



Grand Lodge of California ***Independent Order of Odd Fellows***

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Grand Lodge Board Meeting June 3, 2017 Summary

In response to sentiments expressed at the Grand Lodge Sessions in Visalia last month, I intend to send out to lodges a summary of the Grand Lodge Board of Director's meetings during my term. The board met on Saturday June 3, 2017, in San Jose at the Grand Lodge headquarters. There were visitors from a number of lodges including Sycamore, San Pablo and Santa Rosa.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee has updated their Investment Policy. A copy of the updated policy has been sent to all lodges with the June mailing from Grand Lodge.

Among the recommendations by the committee was a proposal to lower the interest rate to 4% per annum on lodge loans with Grand Lodge. At the Grand Lodge Sessions, there were resolutions by San Pablo Lodge and Ontario Lodge to forgive their loans. The resolutions were not approved by the membership but this proposal should help those lodges with their financial challenges. A motion to approve this proposal was passed.

Another recommendation by the committee was to approve an offer to Sycamore Lodge to reduce their loan from approximately \$238,000 to \$65,274. A new promissory note would be signed to replace the existing loan. The new interest rate of 4% would apply to the note with a 15 year payment period. A motion to approve the offer was passed. The offer must be approved by Sycamore Lodge. The proposal came after discussions between the Investment Committee and officers of Sycamore Lodge. At the Grand Lodge Sessions, there were a number of resolutions proposed by Sycamore Lodge dealing with their financial past and present circumstances.

Lodge Issues

Santa Rosa #53. There have been significant conflicts at Santa Rosa Lodge #53. In recent months, the lodge and hall association have been moving to comply with the code to merge the hall association into the lodge. Under the Code, there cannot be a hall association if there is only one lodge owning the property.

Last year, the Grand Master appointed Rita Cooper as Special Deputy to monitor the affairs of the lodge and to audit the hall association. There is evidence that for a number of years the hall

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

association, which was formed as a non-profit corporation, has lost their non-profit status and has operated as a for-profit corporation.

Rita Cooper has been re-appointed as Special Deputy to continue that assignment. An audit of the lodge has been added to the assignment.

In addition to the Special Deputy issues, the lodge requested approval of the merger documents signed by both the lodge and the hall association. A motion was passed by the Board directing the Hall Association to transfer all assets to the Lodge. The Lodge was directed to establish a Bylaws Committee to make changes necessary to manage the assets by the Lodge. The Lodge was directed to establish a Transition Management Committee to assume responsibility of the daily operation of the Lodge Temple and rental properties.

The Noble Grand is required to report to the Grand Master three days before every Grand Lodge Board meeting an update of the progress on these issues.

San Pablo #43. In addition to reducing the loan interest rate, the Board passed a motion suspend payments on the lodge's loan for one year to enable the lodge to use the money for repairs and improvements in the lodge, including the roof, boiler and elevator.

Taft #423. Last term, the charter was taken from the lodge after failure to file their per capita report and evidence that the lodge was not meeting. James Moody of Bay Rock Lodge #300 has requested an opportunity to restart the lodge. The Board agreed to take no action for 120 days to allow Brother Moody a chance to see what he can do. No action will be taken before the end of September to clear out the property of the lodge. The Board directed that the locks of the lodge be changed. Before its charter was taken, Special Master Jamie Jepson visited the lodge several times and the lodge unlocked and empty. The lodge has a tenant who is paying rent to an unknown person.

Beneficial Fund. The Board was reminded that the Beneficial Fund is available to help members. There were very few applications for assistance in the last term.

Education Fund. Similarly, the Board was reminded that the Education Fund is available to help members and their relatives. Information is available on the Grand Lodge website.

Grand Lodge Board Officers and Committees. John Morgan was elected Chair of the Board. Paul Wright was elected Vice Chair of the Board. Committee assignments were announced.