has been rehabilitated. The state of mind demonstrating rehabilitation is one that has a mature, measured appreciation of the gravity of the misconduct and remorse for the harm caused. Acceptance of responsibility is a necessary prerequisite to establishing rehabilitation. The rehabilitative state of facts is demonstrated by a track record of conduct that convinces and assures us that the suspended or expelled Mason can once again be a credit to the fraternity.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Provisions in 1991 Code Eliminated in the 2006 Code**

#### **§130. USE OF TITLE AND EMBLEM**

The title and emblem of this Grand Lodge has been registered with the Secretary of State pursuant to the California Corporations Code and Grand Lodge is entitled to control of the use thereof. The unauthorized wearing of the emblem is prohibited by the California Penal Code.

#### **§390. INFORMATION BOOTHS.**

Grand Lodge shall annually sponsor information booths at the State Fair in California.

#### **§20100. PAST MASTERS ASSOCIATIONS.**

Past Masters Associations are voluntary associations of Masons and are not directly amenable to the supervision of Grand Lodge except through the power of Grand Lodge to regulate and govern the activities of each member as an individual Mason.

#### **§24050. PRIVATE EXAMINATIONS AND LECTURING FORBIDDEN.**

Except for the examination of a visitor authorized by the Master, private examinations are forbidden. Lecturing a visitor in the work is forbidden under all circumstances.

#### **§26290. RITUAL.**

Where a candidate refuses to be divested of all minerals and metals, insisting on retaining a wedding ring because of his marriage vows, or if minerals and metals cannot be removed, substantial compliance may be permitted by taping and disregarding the ring.

#### **§32190. TRIAL MASTER.**

The Master of the Lodge may:

- A. Receive the charges;
- B. Call and preside at the meeting for the election of Commissioners;
- C. Fix the time and place for the first meeting of the Commissioners;
- D. Direct the giving of notice to the accuser, the accused, and the Commissioners; and
- E. Announce the result of the trial in the Lodge.

The Trial Master must make the investigation and findings, fix the penalty and make the report.



## APPENDIX

### Grand Lodge Seal.

Proceedings 1929, p. 639, Report of Special Committee:

A Special Committee was appointed to examine into the heraldic character of the present Grand Lodge seal, and if the same was found deficient in any respect, to submit a design for a seal which would be correct according to the recognized canons regulating heraldic devices.

The Committee is indebted to John H. Logie, a member of the Committee, for his painstaking research and scholarly presentation of the matter of the seal, and your Committee offers as its report the letter written to the chairman of the Committee by Brother Logie, and respectfully recommends the adoption by this Grand Lodge of the seal proposed by Brother Logie and described in the proper terminology by him in the letter attached hereto . . .

The following sketch is respectfully submitted for consideration:



The seal suggested is described in terms of heraldry as follows:

“Per pale, parted per fees and quarterly azure and or. In Dexter chief gules, on a chevron between three castles argent a pair of compasses extended or. In Dexter base argent on a mount vair a bear passant sable, in chief, a mullet gules. Sinister, a cross quarterly or and vert; between. In the first quarter a lion rampant or. In the second an ox passant sable. In the third a man with hands elevated proper vested crimson lined with ermine; and in the fourth an eagle displayed or.

“For the crest on a wreath of the colors, a representation of an ark supported on either side by a cherub proper, with the motto over in Hebrew: ‘Holiness to the Lord.’

“For the supporters, on either side a cherub proper. Beneath on a scroll, the motto: ‘In the Lord is our Trust’ and date of organization, A.L. 5850.

“The whole surrounded by a circle within which are the words: ‘Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. State of California.’”

In sketching this seal I have carefully gone over and checked the various authorities, and have also submitted it for criticism. The last man that I referred it to was Hon. Reginald V. Harris, K.C., a prominent member of our Craft and an acknowledged Canadian authority on heraldry. I received his answer a few days ago, from which I quote:

“I think that the design that you have made is heraldically correct. In my opinion you have placed the Arms of the Moderns, Ancients and the State in the proper position, having regard to the accepted principles of appointment.”

After the time and work that I have put into this matter I am indeed much pleased to have such a comment on my effort.

Wm. Rhodes Hervey,  
Wm. T. Lucas,  
John Whicher,  
John H. Logie,  
*Committee.*

The report was adopted, and the new seal made effective as of January 1, 1930.

**Jewels of Grand Master, Past Grand Master and Past Master.**



Proceedings 1926, p. 236, Report of Ritual Committee:

Your Committee on Ritual, to whom was referred the matter of prescribing a form of jewel for Grand Master, Past Grand Master and Past Master, respectfully recommends that the jewel of the Grand Master be the compass extended to sixty degrees on the fourth part of a circle, superimposed on a square and quadrant, with an effulgent sun in center; the jewel of a Past Grand Master be the same except that the center shall be an all-seeing eye; that the jewel of a Past Master shall be the compass extended to sixty degrees on a quadrant, with an effulgent sun in the center. (Adopted.) (Former R.D. §661.)

## **Provisions for Gold Buttons for Veteran Master Masons.**

Proceedings 1929, p. 445, Report of Grand Secretary:

At the last annual communication, Grand Lodge adopted the recommendation of Grand Master Fischer that “the Grand Secretary be authorized and directed to prepare a design for and to strike off a sufficient number of buttons, made from the pure gold of California’s hills, and forward to each Lodge within the jurisdiction one of said buttons for each fifty-year Mason on the roll; that the Committee on Ritual be authorized and directed to supply the Masters of Lodges with a brief ritual or form of ceremony in order that each of our veteran Masons may be impressively presented with a lasting evidence of the esteem of the Grand Lodge of California and the love and affection of his brethren.”



Proceedings 1929, p. 651, Report of Committee on Policy and General Purposes:

Your committee respectfully recommends that the resolution relative to emblems for veteran brothers be amended to provide for the presentation of the golden veteran buttons to members of Lodges in our jurisdiction who have been Master Masons in good standing for fifty years or more. (Report adopted.) (Former R.D. §658.)

## **Seventy-five Year Buttons.**

Proceedings 1956, p. 23, Report of Grand Secretary:

At the last Communication a resolution was introduced providing for a Veteran Button to be presented to members who had attained 75 years membership. The Grand Secretary was instructed and empowered to design and produce such a Button. This has been done, and a photograph of the Button is reproduced herewith.



The design approved by the Grand Master is described as follows:

A distinctive emblem executed in 14kt solid yellow gold with a border of blue enamel through which appears in gold lettering MEMBER CALIFORNIA F. & A.M., and at the top the 75 years showing in gold through a white enamel background.

White gold Square and Compass containing a fine diamond is superimposed on a matted yellow gold background.

Unique device of solid gold to attach to the lapel button affords ample space for a suitable inscription.

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§32380	Expulsion .....	804.150
§32390	Signing Record of Trial .....	1404.610, 1404.710
§32400	Recording and Announcement of Verdict .....	1404.620
§32410	Transcript of Record .....	1404.710
§32420	Disposition of Trial Papers .....	1404.710
§32430	Notice to Member's Lodge if Trial Elsewhere .....	1404.720
§32440	No Charge for Services by Secretary .....	1404.750

**ARTICLE V. REVISIONS, REVERSALS AND RESTORATIONS**

§33010	Grand Lodge Action on Review .....	1404.910
§33020	Additional Evidence and Arguments on Review .....	1404.910
§33030	Review of Judgment of Acquittal .....	1404.920
§33040	Procedural Error .....	1404.930
§33050	Reversal by Grand Lodge .....	1404.940
§33060	Double Jeopardy .....	1404.950
§33070	Application for Restoration by Suspended Mason .....	1404.1000
§33080	Lodge Restoration of Suspended Mason .....	1404.1000

§33090	Grand Lodge Restoration of Suspended or Expelled Mason.....	1404.1000
	.....	1404.1050
§33100	Application for Restoration by Expelled Mason .....	1404.1050
§33110	Lodge Application for Restoration of Expelled Mason.....	1404.1050
§33120	Suspension, Expulsion or Restoration Not to be Published.....	1404.740

**PART IV. AMENDMENTS AND REPEAL**

**ARTICLE I.                    AMENDMENTS**

§34010	Presentation.....	1500.000
§34020	Required Vote .....	1500.000
§34030	Time of Vote.....	1500.000

**ARTICLE II.                  REPEAL**

§35010	Former Ordinances and Regulations Repealed.....	<i>Eliminated</i>
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