

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE 105TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Proposal # 1

The Victor Emanuel Lodge # 1646 of Haverhill, in conjunction with the Senior Member Study Committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, proposes that M.L. ART 129A, Section 1 and Section 2 (Rights of Senior Members), which currently reads:

Section 1. Effective July 1, 1986, lodges with 80 year old members and twenty five (25) years in the Order, after having been certified by the State Recording Secretary, shall be exempt from paying per capita tax for these members.

Section 2. Each Senior member, after being certified by the State Recording Secretary, shall be presented with a Gold Lifetime Membership card signed by the State President and State Recording Secretary.

Be removed in its entirety and replaced to now read:

Effective January 1, 2020, lodges with members that meet the following requirements, defined hereafter as "Senior Members," having been certified by the State Recording Secretary, shall only be required to pay the amount equal to the current National capita tax, plus one dollar, for each "Senior Member" provided they meet all three of the following criteria:

- 1) Are 80 years of age or older
- 2) Have twenty-five (25) years of uninterrupted membership in Order
- 3) Became members of the Order on or before December 31, 2019

Arguments for Change:

On the necessity of reform:

Making young and new members subsidize the older members is unfair, and in the experience of your proponents discourages membership. This is not an essential service like Social Security: OSDIA membership is a privilege and an honor. Moreover, it puts an unfair burden on the Grand Lodge, creating a \$19,260.40 (as of 2017) hole in their budget at the beginning of every fiscal year, in addition to their operating expenses. Your proponents see the Herculean effort it requires to raise these funds; those efforts and man hours are better spent on the OSDIA's primary mission.

On the necessity of a "grandfather clause":

Our promise to those members has in fact become increasingly unsustainable, especially in the face of an aging membership. However, we must sustain the spirit of the original promise by insisting they help the Grand Lodge to break even. Your proponents believe this is the best possible compromise.

As to "plus \$1":

This token amount contributes to base administrative costs while allowing us to continue in the spirit of "break-even only".

On the elimination of the subsidy for future members:

The original 1986 policy was a worthy experiment, born of kindness and a desire to honor those who have served the longest. The problem is that it now materially damages the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and all the Filial Lodges under its purview. Your proponents believe this damage has proven to outweigh any benefits, and that making these proposed changes will only improve the prospects of the OSDIA in the region.

Proposal # 2

State First Vice President Denise Furnari proposes that M.L. ART. 31 (The State Trustees), which currently reads:

For the purpose of electing State Trustees, the area under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts shall be divided into seven districts. (The National Lodge considers District six and seven as combined) each district shall be entitled to one State Trustee for each Two Thousand (2000) members in district. In any district that has a surplus of One Thousand and One (1001) members after dividing the district membership by 2000, an additional State Trustee shall be elected. Any District, however, having less than 2000 members, shall be entitled to one State Trustee.

In addition, Three (3) State Trustees shall be elected at large, regardless of membership count.

The Districts shall be as follows:

- District 1: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties
- District 2: Worcester County
- District 3: Middlesex County
- District 4: Suffolk County
- District 5: Norfolk, Bristol, Barnstable and Plymouth Counties
- District 6: Essex County
- District 7: States of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont

Be amended to now read:

For the purpose of electing State Trustees, the area under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts shall be divided into five districts. Each district shall be entitled to one State Trustee for each Two Thousand (2000) members in the district. In any district that has a surplus of One Thousand and One (1001) members after dividing the district membership by 2000, an additional State Trustee shall be elected. Any District, however, having less than 2000 members, shall be entitled to one State Trustee.

In addition, Three (3) State Trustees shall be elected at Large regardless of membership count.

The Districts shall be as follows:

- District 1: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties
- District 2: Worcester County
- District 3: Middlesex County
- District 4: Suffolk County
- District 5: Norfolk, Bristol, Barnstable, Plymouth, Dukes and Nantucket Counties
- District 6: Essex County, States of New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont

Please note that, if passed, this proposal would not take effect until the 2021 elections.