2024 WESTERN CONFERENCE OF MASONIC GRAND LODGES

THE WESTIN HOTEL – SEATTLE WA

February 16, 2024

CONFERENCE MINUTES

The 2024 Western Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges convened at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024, at the Westin Hotel in Seattle Washington. Most Worshipful Brother Mark L. Posler as Immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, presided over the conference. MWB Craig A. Sipp Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon offered an invocation.

The National Anthems of the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico were sung by the attendees.

Most Worshipful Brother James L. Morgan, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, called the roll. The following officers, members, and guests were present.

From the Grand Lodge of Alaska: MWB Doug Studer, Grand Master; RWB Mike Haskin Deputy Grand Master; MWB Johnnie L. Wallace, PGM, Grand Secretary.

From the Grand Lodge of Arizona: MWB George R. Rush, Grand Master; RWB Mike Dale Deputy Grand Master.

From the Grand Lodge of Baja California: MWB Armando Lopez Acost, Grand Master; RWB Oscar Mario Zepeda Peralta, Grand Chancellor; RWB Arturo Nikolai Sevilla Covarrubias, Grand Secretary.

From the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon: RWB Mark Forster, Deputy Grand Master; RWB George Moore, Grand Secretary; MWB Phillip Durell Past Grand Master.

From the Grand Lodge of California: MWB Sean Metroka, Grand Master; RWB art Salazar, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Garrett Chan, Senior Grand Warden; RWB Ara Maloyan, Junior Grand Warden; VWB Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary; WB Steve Yeffa, Grand Marshall, MWB David R. Doan, Past Grand Master; MWB Russell E. Charvonia, Past Grand Master; MWB Stuart A. Wright, Past Grand Master; MWB Arthur Weiss, Past Grand Master.

From the Grand Lodge of Hawaii: MWB Dustin Verity, Grand Master; RWB Ani Lontoc, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Mike Lopez, Senior Grand Warden; MWB Marty P. Alexander Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary; MWB Wilson Camagan, Past Grand Master; MWB Edde Kanai, Past Grand Master.

From the Grand Lodge of Oregon: MWB Craig A. Sipp, Grand Master; RWB Timothy J. Best, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Marc L. Strong, Senior Grand Warden; RWB Richard Varner, Junior Grand Warden; WB Gregory Hinkelman, Senior Grand Deacon; MWB James L. Morgan, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary; MWB Mark L. Posler, Immediate Past Grand Master; Michael McGuyer, Past Grand Master.

From the Grand Lodge of Washington: MWB Steven Martin, Grand Master; RWB James C. Norton Jr., Deputy Grand Master; RWB Roger B. Nelson, Senior Grand Warden; RWB Chris C. Haynes, Junior Grand Warden; RWB Clinton M. Brown Jr., Grand Secretary; MWB James V. Mendoza, Past Grand Master; MWB James H. Kendal, Past Grand Master; MWB Christopher Coffman, Past Grand Master; MWB Cameon M. Bailley, Past Grand Master; MWB Edward C. Woods, Immediate Past Grand Master.

From the York Grand Lodge of Mexico: MWB Octavio Flores, Grand Master; RWB Ricardo Preciado, Grand Secretary.

The minutes from the previous annual meeting held at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel in Arlington Virgina on February 17, 2023, were approved as distributed.

RWB Ara Maloyan Junior Grand Warden from the Grand Lodge of California gave a presentation on Extending Relief which featured the many ways the Grand Lodge of California provides relief and other services to their members and to their communities.

Following RWB Maloyan, RWB Richard Varner Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Oregon gave a presentation on Masonic Education in Oregon. It featured different methods and programs used by Lodges in Oregon to extend educational opportunities it their members.

The next presentation was given by RWB Chris Haynes, Junior Grand Warden from the Grand Lodge of Washington, on Real Estate Assets. RWB Haynes talked about the ways that real estate can be either an asset or a liability to a Lodge and ways that Lodges can turn a liability into an asset.

MWB George Rusk, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arizona gave a presentation on Violence Against Freemasonry. MWB Rusk, spoke about actual events that have happened, and about things that could happen. MWB Durell Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon spoke about the three Lodge buildings in Vancouver B.C. that had been set on fire a couple of years ago as an example of what can and has happened.

RWB Preciado the Grand Secretary of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico gave a presentation on the history of their Grand Lodge. It was very informative and brought much new information to many of those in attendance.

The Grand Lodge of Baja California shared a video about their Grand Lodge giving some historical perspective and where they are going. They plan to share the video with the General Assembly of the Conference of Grand Masters prior to the vote on their becoming a full member of the Conference of Grand Masters. They also thanked the jurisdictions that wrote letters to the Conference supporting their application for membership.

MWB Edde Kanai Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii, gave a presentation on the Maui wildfires. The presentation covered not only the damage caused by the fires but some of the contributing factors and locations where the fires started.

Committee Reports:

Fraternal Relations Committee; MWB Metroka reported that nothing had been done in the last six months. He also reported that previously the committee had compiled and collated information concerning what jurisdictions each of the Members of the Western Conference recognize. They have not moved forward with publishing and distributing this information.

Masonic Education Committee; MWB Martin reported that the committee has not met during the last year. The committee was formed to compile educational resources for access by member jurisdictions. The committee will continue as an active committee of the Western Conference.

Transgender Committee; it was reported that there has been no activity of this committee in the last year.

MWB Mark L. Poster Immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon proposed an amendment to the By-Laws of the Western Conference. The proposed amendment is to Section V. HOST JURISDICTION:

The proposed change would restore the original order of Host Jurisdictions which was in place prior to British Columbia and California changing places due to the COVID restrictions which prevented the Grand Lodge of British Columbia from attending.

A motion was made by MWB Martin of the Grand Lodge of Washington to accept the By-Laws change as proposed.

The motion was seconded by MWB Metroka of the Grand Lodge of California.

MOTION APPROVED

The new order for Host Jurisdictions is as follows.

2025 Baja California

2026 British Columbia and Yukon

2027 Washington

2028 York Grand Lodge of Mexico

2029 Arizona

2030 Hawaii

2031 California

2032 Alaska

2033 Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California

2034 Oregon

MWB Metroka of the Grand Lodge of California informed the Conference that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California had sent an email stating their desire to rejoin the Western Conference of Grand Lodges.

MWB Metroka then made a motion that the membership be polled concerning this request. The motion was seconded by MWB Steve Martin of the Grand Lodge of Washington. The polling was completed and the members approved of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California requesting admission into the Western Conference.

MWB Sean Metroka, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California made a motion to elect the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California as a member of the Western Conference of Grand Lodges. The motion was seconded by MWB Marty Alexander, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

After a discussion on the motion MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California was elected as a member of the Western Conference.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Oregon will send a letter to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California informing them of this action.

A motion was made by MWB Steve Martin, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington to nominate MWB Jim Kendal as the Western Conference Northern Division commissioner of the Masonic Services Association. The motion was seconded by MWB Craig A. Sipp, Grand Master of Oregon.

MOTION APPROVED

The conference broke for lunch.

The conference reconvened after lunch and was informed of a You Tube video about the California Masonic Emergency Response teams.

The 2025 Western Conference of Grand Lodges will be held on Friday February 14, 2025, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Grand Lodge of Baja California will be the host jurisdiction.

The Benediction was given by MWB Craig A. Sipp, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon.

With no further business to come before the Conference it was declared closed by MWB Mark L. Posler, Immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Morgan

Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of Oregon