

Next Steps and Summary for Adopted Legislation

October 19, 2021

Dear Brethren,

At the 172nd Annual Communication, legislation was adopted to, among other things, provide lodges with more options regarding stated meeting frequency and dues remissions. I have summarized below the legislation that was adopted and the recommended next steps, if any. I hope this information is useful to you should your lodge decide to implement these new options.

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1

Actions at the 171st Annual Communication are ratified.

The adoption of this recommendation ratified all the actions taken at the 171st Annual Communication. There is no further action required.

Resolution No. 19-07

Stated meetings may be held less frequently than monthly but no less than quarterly.

The adoption of this resolution amended Section 807.000 of the California Masonic Code to permit lodges to choose the number of stated meetings to hold each year so long as the lodge holds a stated meeting at least quarterly. All lodges must still hold a stated meeting during the months of February and August for the annual and semi-annual reports of the secretary and treasurer, and during the month of November for the election of officers.

A lodge that desires to hold stated meetings less frequently than monthly must amend their lodge bylaws to specify the new meeting frequency. (Lodges whose bylaws provide for monthly meetings fixed by the phase of the moon must continue to hold stated meetings for the transaction of business once in each lunar month.)

A [template resolution](#) and [certificate of amendment](#) have been developed for the purpose of amending the bylaws to meet less frequently than monthly. These documents can be found on the iMember under Resources/Lodge Administration/Bylaws.

Resolution No. 19-08

Partial remission of dues is now permitted.

The adoption of this resolution amended Section 809.360 of the California Masonic Code, which now allows a lodge, upon recommendation of the charity committee, to remit all, or just a portion, of accrued dues of a Mason who is unable to pay. The lodge may determine

how much of the dues are remitted. For example, the lodge may remit 50 percent of the dues or 75 percent of the dues.

Amended Section 407.025 reduces the amount of a lodge's per capita contribution with respect to dues that were partially remitted. The contribution owed by a lodge with respect to partially remitted dues is equal to the percent remitted. For example, if a lodge remitted 50 percent of a brother's dues, the lodge would contribute 50 percent of the per capita due for that member.

In the exercise of this provision, the report of the charity committee should include information about partial remissions. The report should include, without giving the name of the delinquent Masons except to the secretary, full remission of dues for a certain number of brothers and partial remission of dues for a certain number of brothers. For example, "The committee recommends full remission of dues of eight brothers, and partial remission of dues for two brothers." The committee could include the portion of dues remitted in the report if it or the lodge desires. If there is no partial remission of dues, it does not need to be included in the report.

iMember will be updated to allow a secretary or assistant secretary to record the portion of dues remitted, so that the proper per capita calculation can be made. Until the system is updated, the Partial Remission of Dues form must be sent to member services. The [partial remission of dues form](#) can be found under Resources/Lodge Administration/Reports and Forms.

Resolution 19-09

Lodges now apply for Annual Communication representative mileage reimbursement.

Section 407.065 of the California Masonic Code now requires a lodge to apply for Annual Communication representative mileage reimbursement. Reimbursement is for the cost of round-trip transportation for one person from the location of the Lodge to the place of the Annual Communication. Lodges must apply no later than 30 days after the close of the Annual Communication, which is November 9, 2021, for this year. This [reimbursement form](#) can be found on the member center under Resources/Annual Communication.

Thank you to all brothers who participated in the Annual Communication. Should you have any questions about these materials, please contact Member Services at memberservices@freemason.org.

Let's have a great and impactful Masonic year in California!

Sincerely and fraternally,



Allan L. Casalou
Grand Secretary



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