

Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges

BY-LAWS 2016

I. NAME, PURPOSE AND MEMBERS

- A. Name
 - 1. Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges
- B. The purpose of the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges is:
 - 1. To provide a forum for the elected leaders of the Grand Lodges to meet and exchange ideas on topics which are of common interest to them.
 - 2. To provide an opportunity for the elected leaders of the Grand Lodges to become acquainted with one another and to promote one of the truly Masonic ornaments, which is Brotherly Love.
 - 3. To promote an open line of communications between the elected leaders of the member Grand Lodges so that when communications of a formal nature are required they will occur in a pleasant and productive manner.
- C. Members of this Conference are:
 - 1. Alaska
 - 2. California
 - 3. Hawaii
 - 4. Oregon
 - 5. Washington
 - 6. Arizona
 - 7. British Columbia and Yukon

II. Definitions

- A. Conference Voting Members:
 - 1. Grand Masters of Member Jurisdictions
 - 2. Deputy Grand Masters of Member Jurisdictions
 - 3. Senior Grand Wardens of Member Jurisdictions
 - 4. Junior Grand Wardens of Member Jurisdictions
 - 5. Grand Secretaries of Member Jurisdictions
 - 6. All Immediate Past Grand Masters of Member Jurisdictions.
- B. The Immediate Past Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction shall be the Chairman of the Conference.
 - 1. In his absence the Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction will be the Conference Chairman.
 - 2. In case of his absence the Conference Chairman will be the ranking Officer from the Host Jurisdiction.
- C. The Grand Secretary of the Host Jurisdiction shall be the Conference Secretary.
 - 1. Minutes of the Conference shall be the responsibility of the Conference Secretary.
 - 2. The minutes shall be distributed to the member Grand Lodges at least 30 days prior to the next conference.

III. NEW MEMBERSHIP

- A. A Grand Lodge wishing to join the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges must request to attend a session and receive approval from all member Grand Lodges who respond to the request.
 - 1. This request should be made to the Host Grand Lodge.
 - 2. The Host Grand Lodge shall be responsible for coordinating the polling of the member Grand Lodges for this approval.

- B. After attending one session, a Grand Lodge may petition the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges for membership.
 - 1. This petition may be submitted at the conclusion of the session they have visited and may be voted upon at that same session.
 - 2. The Grand Lodge must receive a unanimous ballot of all voting members in attendance when the vote is taken.
- C. If a Grand Lodge is not in attendance for two consecutive years, their membership in the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges shall be automatically dropped and they must go through the above procedure to regain membership.

IV. **RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Date and time of Conference
 - 1. The Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges will convene each year at 9:00 a.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America or at a time and place as approved by a unanimous vote of the members.
 - 2. The Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges shall close when all business to come before it is completed.
- B. The Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction at the time of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America will make a report of the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges held the previous year.
- C. Topics
 - 1. Prior to December 15th each year the Immediate Past Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction shall send a list of topics for discussion, with information on hotels, meals and etc., to each Grand Jurisdiction.
 - 2. If a Grand Jurisdiction would like to choose a topic other than the one assigned to them, they may do so.
 - 3. Each Grand Jurisdiction presenting a Paper (or Papers) will provide copies of the Paper(s) to all Grand Jurisdictions who are in attendance.
- D. Order of Business
 - 1. The Chairman shall call the Conference to order at 9:00 a.m.
 - 2. Invocation by a member of the Host Jurisdiction followed by Flag Salute.
 - 3. Approval of the minutes from the previous conference.
 - 4. Papers presented from each Grand Jurisdiction
 - a. Each Grand Jurisdiction shall present one paper at this time.
 - b. If time allows and if a Grand Jurisdiction has prepared two , their additional paper may be presented after the first paper from each Grand Jurisdiction has been presented.
 - 5. All other business may be discussed after all papers have been presented.
 - 6. Conference called to a close by the Chairman.
 - 7. Benediction by a member of the next Host Jurisdiction.
- E. Voting
 - 1. Each voting member in attendance shall have one vote.
 - 2. No proxy votes will be allowed, a voting member must be present to cast his own vote.
 - 3. A two thirds vote of all voting members present is required to change the By-Laws.

4. A unanimous vote of all voting members present is required to elect a new member to the conference.

V. HOST JURISDICTION

- A. The following rotation for hosting the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges is established with the last known year of hosting listed

1. Alaska – 2023
2. Oregon – 2017
3. California – 2018
4. Washington – 2019
5. Arizona – 2020
6. Hawaii – 2021
7. British Columbia and Yukon – 2022

The other member Jurisdictions in the above listed order will be the Host Jurisdiction for future year conferences. In the event any of the member Jurisdictions drops their membership (Article III.C) the order for hosting of future Conferences shall be amended as necessary. In the event any new Jurisdictions become members of the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges (Article III. B.2) they shall take their place in the order of rotation as Host Jurisdiction immediately before the next rotation of the Host Jurisdiction of the year in which they became a member.

- B. The Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges will be held in the same site and location as the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America.

1. The Host Jurisdiction shall be responsible for the selection of the site of the Conference Meeting Room and will bear any cost associated with the meeting room. If possible the meeting should be held in the same facility that hosts the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America.
2. The Immediate Past Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction shall coordinate with the Executive Secretary of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America for lodging and a meeting space
 - a. Hotel reservations shall be the responsibility of each individual attendee.
 - b. Payment for hotel rooms will be made directly to the hotel.

The Immediate Past Grand Master of the Host Jurisdiction shall be responsible for arranging for a group breakfast and lunch on the meeting day. These meals are no host.

- a. Breakfast (usually at 8:00 a.m.) and lunch may include the ladies if the Host Jurisdiction's Immediate Past Grand Master wishes.
- b. Payment for meals shall be made directly to the Host Grand Jurisdiction for the actual cost of the meals.

VI. Representation by the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges, on the Commission on information for Recognition of the Conference Of The Grand Masters of Masons in North America:

- A. No Member (Paragraph I C) of the Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges who is eligible to serve on the Commission on Information for Recognition will serve consecutive terms. If for any reason there is a vacancy in the position the Western conference of Masonic Grand Lodges will elect a new representative at the subsequent Western Conference of

Masonic Grand Lodges. Exception; if the only eligible representative is offered to serve and he is from the Member who served last.