

## 2008 Grand Lodge Voting Results

### The following items passed: Effective 01/01/2009

**Amendment Group 3:** Reference to brothers who are “insane” was changed to “mentally incompetent” and these members may not be dropped from membership for failure to pay dues. Lodges are not required to pay per capita to Grand Lodge for "mentally incompetent" members who do not pay dues.

**Amendment Group 4:** The requirement for two Schools of Instruction was removed from The Code, and instead, the Board of Custodians may determine the number of Schools required. The schools are not being done away with.

**Amendment Group 7:** Increased the per capita tax from fifteen dollars per member to seventeen dollars per member, effective in the year 2010. It remains fifteen dollars for 2009.

**Amendment Group 11:** The requirement for white tie cords for white aprons was removed from Reg. 89-2

**Amendment Group 12:** Owning or working in a place that sells legal alcoholic beverages is not a masonic offense.

**Amendment Group 13:** Requires every lodge to modify their by-laws to state whether their election of officers shall take place at the first meeting in November or December (rather than being an unstated option).

**Amendment Group 14:** A lodge member in good standing may object to the initiation of a candidate in extreme cases by making a written petition to the Grand Master with a copy to the Master of the lodge. *(Next year, GL will consider a time limit of perhaps one week after a man is elected before he may be initiated, to allow time for an objection. Alternatively, it could be stated that if an objection is received by the Master, the candidate may not be initiated until the Grand master has ruled upon the matter, or within one week, whichever shall come first).*

**Amendment Group 15:** Removed a reference from The Code concerning concurrent jurisdiction that had been overlooked in prior years. A housekeeping item.

### **Substitute Amendments that PASSED:**

**Amendment Group 1:** Minutes of the lasted stated and all intervening communications may be SUMMARIZED rather than read in their entirety at the option of the WM.

**Amendment Group 5a:** A substitute amendment was offered from the floor to the proposed “Royal White Hart Law of 1765”.

Article 19: SECTION \_\_\_\_\_

When voting upon issues requiring the use of the ballot box (Petitions for the Degrees, Applications for Affiliation, Honorary or Life Memberships), if one black cube is found on the examination of the ballot, the Master shall destroy the ballot and require the members to ballot again, cautioning them that white balls elect, and black cubes reject and reminding them to vote for the good of masonry. If a single black cube is found after the second ballot,

the Master shall not immediately announce the result, but shall require the person casting the black cube to communicate his reason for the negative vote to the Master, who shall keep the identity of the person making the objection in strictest confidence. At the next stated meeting, the Master shall reveal the reason given for the negative vote, but not the identity of the member casting the black cube. The Master will then ask the lodge to vote, by a show of hands, on the validity of the reason for the black cube. The majority vote shall govern whether the candidate is elected.

If the brother casting the black cube does not present his reasons to the Master within one week, the Master shall, at the next stated communication, declare the candidate elected and the lodge shall proceed as if there had been no black cube cast.

*Comment: This is an optional way a lodge can deal with malicious or injudicious use of the black cube during voting. It is mandatory to follow this procedure when a lodge puts this provision in its by-laws until such time as the provision is removed from that lodge's by-laws.*

**Amendment Group 9a** was substituted to include forms, giving the Grand Secretary authorization to change the service award pins and forms as deemed necessary and changing the statement on forms in Appendix A that they shall not be changed, to state that they cannot be changed “by subordinate lodges.”

**Amendment Group 10a** was substituted. It states that when a NPD member is restored, one year of per capita shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for use of the Grand Lodge at the time of restoration. (The NPD member is normally required to pay one year of back dues and the current year's dues. The per capita on the current dues will be reported and paid with the next annual report).

**The following Amendment FAILED:**

**Amendment Group 2** would have permitted lodges to rent their buildings to individuals or organizations that might serve alcoholic beverages at their functions with the approval of the Grand Master and upon their obtaining suitable liability insurance. Some of the larger lodges spoke strongly in favor of this issue, stating a need for income to defray the upkeep of their buildings that are presently under utilized. Although the measure failed, there was majority support for it (but not 2/3 required). It is likely that this measure will reappear.

**This Amendment was WITHDRAWN:**

**Amendment Group 6** would have set the per capita based upon the approved budget.

(Due to a balanced budget, this was not needed for the year 2009).

The **Amendment Group 8** was **TABLED** (not considered for a vote). It would have provided that lodges could, at the Master's option, do business in any degree. Considerable work had been done by Committees studying implications of this proposal and the requirements it would pose for changes to the OSW and The Code - and other issues. The Jurisprudence Committee suggested that the Grand Master take a non-binding straw vote on "The Will of the Craft," asking them whether they wanted the option of doing business in a degree other than the MM degree. The vote revealed the Craft did not see value in this option, so further work was suspended and it was not returned to The Code Commission for further work or consideration.

## **SUMMARY**

**Amendment Group 1: Substitute 1a PASSED**

**Amendment Group 2: FAILED**

**Amendment Group 3: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 4: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 5: Substitute 5a PASSED**

**Amendment Group 6: WITHDRAWN**

**Amendment Group 7: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 8: TABLED**

**Amendment Group 9: Substitute 9a PASSED**

**Amendment Group 10: Substitute 10a PASSED**

**Amendment Group 11: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 12: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 13: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 14: PASSED**

**Amendment Group 15: PASSED**