

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons



OF THE STATE of CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION 2011-1

The proponents of this Resolution seek to change Section 175a.15 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California pertaining to the Life Membership Fund.

WHEREAS, the Life membership Fund has been established to provide a flow of funds to the member Chapters and

WHEREAS, the flow of funds from the Life membership Fund was intended to offset the cost to the members Chapter of the annual per-capita fee imposed on the member Chapters by the Grand Chapter and

WHEREAS, the annual per-capita has increased since the inception of the current Life membership Plan and

WHEREAS, Section 175a.15 of the Grand Chapter Constitution states that “*The interest derived from the investment of the principle of the Life membership Fund shall, annually, be distributed to the Chapters pro-rata according to the total amount each Chapter shall have to its credit in the Fund. This distribution check will show amount credited to the Chapter and per cent of distribution.*” and

WHEREAS, the interest portion of the earnings in the Fund is inadequate to cover the current levels of per-capita and

WHEREAS, interest fluctuations each year can cause wide variations in annual returns to Chapters, making budgeting difficult.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Section 175a.15 be replaced as follows. “*An annual distribution to the Chapters, pro-rata according to the total amount each Chapter shall have to its credit in the Fund, shall be made within one month of end of the calendar year. This distribution shall be no less than 5.0% and no more than 7.0% of the average market value of the Fund over the last three years. The actual percentage will be determined by the Investment Committee and forwarded to the Grand Secretary. This distribution check will show amount credited to the Chapter and per cent of distribution.*”

Respectfully submitted: **Raymond D. Godeke** (73)

Jerrold A. Wohlfarth (155)

RESOLUTION 2011-2

The proponents of this Resolution seek to establish the Life Membership program on a sound, actuarial basis. A review of the Life Membership schedule at Sec. 175a.4, as required by Sec. 175a.16, has shown that the program no longer provides adequate funding to the Chapters for their Life Members. In 2010, for example, \$9,933 was distributed to local Chapters, covering 1,383 living Life Members, or \$7.18 per companion – not even enough to pay the annual per capita of \$9.25. At this time, the median dues across the 60 Chapters are \$30 annually; hence, Chapters are losing approximately \$31,560 in total, in comparison to what their income would be from these members, absent a Life Membership program. A majority of the Life Membership Commission, established in April 2010, finds that

WHEREAS, Article XVIII, Section 175a.15 of the Constitution states: “The interest derived from the investment of the principle of the Life Membership Fund shall, annually, be distributed to the Chapters pro rata according to the total amount each Chapter shall have to its credit in the fund,” and,

WHEREAS, this distribution of interest alone is not sufficient to adequately compensate Chapters for their living Life Members, and

WHEREAS, stock market fluctuations cause excessive financial highs and lows to Life Membership distributions to Constituent Chapters, and,

WHEREAS, these financial highs and lows are an extreme burden to the budget process and financial well-being of the Chapters, and

WHEREAS, there are enough accumulated funds in the current Life Membership program to fully fund living Life Members at their current 2010 dues level, and

WHEREAS, the average age of the 1,383 living Life Members (of the 2,940 who have paid in over the last 33 years) is 77, with an average life expectancy of 10 years, and

WHEREAS, Chapters can be compensated with the current dues of their 1,383 living Life Members (for a total of over \$33,000 per year) and still leave over \$100,000 in the fund at the end of 10 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a redesigned Life Membership program be added to Article XVIII of the Constitution as Section 175b, presented below, to effect the following purposes:

1. To re-establish the Life Membership Fund to be used to pay dues for Life Members, in the amount of the dues requirement in 2010 or, if purchased afterwards, in the amount of the dues at the time they buy into the program
2. To recalibrate the Life Membership Age Factors to correspond to current Life Expectancy tables
3. To disallow new members in the current Life Membership Program, described at Section 175a
4. To transfer current Life Members under Section 175a into the new Program
5. To allow distribution of principal, as needed, as well as dividends and interest income to pay the dues requirement for each living Life Member in 2010, or at the time he buys into the program, if after 2010.

§175b. Life Membership (New Plan).

1. A Chapter may, by Standing Resolution, adopt the Life Membership Plan as herein set forth which shall forever exempt a member from the payment of dues.
2. Such resolution shall not be acted upon at the Stated Convocation at which it is introduced and that timely written notice of action thereon shall be given to every member.
3. If adopted, it shall not take effect until after approval of the Grand High Priest.
4. Upon the adoption and approval of such resolution, the Chapter may issue to any member who is in good standing and whose dues are paid to date, a life membership upon payment of a sum equal to the annual dues of his Chapter times the life membership factor indicated opposite his age in the following life membership schedule.

AGE LIFE MEMBERSHIP FACTOR

21 to 24, inclusive	25 17 times the annual dues payable
25 to 29, inclusive	23 17 times the annual dues payable
30 to 34, inclusive	21 17 times the annual dues payable
35 to 39, inclusive	19 16 times the annual dues payable
40 to 44, inclusive	17 16 times the annual dues payable
45 to 49, inclusive	15 15 times the annual dues payable
50 to 54, inclusive	13 14 times the annual dues payable
55 to 59, inclusive	11 13 times the annual dues payable
60 to 64, inclusive	9 12 times the annual dues payable
65 and over	7 8 times the annual dues payable

5. Annually, all life members shall receive from their respective Chapters a certificate showing that they are in good standing.

6. All monies collected by the Chapter for life memberships shall immediately be transferred to the Grand Secretary's office.

7. The Grand Secretary shall place all monies so received in the Life Membership fund to the credit of the proper Chapter. If there is a discrepancy in the amount credited to a Chapter, it shall be the responsibility of that Chapter to verify the amount sent to and deposited into the Life Membership fund. The Grand Secretary will credit account with verified amount.

8. The Grand Secretary shall immediately issue to the member paying the required fees, a Life Membership Certificate under the Seal of the Grand Chapter, signed by the Grand High Priest and attested by the Grand Secretary.

9. When a life member transfers to another Chapter within this Grand Jurisdiction, the Grand Secretary shall, upon notice thereof, transfer on the books of the Life Membership Fund; the fees received for such life membership to the credit of the Chapter transferred to.

10. Upon the death of a life member, or his demitting from this Grand Jurisdiction to a Chapter of another Grand Jurisdiction and/or taking a withdrawal certificate from his Chapter, then the **remainder of the fee paid for such life membership shall remain in the Life Membership Fund to the credit of that Chapter for the general benefit of remaining living Life Members.**

11. Chapters may not issue life memberships in any other manner than provided in this Section.

12. When two or more Chapters consolidate, all money in the Life Membership Fund to the credit of such Chapters shall be transferred to the credit of the remaining consolidated Chapter.

13. Upon the dissolution of any Chapter, holders of the Grand Chapter certificates, affiliating with another Chapter, shall have such life memberships transferred as provided in sub-Section 9 hereof. The interest accruing from the fund remaining to the credit of such dissolved Chapters shall at the end of each year be added to the **principle principal** of this fund **for the general benefit of living Life Members.**

14. The Life Membership Fund thus created shall consist of all money accruing thereto from the issuance of life memberships by the Chapters and shall be administered as herein provided by §32.11 and §39.

~~15. The interest derived from the investment of the principle of the Life Membership Fund shall, annually, be distributed to the Chapters pro rata according to the total amount each Chapter shall have to its credit in the fund. All funds in this program shall be used to compensate Chapters for the full amount of the dues requirements in 2010 of their living Life Members who bought into the program prior to or during 2010. For Life Members who buy in after 2010, Chapters will be compensated for the full amount of the dues requirement in that year. This~~ The distribution check will show amount credited to the Chapter and per cent of distribution. **Whenever the total amount of compensation to all Chapters, for all living Life Members, for a specific Calendar Year shall be less than six**

percent of the Fund Portfolio value, or total earnings, whichever is greater, as of the end of the prior Calendar Year, the difference shall be distributed to the Chapters pro rata according to the total amount each Chapter shall have to its credit in the fund.

16. The Finance Committee of Grand Chapter shall review the life membership schedule at least every five (5) years and more often if deemed advisable, to determine if the life membership schedule has been established on a sound basis.

17. Holders of life membership certificates are subject to all the laws, rules and regulations as provided in the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California and the By-laws of his Chapter and loss of membership shall automatically abrogate his life membership and any claim **he or his Chapter may have** to any portion of any fees paid for such life membership; but the Chapter of which he was last a member, shall continue to receive the income derived from such funds.

18. All life memberships existing previous to the adoption of **this the** new Life Membership Plan (April 1976) shall remain under the provisions of §175. However, Chapters may elect to transmit their present Life Membership Fund to the Grand Secretary's office to avail their life members of all the privileges of the new Life Membership Plan **(May 2011)**.

19. The new Life Membership Plan shall become effective January 1 following the Grand Chapter Convocation, at which it is adopted, at which time life memberships will no longer be available under §175.

Respectfully submitted: **Philip A. Hardiman** (3)
Don Lamoureux (27)
Dennis Dyer (86)

RESOLUTION 2011-3

The proponent of this resolution seeks to amend the By-Laws of the Research Chapter.

1.) **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Uniform Code of By-Laws for a Chapter of Research, as contained in the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason of California, be amended as follows:

A) Insert "Golden State" in the blank in Article I, Section I.

B) Amend Article II, Section 1 to read "There shall be ONE (1) Annual Stated Convocation to be held on the date of and at the place of the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California. The specific time shall be set as part of the Grand Chapter schedule."

C) Amend Article II, Section 2 to read, "Special Convocations and Informal (i.e., untitled) Meetings may be called by the High Priest at any time by giving at least 30 days notice to the members of the date, time, place and purpose of the Convocation or Meeting."

D) Replace the first sentence of Article IV, Section 7, with the following, "Dues receipts will not normally be issued. Members planning to visit Research Chapters in other states may request a letter of good standing vouching for their membership in Golden State Research Chapter." The remaining sentences will remain unchanged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any and all prior versions of the Chapter By-Laws are hereby revoked.

2.) **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Golden State Research Chapter shall publish annually the Grand Oration of the Grand Chapter, the Grand Oration of the Grand Council, and the Vesper Service message of the Grand Commandery.

Respectfully Submitted: **Philip D. Hardiman** (3)

RESOLUTION 2011-4

The proponent of this resolution seeks to amend Standing Resolution SR XI, Section 4. of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California, pertaining to the awarding of the Meritorious Service Award.

WHEREAS, there is some confusion as to how a Companion is chosen to receive this award, and

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT Section 4 be replaced with:

The Companion eligible to receive this award shall have been selected by a committee of three previous recipients of the award, appointed by the Excellent High Priest at the beginning of his term. This committee will meet and decide if any Companion is worthy of the award and then make a recommendation at a Stated Convocation. A motion should then be made to accept the recommendation and voted on by the members.. In the event that the Chapter does not have 3 previous recipients of the award, the High Priest shall request an exemption from the Grand High Priest.

Respectfully submitted: **Kenneth G. Hope**, (33)