

NOTICES TO BE MOVED IN GRAND LODGE 2024

NOTICES OF MOTION

Following each individual Notice of Motion, comments have been included to convey the views on the various motions that have been proposed to assist Lodges in considering how their representative should vote.

ITEM 6. LODGE REMITS

This proposed Amendment to Remit 18 from the 2023 Special Communication was tabled by the Grand Master with permission from the Mover and Seconder until the Annual Communication in November 2024. It is now being put.

Moved by Lodge Takahe No 397 Representative and Seconded by Lodge Doric Brighton No 236 Representative.

REMIT 18	BOARD OF DIRECTORS – BoC Rule 221
	<p>Rules in the current Book of Constitution November 2023 following on from the Special Communication 2023.</p> <p>THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Rule 221. Constitution of Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. There shall be a Board of Directors.b. The Board shall consist of the Trustees of Grand Lodge appointed pursuant to Rule 166a.c. The Grand Secretary attends the Board ex Officio.d. The Chair of the Board of Directors may invite the Divisional Grand Masters or such other brethren whose presence may assist the deliberations of the Board to be present at the meetings. <p>TRUSTEES OF GRAND LODGE</p> <p>166. Appointment of Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Grand Lodge shall from time to time appoint up to seven persons (including the Deputy Grand Master ex officio) who shall be domiciled in New Zealand, to be Trustees in terms of The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of New Zealand Trustees Act 1903.

	<p>b. The Board of Directors shall from time to time submit to Grand Lodge the names of those it recommends for appointment as Trustees.</p> <p>Move that Rule 221.b. be amended as follows:</p> <p>Board of Directors</p> <p>221.b. The current Rule 221.b. (outlining the membership composition of the Board of Directors) to be deleted, to be replaced by :-</p> <p><i>“The Board shall consist of up to 4 of the Trustees of Grand Lodge appointed pursuant to Rule 166.a, and up to 3 persons who shall be appointed as Directors only, based on merit and ability.”</i></p>
<p>Rationale:</p>	<p>It is the opinion of the Proposing and Seconding Lodges that the current Rule 221.b. concentrates the power of Directors and Trustees in the same hands, whereas we consider that the roles of the Directors and Trustees are separate and distinct.</p> <p>We appreciate that there may be insufficient Brethren to have two completely separate bodies, hence the proposal that four of the Trustees of Grand Lodge also be Directors.</p> <p>But, by there only being four brethren common to both bodies, they cannot form a quorum; hence they need to work with the other members of their separate boards in order to function.</p>
<p>Board Response</p>	<p>A legal opinion to the Grand Lodge has advised that Trustees and Directors can be one and the same, with separate meetings held to consider matters as Trustees or Directors.</p> <p>Board decisions are usually unanimous but not less than a majority under governance rules.</p> <p>There are seven members of the Board, which prevents an impasse on voting.</p> <p>This formula has been tested and worked well with the transitional arrangements since November 2023. With separate distinct meetings of the Trustees and Directors when required.</p> <p>The current recommendation of the Board of Directors on the nomination of Grand Lodge Trustees/Directors after interviews is based on merit and ability.</p> <p>The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.</p>

Moved by the Browns Bay Lodge No 346 Representative and Seconded by Lodge North Harbour No 182 Representative

<p>REMIT 19 PART 1</p>	<p>VOTING BY LODGE – BoC Rule 201</p>
	<p>Changing Rule 201 and clauses from one Lodge one Vote to one Member one Vote.</p> <p>That the procedure for conducting ballots and for voting on remits at triennial Communications, Special Communications, Annual Communications and Divisional Conferences be amended to provide for voting on all matters by individual brethren rather than Lodge by Lodge.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p>	<p>For the Special Communication 2023: 112 Lodges provided a commission to have representation. 19 Lodges were ineligible to vote in that they were not compliant. A number of others did not get to the communication and thus were not represented due to sickness, travel, technology or indifference. 112 out of 178 is only 63%. That is, only 63% attempted to participate. The number of Lodges that actually managed to vote has not been provided. In the past, Lodges have been disenfranchised by late arrival at venues or by refusals to accept last-minute proxies on occasions of illness of the original delegate. Neither these figures nor the outcomes are unique to the 2023 Communication. At an average membership of 18 brethren per Lodge, 19 lodges represent a capitation paid to the Grand Lodge of about \$39,442. In comparison with the other sums managed by FMNZ, this is a minor amount but, to many of the brethren, the contribution is a significant portion of their annual income. We need to be concerned about those whose voices were not heard - the minority. Indeed, a minority, but by no means small nor insignificant. A minority which has a right to be heard.</p>
<p>Board Response</p>	<p>Since the formation of the Grand Lodge New Zealand in 1890, voting has been done by Lodges not individually. If that is to change, there needs to be solid grounds to do so. As Lodges are formed under a Charter from Grand Lodge, the business session at any Communication is the occasion when those Lodges can gather and address relevant issues. One Lodge, One Vote ensures all Lodges have a level opportunity to vote in Masonic equality- smaller lodges do not get out-voted by a large Lodge. Local Brethren cannot arrive in mass and outvote others who might not have the ability to attend.</p> <p>Lodges who voted were recorded in Circular 2023-040 - 112 of our 178 Lodges had Commissions (each Remit in this circular showed the numbers for and against on each vote), and most votes were passed by a substantial majority of those able to vote. The reasons some lodges did not submit a Commission are unknown, and only a very small number were unable to</p>

	<p>vote due to non-compliance. A similarly small number of those did not vote on the day for various reasons. Additionally, the Board allowed for Electronic Voting, which had not been previously available to enable virtual attendance; even with this, 66 Lodges failed to provide a Lodge Commission (not due to non-compliance but perhaps complacency).</p> <p>The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.</p>
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<p>REMIT 19 PART 2</p>	<p>NON_COMPLIANCE - BoC Rule 203 a. vi</p>
	<p>That Book of Constitution Rule 203 Clause a. vi. as follows be deleted.</p> <p>i. No appointment shall be valid or operative unless all Lodge Returns, Fees, and other monies owing by the Lodge to Grand Lodge as at the 30th day of June of the year are filed or paid at least one month before the commencement of Communication.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p>	<p>Non-Compliance or Compliance</p> <p>Non-compliance, which denies voting rights per circular letter dated 3 May 2024 and many times previously, is delineated in italics. This remit is not intended to resolve the issues thus identified but to remove their effects. They do not motivate Lodges to comply. In themselves, some of these disqualification issues are petty to the point of meanness and Dispensations are not covered by the references in any case. Lodges are reminded of the following, which must be sent to the National Office (and others as required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodge Summons/Notice of Meeting (minutes of previous meeting desirable) • Lodge Dispensations • Lodge Annual Accounts Reviewed (or Audited) • Lodge Monthly Meeting Reports • Lodge Annual Return (Lodge Membership by 30th June) • Lodge outstanding Accounts with Grand Lodge • Lodge Trustees <p>Rules 48, 82, 98, 100, 101, 103, Collected Ruling 61 Lodges who fail to comply with these requirements may disenfranchise their Lodge from voting to a Special, Annual or Triennial Communication Rule 203a.vi. In modern times, with the technology available and with a more educated</p>

	<p>understanding of the rights of individuals, it is no longer satisfactory to continue with the traditional but seriously outdated method of managing the Craft. The brethren pay their dues individually; thus, it is submitted that the sole qualification for which voting should be eligible should be tied to whether dues have been paid on an individual basis. Evidence to support enfranchisement can thus be solely provided by the Annual Return, the others being no longer relevant to this issue. The proposed change provides for a more accurate understanding of the views of the brethren and a more participative approach, which could go some way toward eliminating the apathy or distrust apparent in some quarters. It should also reduce the costs to FMNZ, to Lodges and to individuals by obviating personal attendance.</p>
<p>Board Response</p>	<p>Lodge By-Laws agree to obey the Book of Constitution. The orderly governance of the Craft requires all Lodges to undertake certain administrative and reporting functions that allow for the prudent operation of the Lodges and the organisation as a whole (Membership/Finances/Compliance with NZ law, etc).</p> <p>Surely Lodges who are non-compliant with the provisions of the Book of Constitution should not enjoy the same rights as the vast majority of Lodges who do comply with the requirements? If a Lodge is non-compliant, they are informed of the issue and invited to address the omission or oversight. Regrettably, some Lodges are intentionally non-compliant in which neither they nor their members should exercise a vote.</p> <p>The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.</p>

Moved by The Lodge of Remembrance No 308 Representative Seconded by The Fortitude Lodge No 64 Representative

REMIT 20	FEES PAYABLE BY LODGES TO GRAND LODGE – BoC Rule 101 a.
	<p>That Rule 101 Fees payable by Lodges to Grand Lodge should be amended, adding to Rule 101 Clause a. :-</p> <p>Any brethren who are a full member of a Craft Lodge and who are in full-time care and unable to attend their regular lodge meetings should be <u>exempt</u> from Grand Lodge capitation fees.</p>
Rationale:	<p>These fees should not be a burden for the brethren who are unable to attend meetings nor the lodge to which these brethren belong. The Capitation fee structure should be altered to accommodate the remit for all New Zealand craft lodges.</p>
Board Response	<p>This Remit raises an issue that regularly comes before Communication. The Board considers the Lodge is in the best position to cover the Brethren in the situation identified, rather than all Freemasons in New Zealand. It ensures that each Lodge takes responsibility for the welfare of their own members.</p> <p>Grand Lodge already waives Capitation (and Divisional Levy) for Freemasons who have been Members for 70 years or more.</p> <p>By reducing the number of members who pay capitation, the onus will fall on the other Lodges, and an already strained Capitation model will be further stretched.</p> <p>The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.</p>

NOTE	<p>The Board of Directors notes that a further Lodge remit was received regarding the toast ‘The King and the Craft’. This matter is covered by a Collective Ruling and the Board has advised the sponsoring Lodge that the matter has been placed on the Board agenda for consideration at the Board’s November meeting.</p>
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