RESOLUTION 2015-1

The proponent of this Resolution seeks to grant the Chapters the option of being open or closed for the purpose of installing the officers.

WHEREAS, the Chapter is called to refreshment when the installation is open to the public, and therefore technically not open, and

WHEREAS, some Chapters do not have the luxury of having an elected Grand Officer of Past Grand Officer present to open in Ample Form, and

WHEREAS, it would be a great benefit to be able to install the officers without opening the Chapter,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 134, Paragraph 10, be added as follows:

“A Chapter has the option of being open or closed for the installation of officers. The installation, even if the Chapter is closed, shall be recorded in the minute book so as to have a record of who was installed.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 134, Paragraph (a) be removed to avoid further confusion, and the remaining regulations re-lettered.

Respectfully submitted by: Kenneth G. Hope (33)

RESOLUTION 2015-2

The proponents of this Resolution seek to amend Article IX Section 35.1 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California pertaining to Per Capita.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 35.1 of the Constitution states: For each Royal Arch Mason of a Chartered Chapter, borne upon its Roll as of December 31st of each year, the sum of nine dollars ($9.00)”, and

WHEREAS, the General Grand Chapter at their 69th Triennial Convocation on September 29, 2014 increased Per Capita of each constituent Grand Chapter on the North American Continent from one dollar ($1.00) to two dollars ($2.00) effective January 1, 2016 and from two dollars ($2.00) to three dollars ($3.00) effective January 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter of California cannot absorb this increase, and must pass it along to its members, and

WHEREAS, it has been six years since the last increase in Per Capita, and

WHEREAS, CA Royal Arch Masonry currently enjoys the lowest Per Capita of all other CA York Rite bodies; and

WHEREAS, costs, rents and other expenses to the Grand Chapter have significantly risen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Article IX Section 35.1 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California be amended as follows:

1. For each Royal Arch Mason of a Chartered Chapter, borne upon its Roll as of December 31st of 2015 and 2016, the sum of twelve dollars ($12.00) as of December 31st, 2017 and thereafter, the sum of thirteen dollars ($13.00)
RESOLUTION 2015-3

The proponent of this resolution seeks to amend Section 131 of the Grand Chapter Constitution to permit a Chapter’s High Priest to request a dispensation to hold the Chapter’s Annual Election of Officers at a time other than stated in its by-laws, without a vote of the Chapter, in certain limited circumstances.

WHEREAS, Chapters occasionally find they are unable to conduct their Annual Election of Officers at the Stated Convocation stated in their by-laws, due to a lack of a quorum for that Stated Convocation, and

WHEREAS, Constitution Section 105-4 of the Constitution does not permit a Chapter’s Annual Election of Officers to be conducted at a Special Convocation, except by dispensation granted by the Grand High Priest, and

WHEREAS, Constitution Section 131 permits a Chapter’s Annual Election of Officers to be conducted at a time other than stated in its by-laws only after vote by the Chapter for a dispensation,

WHEREAS, the result of the above constitutional provisions is that if a Chapter’s Annual Election of Officers is not conducted at the time specified in its by-laws, it is typically at least two Stated Convocations later before the election can be held (one to have an opportunity to propose and vote for the dispensation and one to hold the dispensation-approved election), and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above provisions, those Chapters which hold a Stated Convocation less often than every month can find themselves precluded from electing new officers until April or later in the year, and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of every Chapter to hold its Annual Election of Officers and subsequent Installation of Officers as early in each calendar year as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 131 of the Grand Chapter Constitution be amended with the following two amendments:

1. Replace the text of the current Section 131-3 with the following:

Subsection 2 of this section notwithstanding, when the sole reason for a request for a dispensation to hold a Chapter’s Annual Election of Officers is that such election could not be held at the time stated in the Chapter’s by-laws due to lack of a quorum for that Convocation, a request for dispensation to hold such election at the Stated Convocation immediately following the one specified for election in the by-laws may be made by the Chapter’s High Priest, without a vote of the Chapter.

2. Renumber the current Section 131-3 as Section 131-4.

Respectfully submitted: Jon D. Humphreys (3)
RESOLUTION 2015-4

The proponent of this resolution seeks to amend Section 105 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter Constitution to provide for the situation where inclement weather makes it hazardous for a Chapter to hold a Stated Convocation on a date required in its By-laws.

WHEREAS, A Chapter is required to hold its Stated Convocations on the dates stated in their By-laws, and our Constitution currently provides no means of changing the date of a Stated Convocation other than through a change in a Chapter’s By-laws, and

WHEREAS, Section 13 of our Constitution does permit issues not addressed by our Constitution to be resolved by reference to the California Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of California, F.&A.M., and

WHEREAS, Section 807.000 of the California Masonic Code permits lodges to change their stated meetings due to hazardous inclement weather with the approval of the appropriate district Inspector, but only by change to a date exactly one week later than the planned stated meeting, and

WHEREAS, our Chapters do not typically rent or have access to their meeting places on a weekly basis, but typically rent for one day per month or quarter, and

WHEREAS, our Chapters meeting places are often rented to other organizations on dates exactly one week later than the dates of their Stated Convocations, making it not feasible to acquire access to such meeting places on both short notice and exactly one week after their Stated Convocations, and

WHEREAS, storms in northern California in December 2014 made it extremely hazardous for no less than three chapters in the area to hold their scheduled Stated Convocations on Thursday, December 11, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned December storms placed the High Priests of no less than three chapters in the unfortunate position of choosing between three unacceptable alternatives: (1) expecting their members to expose themselves to undue hazard to travel to their Stated Convocation, (2) holding their Stated Convocation on a later but technically illegal date, or (3) holding no Stated Convocation and failing to take action on necessary business such as paying bills and approving minutes until the next scheduled Stated Convocation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 105 of the Grand Chapter Constitution be amended by adding the following sub-section:

12. In the event that the High Priest of a Chapter determines that inclement weather, including ice, snow and flood conditions, existing on the day established by the By-laws of the Chapter for its Stated Convocation, makes it hazardous for membership to attend the convocation, he may, with the consent of the Inspector of the District, postpone the Stated Convocation to another date at least 5 days later than the planned Stated Convocation. The High Priest shall notify in advance, to the extent possible, all members of the Chapter residing within fifty miles of the meeting place of the Chapter of the date of such a postponed Stated Convocation. The business transacted at such postponed Stated Convocation shall be limited to the reading and approval of the minutes of previous convocations, payment of invoices for expenses of the chapter, and such other business of an important nature as may be determined by the High Priest to require immediate consideration.

Respectfully submitted: Jon D. Humphreys (3)
RESOLUTION 2015-5

The proponents of this Resolution seek to amend the Uniform Code of By-Laws for Constituent Chapters applicable to stating the amount of Chapter dues.

WHEREAS, the amount of Grand Chapter Per Capita changes from time to time, and
WHEREAS, such Per Capita changes require a change in the dues of some Chapters, and
WHEREAS, Constituent Chapters have shown an interest in the past in establishing their dues as a stated amount, to automatically change with any change in the amount of Per Capita due Grand Chapter,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article VI, Section 3 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws for Chartered Chapters in this jurisdiction be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI

Fees and Dues

Dues

3. The dues of each member of this Chapter shall be _______dollars per year, payable annually in advance of the first day of January.

Or alternatively,

The dues of each member of this Chapter shall be the sum of _______dollars per year, plus the Per Capita amount most recently approved by Grand Chapter, payable annually in advance of the first day of January. (Adopt one of the alternatives and strike out the other.)

Respectfully Submitted: Thomas G. McKinney (162)
Steven R. Goad (162)

RESOLUTION 2015-6

The proponent of this resolution proposes to amend the Past Master Degree pages 59-60 and 66

WHEREAS, this degree is not consistent with the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees, which require the candidate or exemplar to wear a cable-tow; and
WHEREAS, this degree is not consistent with the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees, which require the candidate or exemplar to advance to the Altar by an appropriate number of steps; and
WHEREAS, this degree is not entirely effective in teaching the candidate(s) the importance of learning to govern themselves before attempting to govern others; and
WHEREAS, this degree would be more impressive if suitable content were added; and
WHEREAS, the importance of the Wardens to the conduct and governance of a Blue Lodge would be emphasized by giving them a role in presenting important content in this Degree;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 59-60 and page 66 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows:

SD - (Goes to altar, gives 1 sign, and retires to anteroom.
2 The CND is clothed as a Mark Master without
3 hoodwink or but with cable tow. Takes CND by the right arm
4 and enters without alarm from anteroom. Conducts
5 CND to a position 5 steps West of the altar and takes 1 step to rear, gives sign.)
Right Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure of present ing to you, Brother A B who has taken all the degrees of Masonry from Entered Apprentice to Mark Master inclusive, and now prays to be inducted into the Oriental Chair of King Solomon, having been duly elected to that distinguished honor.

RWM – Brother SD, you will teach the CND to approach the altar in a proper manner. (After the SD instructs the CND in a like manner as in the Mark Master Degree, the RWM continues:) My brother, permit me to congratulate you upon being elected to this honorable position; but before you can be installed, it is necessary that you take a solemn obligation appertaining to this degree, which contains nothing that will conflict with the duty you owe to God, your country, your family or yourself. With this assurance, do you wish to proceed?

CND - I do.

RWM - You will kneel at the altar on both knees; place both hands upon the Holy Bible, square and compasses. (Done. *** RWM goes to front of altar; same as in Mark Master.) You will say “I”, (brethren fold arms) pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me:

I, A B, of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and this Worshipful Past Masters Lodge, erected to God and dedicated to the memory of the Holy Saints John, do hereby and hereon sincerely promise and solemnly swear that I will not reveal the secrets of this degree to a brother of a preceding degree nor to any person in the world except it be within a legally constituted and duly opened Past Masters Lodge or to a brother of this degree whom I shall have found to be such by due trial, strict examination, or legal information.

Furthermore, that I will not open or close this or any other Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, over which I may be called to preside, without giving a lecture, or part of a lecture, or causing the same to be done.

Furthermore, that I will not rule this or any other Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, over which I may be called to preside, in an arbitrary or unconstitutional manner, but will govern the same according to the ancient customs, usages and landmarks of the craft.

All this I sincerely promise and swear, without the least hesitation, equivocation, or mental
20 reservation, binding myself under no less a penalty
21 than that % hvg m tn sl fm tp t- rt, tgthr wth t
22 inflcn % pntls % predg dgs, should I violate this,
23 my solemn obligation as a PastMaster. So help me
24 God and keep me steadfast!
25 RWM - In token of your sincerity, you will kiss
26 (brethren unfold arms) the Holy Bible now open
27 before you. (RWM takes several steps back.)
28 RWM – This brother being now bound to us by a tie
29 that can never be broken, Brother Senior Deacon,
30 (gives due guard) you will release him from the cable
tow. (Cable tow is placed on floor at southwest corner
of altar.)
31 RWM - You now behold me approaching you from
32 the east with the step (takes step with left foot) due
33 guard (given) and penal sign (gives sign) of a Past
34 Master. The d-g I gvn wth t rt hd. Cls t fngs & plc
35 t pnt%t thmb, xtd vrtcly, at the cntr%t lps; thn
36 drw it dwr & bkwd t- t tht. (Done.) It alludes to

INSERT THE FOLLOWING IN FRONT OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY (PAGE 66):

SW – (Approaches Altar and recites or reads from a scroll:) Freemasonry would take all men by the hand and, leading them to its Altar, would point to the open Bible and urge each to faithfully direct his steps through life by the Light he shall find therein. If from our sacred Altar the atheist or irreligious man should ever wrest this Book and thus remove, or even obscure, the great Light of Freemasonry, that Light which has been for centuries the rule and guide of all Masons, then could we no longer claim the proud title and rank of Master Mason; but as long as that sacred Light shines upon our Altar, as long as it illumines and brightens the pathway of the Craftsman by the golden rays of Truth, so long will Freemasonry live and shed its beneficent influence among men. Guard, then, my brother, this sacred Book as you guard your life. Defend it as you would defend the flag of your country. Live according to its sublime precepts, govern yourself that you may be able to govern others; learn first that you may be able to teach, for justice, moderation and decorum should mark the acts of the upright man.

CHARGE

JW – (Approaches CNDs and recites or reads from a scroll:) Brethren, you have been invested with the secrets of the degree of Past Master and been inducted into a representation of the Oriental Chair wherein the wisest of Kings once ruled. While brief may have been the ceremonies of the degree, the lessons conveyed are of great importance and, according to ancient regulations, essentially necessary before you could be exalted to the most sublime degree of the Royal Arch. For he who would attain to this honorable station must be a Ruler of the Craft. He who would rule must first learn the great lesson of obedience, and the observance of every obligation heretofore taken, squaring his actions by the square of virtue, and keeping his passions and prejudices within due bounds. He only can teach who has passed through the severe school of discipline; and he rules best who has learned the important lesson of self-control. Self, a subject, although a King—self, a servant, but still a Master—self, a craftsman, yet a Ruler of the Craft—a Ruler whose scepter is justice, whose kingdom is in the heart of humanity, and whose throne is builded in love.

Respectfully Submitted: Philip A. Hardiman (3)
The proponent of this resolution proposes to amend the Most Excellent Master Degree pages 79-80 and 97

WHEREAS, this degree as presently conferred is not consistent with sensible fire code standards; and

WHEREAS, some of the practices for representing the “fire coming down from Heaven” are either ineffective or comedic; and

WHEREAS, the circumnambulation of this degree uses Psalm 24, when Psalm 122 would be more appropriate because of its references to 1) “the house of the Lord;” 2) the “name of the Lord;” and 3) the term “Companion,”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 79-80 and page 97 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows, in order to replace Psalm 24 with Psalm 122, and eliminate the practice of actually using fire in an attempt to represent “fire descending upon the sacrifice.” Non-flammable methods of portrayal may still be optionally employed, consistent with safety and professionalism.

27 The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof;  
28 the world, and they that dwell therein, for He hath  
29 founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the  
30 floods:  
31 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or  
32 who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath  
33 clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted  
34 up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully:  
35 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and  
36 righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is  
37 the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy  
38 face, O Jacob.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted  
10 up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory  
11 shall come in:  
12 Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and  
13 mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your  
14 heads, O ye gates, even lift them up, ye everlasting  
15 doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.  
16 Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He  
17 is the King of Glory.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.  
**

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.  
** *

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord  
** **
For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

** ** *

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within they walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

** ** **

For my brethren and companions’ sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

At page 97

31 of the Lord had filled the Lord’s house. And when
32 all the children of Israel saw how the fire came
down, (fire descends; brethren in divisions kneel on
hands and knees, except RWM, CNDs, SD and MAR;
who remain standing any usage of actual flammable material is strictly prohibited) and the glory of the Lord upon
3 the house, they bowed (brethren kneeling all bow
down) themselves (brethren in divisions kneel on
hands and knees, except RWM, CNDs, SD and MAR,
who remain standing) with their faces to the ground
5 upon the pavement, and worshiped and praised the
6 Lord, saying: (All brethren join:)
7 For He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

Respectfully Submitted: Philip A. Hardiman (3)

RESOLUTION 2015-8

The proponent of this resolution proposes to amend the Royal Arch Mason Degree pages 117 and 150

WHEREAS, the HP has been required to remove his Hat at the Altar prior to prayer in the Opening, creating a certain clumsiness as to where to put it, since it should really not be on the Altar with the Holy Writings, nor should it be on the floor, requiring the HP to bend over when he may have back or knee problems,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 117 and 118 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows, to allow the HP to leave his Hat at the podium before descending to the Altar, as follows:

At page 117

11 CH - (Faces south, turns head east and gives sign.)
12 Excellent High Priest, your order has been duly executed. (HP removes Hat and leaves on podium, and Council descends, and with CH fill space in
circle.)

At page 118

32 HP – (Recovers Hat from podium and says:) Companion Captain of the Host, (faces south,
turns head east, gives sign) it is my order that a
Chapter of Royal Arch Masons be now opened for
2 the dispatch of business, under the usual Masonic
3 restrictions. This you will communicate to the
4 companions for their government.
Furthermore, WHEREAS this degree does not explain the first three working tools of a Royal Arch Mason; and
WHEREAS, the ritual at other times and in other States has included short text describing these Working Tools;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pages 150 and 164 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as
follows, to add text describing the Working Tools, to be delivered by the High Priest as part of the Lecture, as
follows

At page 150

6 HP - Brethren, the Crow is used by Operative Masons to raise things of great weight and bulk; the Pick-Ax
to loosen the soil, and prepare it for digging; and the Spade to remove rubbish. You may rest assured that
the
7 unselfish offer of your services will not go  
8 unrewarded. Now go (extend right arm slightly
9 elevated, palm of hand down) and may the God of
10 your fathers be with you. (Council is seated.)
11 CH - Right face! Follow me. (CH followed by RAC

At page 164

19 THE WORKING TOOLS OF A ROYAL ARCH MASON
20 are the crow, pickaxe and spade, and the square
21 and compasses, which have been presented to your
22 view in every degree of Masonry through which you
23 have passed.

The Crow is used by Operative Masons to raise things of great weight and bulk; the Pick-Ax to loosen the soil, and
prepare it for digging; and the Spade to remove rubbish. But the Royal Arch Mason is emblematically taught to use
them for more noble purposes. By them he is reminded that it is his sacred duty lifting from his mind the heavy
weight of passions and prejudices, which encumber his progress towards virtue, loosening the hold which long
habits of sin and folly have had upon his disposition, and removing the rubbish of vice and ignorance which prevents
him from beholding that eternal foundation of truth and wisdom upon which he is to erect the spiritual and moral
temple of his second life.

Respectfully Submitted: Philip A. Hardiman (3)

RESOLUTION 2015-9

The proponent of this resolution seeks to amend Section 32 and 46 of the Grand Chapter Constitution to change the
current requirement that a CPA must be employed to do the required annual audit or review of the books of the
Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and to establish a Standing Audit Committee to perform that audit or review.

WHEREAS Section 46 of the Grand Chapter Constitution currently requires that a Certified Public Accountant or
a Public Accountant licensed by the California State Board of Accountancy shall annually be employed to examine
the books of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and

WHEREAS the cost to do the required work by such a professional accountant currently exceeds $3,000.00, and
WHEREAS such cost is beyond the reasonable means of the Grand Chapter, and

WHEREAS a review of the required books can be done effectively by persons with a less than professional
background in accounting, such as an Audit Committee appointed by the Grand High Priest, and

WHEREAS our current Grand Chapter Constitution does not provide for the appointment of such an Audit
Committee,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 32, which provides for the establishment of Standing Committees, be amended by the addition of a sub-section 15 to read as follows:

15. Audit Committee, consisting of 3 members, whose duty shall be to examine the books of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary as soon as provided elsewhere herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 46, which provides for the Audit or Review of Books, shall be amended to read as follows:

46. Audit or Review of Books. An Audit Committee, appointed by the Grand High Priest, shall be annually employed to examine the books of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary as soon as possible after the last day of February but before the Annual Convocation, and to furnish eight (8) copies of their audit or review, one copy each to the members of the Finance Committee, the Grand High Priest, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.

Respectfully Submitted: Kenneth G. Hope (33)