

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW ZEALAND



**Annual Communication
November 2024**

Proceedings of the Annual Communication

**Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted
Masons of New Zealand**

Held on 9th November 2024

Auckland Freemasons Centre

In-person and by Zoom

**MW Bro Jim Watt
Grand Master**

**Issued by
RW Bro Duane Williams
PGW and Grand Secretary
on behalf of
The Grand Lodge of New Zealand**

BRETHREN ATTENDING GRAND LODGE, PLEASE BRING THIS AGENDA PAPER WITH THEM FOR USE AT THE COMMUNICATION



Business to be transacted at the
Annual Communication
to be held in
AUCKLAND

On SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2024

**Grand Lodge will be opened at 10 am in the Auckland Freemasons Centre,
181 Khyber Pass Road, CBD, Auckland.**

1. To confirm the Minutes of the 2023 Special Communication held on 18th November 2023.
2. To consider and adopt the Annual Report 2023-2024 of The Board of Directors and The Freemasons Charity.
3. To consider and adopt the Annual Financial Reports as of 30th June 2024.
4. Remits - Board
5. Remits - Board - Operational Review
6. Remits - Lodge
7. To Appoint Grand Lodge Trustees/Directors
8. Expulsions – For Noting: W Bro Neil McKee and Bro Herbert Bruce Armitage
9. Presentations – Freemasons Deposit Scheme (Heartland Bank) & Masonic Property
10. Other Business, by permission of the Grand Master

All documentation relating to the Annual Communication can be found progressively online
at

<https://freemasons.nz.org/annual-communication-2024>

Attendance can be in Person or by Zoom.

Grand Lodge will be closed.

RW Bro Duane Williams PGW
Grand Secretary

NOTE:- The attention of Brethren is drawn to Rules 195 - 203 of the Book of Constitution, together with Collected Ruling 25, which specify the conduct of the Business Session of Communication

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 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REMITS

The Chair of the Board of Directors, VW Bro Warwick Bell has moved the following Remits 1 to 6 and RW Bro Neville Patrick, Director and Chair of Grand Lodge Trustees has seconded.

REMIT 1	ANNUAL COMMUNICATION & SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES
	That the procedures for Annual Communications and Special Communications be established by amending the Book of Constitution Rules 195, 196, 199 and 201 as follows: i. Add to Rule 195A Annual Communication new Clause c. to to read:- c. The requirements for a Communication set out in Rules 197 to 203 shall apply to an Annual Communication. ii. Add to Rule 196 Special Communication new Clause f. to to read:- f. The requirements for a Communication set out in Rules 198, 200 to 203 shall apply to a Special Communication. iii. Delete reference to Annual Communication in Rules 199 and 201. (Note the Rules referred to above are: - 197 Notice to Board of Directors of Proposed Business - 198 Presiding Grand Officer - 199 Order of Business at Communication

	- 200 Order of Debate - 201 Voting - 202 Ballots - 203 Appointment of Lodge Representative).
Rationale	Communication is defined in the Book of Constitution as the triennial Communication when referenced in the Rules. Rule 195A Annual Communication was agreed at the Special Communication in 2023 but the Rules applying to procedures were not adjusted at that time. This Remit ensures that common procedures are established for the triennial Communications, Annual Communications and Special Communications.

REMIT 2	ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE - BoC Rule 51.
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 51 be amended from:- 51. Only Master Masons to Vote Only Master Masons may vote in a Craft Lodge. To read:- 51. Vote Entitlement A Brother of a Craft Lodge who has completed the first three degrees in Freemasonry is entitled to vote in that Lodge.
Rationale:	There has been an increase in Associate members of Lodges and the previous Grand Registrar recommended that Rule 51 be amended to be explicit on who can vote in a Lodge.

REMIT 3	DISTRICT GRAND MASTER ELECTION -BoC Rule 159
	i. That the Book of Constitution Rule 159 Method of Election Clause b. be amended to read:- b. Each Lodge in a District may nominate a candidate for the office of District Grand Master for that District. Such nomination must be lodged with the Divisional Grand Master not later than 1st April in the Communication Year. <u>In the event that not more than two candidates are nominated, the Divisional Grand Master can nominate up to two other candidates for consideration.</u> ii. And that Rule 159 Clause g. as follows be repealed: g. The Rule shall come into effect on 2 May 2016 and shall govern the election process of District Grand Masters for the 2016 Communication year.
Rationale:	When originally established there was the opportunity for Lodges to select from several brethren making themselves available. More recently only one brother has been on the ballot in some Districts. It is important going forward for there to be options and this amendment will facilitate that. This remit maintains the principle of the election of District Grand Master by brethren through Lodges. If Remit 11 is passed the title of District Grand Master will change to Grand Superintendent.

REMIT 4	TRIAL COMMISSION COMPOSITION - BoC Rule 242 a.
	That Book of Constitution Rule 242 Clause a. be amended from:- a. The Grand Master shall appoint a Trial Commission comprising not more than three Brethren of the rank of Installed Master and shall nominate the Chairman To read:- a. The Grand Master shall appoint a Trial Commission comprising not more than three Brethren who have completed the first three degrees in Freemasonry and shall nominate the Chairman.
Rationale:	The Board of Directors has recently established a Judicial Panel and appointed nine brethren with relevant judicial experience to the Panel. Two of the brethren are Master Masons and four are Installed Masters.

REMIT 5	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS – BoC Rule 224 b. & c.
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 224 Meetings of Board Clauses b. and c. be amended from:- b. At all meetings the Chair shall preside, or in his absence, the Grand Master or his nominee. c. Five members shall form a quorum of whom the Chair of the Board or the Grand Master must be one. To read:- b. At all meetings the Chair shall preside, or in his absence, his nominee. c. Five members shall form a quorum of whom the Chair of the Board or the Deputy Grand Master must be one.
Rationale:	Adjusting these particular Clauses is consequential of the changes agreed at the Special Communication in 2023 where the Grand Master is not a member of the Board of Directors.

REMIT 6	REPEALING BOOK OF CONSTITUTION RULES
	That the following Book of Constitution Rules be repealed: i. Rule 144 Districts Clause b: b. In any District where the geographical location of a lodge or lodges causes isolation or causes an undue burden on the District Grand Master elected for that district the Grand Master may in consultation with the Divisional Grand Master appoint an Assistant District Grand Master who shall have all the powers of the District Grand Master within the area assigned to him. ii. Rule 179 Investiture of Officers of Grand Lodge Clause a. a. A Brother appointed to office in Grand Lodge by a District Grand Master elect (Rule 146) shall be invested by the District Grand Master following his investiture; all other Brethren appointed or

	elected to office in Grand Lodge shall be invested at Communication. iii. And consequential renumbering occur.
Rationale:	Regarding Rule 144, no Assistant District Grand Masters have been appointed and it is not envisaged that the role or similar will be required going forward. Regarding Rule 179, this does not happen as all new Grand Lodge officers are provided the opportunity to be invested at the Grand Installation.

The Grand Treasurer, VW Bro Graham Law has moved the following the following Remits 7 to 10 and the VW Bro Seath, Board Director has seconded.

REMIT 7	CAPITATION – BoC Rule 101 d.
	That Book of Constitution Rule 101 Clause d. be amended from:- d. Each year the capitation fee will be increased by the annual Consumer Price Index as determined by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand. To read:- d. Each year in determining the capitation fee increase the Board shall consider all appropriate factors, including (but not limited to) i. annual Consumer Price Index as determined by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand; ii. member numbers; iii. the range and level of services to be provided by the National Office.
Rationale	Membership decreases over the years have reduced (in real terms) the total capitation funding received by Grand Lodge. This has an impact on both the range and level of services that can be offered by National Office, and the sustainability of National Office in the medium term as there is currently a deficit for the General Fund operating activities.

REMIT 8	LODGE BUILDING FUNDS - BoC Rule 119 d.
	That Book of Constitution Rule 119 Clause d. to be amended from:- d. Any income from the investments of the Lodge Building Fund controlled by a Craft Lodge may be used by the Craft Lodge. To read:- d. Any nett income from the investments of the Lodge Building Fund controlled by a Craft Lodge, including when held via a Masonic Entity, where: i. income is received from such investments, bank accounts and term deposits, nett of any rental costs paid for Lodge meetings; and / or ii. rental income is received nett of building operating, capital maintenance and related financing costs;

	must be accumulated with the Lodge Building Fund principal and may not be used by a Craft Lodge for other purposes.
Rationale	This ensures that the interest earned on lodge building funds is accumulated with the principal funds and only used for accommodation purposes, be that rental of lodge rooms or the purchase of a lodge building. This would ensure the lodge building funds (to the extent possible) retain their real current economic value.

REMIT 9	LODGE ACCOUNTS - BoC Rule 100

	That Book of Constitution Rule 100 Clauses c. and d. be amended from:- c. "The Annual accounts shall be either reviewed or audited and presented to the Lodge for adoption. If audited the accounts will be presented to the Lodge for adoption with an audit certificate". d. "A copy of the annual accounts of the Lodge, together with a copy of the Audit Certificate if the accounts have been audited, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary within one month of adoption by the Lodge." To read:- c. All statutory requirements shall be complied with to undertake a Review or an Audit of the annual accounts where applicable. Where there are no specific statutory requirements, Lodges shall have an independent audit undertaken where either: i. Revenue / income / receipts are greater than \$250,000 excluding GST; or ii. Assets gross current market value is greater than \$5,000,000 including bank deposits and property. If these thresholds are not met then an independent review should be undertaken. d. The Annual accounts shall be presented to the Lodge for adoption with either an Audit report or a Review report as applicable within five (5) months of the Lodge's financial year end. e. A copy of the annual accounts of the Lodge, together with a copy of either the Audit report or Review report as applicable shall be sent to the Grand Secretary within one month of adoption by the Lodge.
Rationale	For companies the legal expectation is that annual accounts are filed within 5 months of the financial year end. It is therefore not considered unreasonable to expect Lodges to have filed their annual accounts within 6 months (5 months to prepare annual accounts and one month to file with the Grand Secretary). Adjusted Clause c. provides the policy for when a lodge should undertake a review, or an audit.

REMIT 10	MASONIC ENTITY ACCOUNTS
	That a new Rule 267 Masonic Entity Accounts be added to the Book of Constitution to read:- a. A Masonic Entity must comply with all statutory requirements to undertake a Review or an Audit of annual accounts where applicable. Where there are no specific statutory requirements, a Masonic Entity shall have an independent audit undertaken where either: <i>i. Revenue / income / receipts are greater than \$250,000 excluding GST; or</i> <i>ii. Assets gross current market value is greater than \$5,000,000 including bank deposits and property.</i> If these thresholds are not met then an independent review should be undertaken. b. The Annual accounts shall be presented to the Masonic Entity for adoption with either an Audit report or a Review report as applicable within five (5) months of the Masonic Entity's financial year end. c. A copy of the annual accounts of a Masonic Entity, together with a copy of either the Audit report or Review report as applicable shall be sent to the Grand Secretary within one month of adoption by the Masonic Entity.
Rationale	This provides the policy for when a Masonic Entity should undertake a review, or an audit.

ITEM 5. OPERATIONAL REVIEW REMITS

The Chair of the Board of Directors, VW Bro Warwick Bell has moved the following Remits 11 to 17 and MW Bro Graham Wrigley PGM has seconded.

REMIT 11	DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE
	That the recommendations of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group regarding establishing two Divisions and new geographic regions be approved and that work be undertaken to facilitate those recommendations, in accordance with the following amendments to the Book of Constitution to come into effect immediately prior to the Communication in October 2025: 1. <u>Masonic Division</u> Amend the current Book of Constitution Rule 7 Clause a. to read:- “Division” means one of those areas over which Grand Lodge exercises jurisdiction and which are named respectively Northern and Southern. 2. <u>Masonic Division Boundaries</u> Amend the current Book of Constitution Rule 7 Clause b. to read:- The boundaries of the Divisions are as follows: i. The Northern Division comprises the North Island of New Zealand and neighbouring smaller islands; and Samoa and any other Pacific Islands with lodges holding Grand Lodge of New Zealand charters. ii. The Southern Division comprises the whole of the South Island, neighbouring smaller islands including Stewart Island, the Chatham Islands and Ross Dependency. 3. <u>Lodges in Geographic Area</u> Amend Book of Constitution Rule 8 Clause c. to read:- For the purpose of ensuring that a Lodge is associated with the appropriate geographic region to which, by community of interest, convenience of access or otherwise its members are most closely connected, the Board of Directors may with the written request of the Lodge, resolve that the Lodge be allocated to a geographic

region in that Division other than within which it is geographically situated.

4. Geographic Regions

- i. Amend Book of Constitution Rule 9 to read:-

Heading: Delete “Districts” .to be replaced by “Geographic Regions”

- ii. And rule to read:-

The Board of Directors shall establish Geographic Regions comprising local groups of Lodges and may from time to time alter and replace Geographic Regions and establish new Geographic Regions after consultation with the Lodges involved.

- iii. And amend Book of Constitution Rule 2 Clause g to read:-

g. “Geographic Region” means a group of Lodges established under Rule 9.

5. Grand Superintendent

That the rank of District Grand Master be repealed and replaced with that of Grand Superintendent, and

- i. The rank of **Grand Superintendent** be added to the order of precedence as detailed in Appendix D of the recommendations of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group
- ii. The rank shall be titled ‘**Grand Superintendent <region>**’
- iii. The Book of Constitution Rule 144 Clause a. be amended to read:

Each Geographical Region (subject to the general superintendence of Grand Lodge and the provisions of these Rules) shall, subject to the authority of the Divisional Grand Master, be under the control of a Grand Superintendent who shall be accountable to the Divisional Grand Master.

- iv. The rank of **Grand Superintendent** be added to Rule 124 Clause c.
- v. The role will be elected in accordance with Rule 159, including for the 2025 – 2028 term.

6. Head of Division

- i. Amend the Book of Constitution Rule 138 Head of Division to read:-

	a. Each Division (subject to the general superintendence and authority of Grand Lodge and the provisions of these Rules) shall be under the control of either The Senior Grand Warden or The Junior Grand Warden who shall be accountable to the Grand Master and the Board of Directors. b. Prior to the expiry of the term of office of The Senior Grand Warden or The Junior Grand Warden, one nomination shall be called for from each Geographic Region in the Division for the office of The Senior Grand Warden or The Junior Grand Warden and such nominations shall be forwarded to the Grand Master for his consideration in making the appointment. ii. And add new Clause c. to read:- c. Transitional arrangements – i. For the period from the Communication in 2025 to the Communication in 2028 the roles of The Senior Grand Warden and The Junior Grand Warden shall remain similar to that preceding this period and the two Divisions shall be under the control of a Divisional Grand Master, both of whom will be members of the Change Management Team. ii. As at the 2028 Communication reference to ‘Divisional Grand Master’ in these rules will be replaced by ‘Grand Warden’. iii. And add to Book of Constitution Rule 2 new subclause to read:- s. ‘Grand Warden’ means either The Senior Grand Warden or The Junior Grand Warden or both.
Rationale:	This change adopts the MSORWG recommendations. Explanation is covered in their report.

REMIT 12	GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS
	That subject to the preceding Remit 11 being adopted That the meeting requests the Board of Directors to consider amending the Governance & Management Collective Rulings Part VII 57 Districts to come into effect immediately prior to the Communication in October 2025 and to read:- In accordance with Rule 9 the Board has established nine geographic regions which are allocated as follows: a. Northern Division — five geographic regions. b. Southern Division — four geographic regions. The Board considers that future amendments to geographic boundaries may be desirable and may create new geographic regions or consolidate geographic regions as deemed appropriate, in consultation with the relevant Lodges and brethren.
Rationale:	This Remit recommends the MSORWG recommendation on geographic regions boundaries to the Board of Directors for consideration. It recognises that the establishment of Districts and their replacements are covered in Collective Rulings of the Board and therefore it is the prerogative of the Board of Directors to decide on. In accordance with Book of Constitution Rule 9 the Board will consult with Lodges in regard to their inclusion in a geographic region prior to making a final decision.

REMIT 13	CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS
	That subject to the preceding Remit 11 being adopted That the following <u>consequential amendments</u> be approved to come into effect immediately prior to the Communication in October 2025: i. Amend the following Book of Constitution Rules referring to 'District' Rule 3 Clause c. ; Rule 45 Clause c. ; Rule 67 Clause a. ; Rule 85 Clause c. ; Rule 140 ; Rule 146 Clause a. ; Rule 156 Clause a. ; Rule 158 ; Rule 159 Clause a., b. & d. ; Rule 160 Clause a. ; Rule 265 Clauses e., f., g. & h.

	ii. And amend the following Book of Constitution Rules referring to 'District Grand Master' Rule 2 Clause f. ; Rule 3 Clause c. ; Rule 45 Clause c. ; Rule 67 Clause a. ; Rule 82 Clause b. ; Rule 117 Clause b. ; Rule 118 Clause b. ; Rule 126 Clause c. ; Rule 125 Clause d. ; Rule 145 ; Rule 146 Clause e. ; Rule 148; Rule 158 ; Rule 159 b. c. e. & f. ; Rule 212 Clauses a. & b. ; Rule 265 Clauses e, f, g & h. iii. And amend the following Book of Constitution Rules referring to 'District Grand Masters' Rule 85 Clause c. ; Rule 109 Clause a. & b. ; Rule 122; Rule 123; Rule 126 Clause a. ; Rule 159 Clause a. ; Rule 192 Clause a. & b. iv. And such other consequential amendments to the Book of Constitution as are required. v. And amend Rule 186 Clause a. from:- <i>District Grand Masters and Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters</i> The square and five-pointed star To read:- <i>"Grand Superintendents, Past District Grand Masters and Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters</i> The square and five-pointed star".
Rationale:	These consequential changes arise from adopting the MSORWG recommendations as per Remit 11.

REMIT 14	GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS OF CEREMONIES AND EDUCATION
	That the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group regarding the establishment of the role and rank of The Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies and The Grand Superintendent of Education and disestablishment of the rank of Grand Lecturer, be approved, in accordance with the following amendments to the Book of Constitution to come into effect immediately prior to the Communication in October 2025: i. Rules 122 & 123 a. be amended to reflect the revised Order of Precedence as detailed in Appendix D of the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group. ii. Rule 124 Clause c. be amended to add Grand Superintendent of Education. iii. Rule 186 Clause a. be amended to add:- Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies <i>Two batons in saltire superimposed by the shield of the Armorial Bearings of Grand Lodge</i> Grand Superintendent of Education <i>A closed book</i> iv. such other consequential amendments to the Book of Constitution as are required. And noting that the Board will re-establish Collected Ruling 76 Duties of the Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies, which will include that, if Rule 11 is not passed, that the Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies will undertake the role of a Grand Director of Ceremonies in one of the three Divisions.
Rationale:	This change adopts the MSORWG recommendation to establish these roles. The collar jewels are as previous for the Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies and adopts that of the Grand Lecturer for the Grand Superintendent of Education

REMIT 15	GRAND ALMONER AND GRAND SECRETARY – BoC Rule 124
	That the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group in regard to the rank of The Grand Almoner and The Grand Secretary being raised to Right Worshipful be approved, and that: i. the Book of Constitution Rule 124 b. be amended to add Grand Almoner and Grand Secretary to read:- Present and Past: Deputy Grand Masters, Divisional Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Grand Almoners, Grand Secretaries and Past: Presidents of the Board of General Purposes, Provincial Grand Masters, Presidents of the Board of Benevolence and Grand Superintendents of the Freemasons Charity, are entitled to the style of "Right Worshipful", and are accorded on formal occasions the address of "Right Worshipful Brother". ii. the Book of Constitution Rule 124 c. be amended to delete Grand Almoner, and Grand Secretary iii. to make such other consequential amendments to the Book of Constitution as are required.
Rationale:	This change adopts the MSORWG recommendation. It recognises the significant responsibilities brethren in these two roles have and the work they undertake.

REMIT 16	RW BRETHREN REGALIA – BoC Rule 194
	That the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group in regard to Right Worshipful brethren who have served active rank being entitled to dress regalia be approved, and that the Book of Constitution rule 194 be amended from:- 194 Past Grand Officers’ Regalia A Past Grand Officer below the rank of Past Provincial Grand Master and Past Divisional Grand Master may wear the dress regalia of his office when required to discharge the duties of the present Grand Officer. On all other occasions he may wear either the undress regalia or Craft Lodge regalia. To read:- 194 Past Grand Officers’ Regalia A Past Grand Officer below the rank of Past Provincial Grand Master and Past Divisional Grand Master who has served an active term of office in a role entitled to the style of address of 'Right Worshipful Brother' may wear the dress regalia of his Office or the un-dress regalia of his Office.
Rationale:	This change adopts the MSORWG recommendation. It enhances and recognises those who have held active rank in the role.

REMIT 17	MEETING ON LICENSED PREMISES – BoC Rule 86
	That the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group in regard to meeting on licensed premises be approved, and that the Book of Constitution Rule 86 Meeting on Licensed Premises Forbidden be repealed. “86. Meeting on Licensed Premises Forbidden No meeting of any Lodge shall be held in premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors without the prior permission of the Board of Directors.
Rationale:	Any change of meeting location is subject to Dispensation, as a meeting on a Licenced Premises would require such a Dispensation request. This would also mitigate the future potential for a Lodge to meet on a co-located Licenced Premises.

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
	Rules in the current Book of Constitution November 2023 following on from the Special Communication 2023. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Rule 221. Constitution of Board 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. TRUSTEES OF GRAND LODGE 166. Appointment of Trustees 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. b. The Board of Directors shall from time to time submit to Grand Lodge the names of those it recommends for appointment as Trustees. Move that Rule 221.b. be amended as follows: Board of Directors 221.b. The current Rule 221.b. (outlining the membership composition of the Board of Directors) to be deleted, to be replaced by :- <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>

Rationale:	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. 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. 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.
Board Response	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. Board decisions are usually unanimous but not less than a majority under governance rules. There are seven members of the Board, which prevents an impasse on voting. 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. The current recommendation of the Board of Directors on the nomination of Grand Lodge Trustees/Directors after interviews is based on merit and ability. The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.

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

REMIT 19 PART 1	VOTING BY LODGE – BoC Rule 201
	Changing Rule 201 and clauses from one Lodge one Vote to one Member one Vote. 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.
Rationale:	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.
Board Response	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. 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

	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). The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.
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REMIT 19 PART 2	NON_COMPLIANCE - BoC Rule 203 a. vi
	That Book of Constitution Rule 203 Clause a. vi. as follows be deleted. vi. 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.
Rationale:	Non-Compliance or Compliance 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): • 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 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

	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.
Board Response	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). 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. The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.

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.
	That Rule 101 Fees payable by Lodges to Grand Lodge should be amended, adding to Rule 101 Clause a. :- 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.
Rationale:	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.
Board Response	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. Grand Lodge already waives Capitation (and Divisional Levy) for Freemasons who have been Members for 70 years or more. 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. The Board of Directors does not support this Remit.

NOTE	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.
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Proceedings:

Annual Communication held on 9th November 2024 at the Auckland Freemasons Centre

Voting Lodges and Members were either those physically present or virtually by Zoom.

Only Lodge Representatives holding authorised Commissions could vote either physically or by Zoom.

The Grand Master and Officers of Grand Lodge entered, and the Grand Master formally opened the Grand Lodge.

Grand Master received Honours, which were heartily reciprocated.

VW Bro Chris Bayne - GDC

Brethren, if I can have your attention before we start today's proceedings, it's just a few health and safety matters. First of all, if you hear a fire alarm going off or an extended alarm, you must evacuate the building. This is below the stairs. Do not use the lifts. If there is anyone here who has trouble with mobility, please, people take notice of them also and assist them.

Do not take any equipment, briefcases, or anything like that with you. Just walk out as you're standing. The stairways have exit signs that are well-written, and there's one at each end of the hallway. Toilets are in the hallway. We will have an appointed safety officer. That is Very Worshipful Brother Evan Taylor, who is holding up his jacket there.

So that covers fire or earthquake. The assembly point would be across the road or, obviously, in an area outside that's clear. I think that about covers it. Yeah. All right. Thank you, Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren. As I said earlier, a very warm welcome to this, which is the first of our annual communications. And as per last year's special communication, attendance is both in-person and virtual. So, welcome those Brethren that are observing and partaking in this meeting from your place of residence. Hopefully, you haven't got the rugby score going in the background behind you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, it is customary at a meeting of the Grand Lodge shall ask you all to please stand for the departed merit for those Brethren who have passed the Grand Lodge above since the last meeting of Grand Lodge.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, please be seated.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Before proceeding further, I will ask the Grand Secretary to advise us on housekeeping matters relating to speaking and voting. The Grand Secretary.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GSec

Grand Master, if I could just advise the top table that when you need to speak, you need to push that push button, and you'll have a green light, and then you'll be heard on the microphones. Any Brother who wishes to speak must move to one of the static microphones to enable the Brother to address the communication. Where the static microphone is used to speak, Speakers will move quietly forward down one of the rows to assemble there to speak. Wait quietly until it's indicated by the Grand Master that you are to speak.

If coming in by Zoom. You use the 'raised hand' option until you are called upon by the Grand Master to speak. When asked to speak, please commence by stating your name in the name and number of your Lodge. For example, Duane Williams, Lodge Zetland, Number 312. The session is being recorded, so please speak clearly and not too quickly. Voting is covered specifically by Rule 201.

Rule 200 relates to the order of debate; the mover of an original motion, but not an amendment to a motion, has a right of reply. No other member may speak twice to the same motion except by explanation. Executive officers may be called upon as required to advise the Grand Lodge. Every member who speaks shall rise and remain standing and address himself to the Grand Master.

He shall not be interrupted unless any Brother addresses the Grand Master to a point of order. Or the Grand Master himself shall see fit to call the speaker to order. Voting itself is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Rule 200, where each craft Lodge is entitled to one vote. The Lodge vote will be exercised by the Commission representative, and, as already indicated by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, all the Commission representatives should be sitting on this side of the hall, for the ease of the scrutineers. I think there's just a few on the far side, but you'll be picked up at the end.

Any attempt at plural voting, either physically or by Zoom, will be considered a Masonic Offence.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GSec

Those authorised Lodge representatives coming in by Zoom have been issued with a unique code, which can only be used by them. It cannot be forwarded or transferred. Lodge representatives are in the Special Zoom room, and others are just attending virtually in another Zoom room. Speaking is covered by the provisions of Collected Ruling 25.

And I'll quickly go through them. The speaker shall not be interrupted except by a point of order. A member might only speak once on a motion. The mover of an original motion has the right of reply. The mover of the motion may speak for five minutes. No other speaker, on any motion, shall exceed three minutes. The Grand Master may grant an extension of 2 or 3 minutes, as the case may be, and any further extension will only be granted by a vote of the Brethren present and assembled.

To assist you, a bell will ring to indicate the times that are available. When one minute of your allotted time remains, the bell will ring. Once (sounded). When you've spoken for your allotted time, the bell will ring twice (sounded). And you'll be requested to conclude your sentence you are speaking and remain standing until the Grand Master indicates whether he wishes you to give you further amount of speaking time, as has already been mentioned, if any Brother urgently requires a comfort break or for any other compelling reason, you may just move off quietly. You do not have to formally retire.

The Grand Master has appointed scrutineers under Rule 202 of the Book of Constitution, and the votes will be counted here at the annual Communication and online. The votes will be counted at the end of the communication, and the results will be announced as soon as possible. The. Scrutineers appointed by the Grand Master under that rule are - Right Worshipful Brother John Lukaszewicz, Right Worshipful Brother Gary Salmon, Right Worshipful Brother Mike Cadmon, Right Worshipful Brother Mike Wise, Very Worshipful Brother Paul Larson, and Worshipful Brothers Mark Pagulayan and James Frost. They may be assisted by just a couple of others for the double-checking of the physical count. That's going to take the most time.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

Most Worshipful Grand Master. That's all I've got to say at this stage.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Grand Secretary. Brethren, for ease of use and making certain the sound system is working, it's easier if the Executive Officers remain seated while addressing

Grand Lodge. Otherwise, we have to keep changing the microphones. Brethren, apologies have been received from a number of Brethren, and they will be included in the transcript of today's meeting.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

If there are any other apologies, either online, please send an email to the Grand Secretary, or failing that, talk to the Grand Secretary following the closure of this meeting. Brethren, I'll now introduce the Executive Officers and others present, and I'll ask those Brethren to stand when they are named; The Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Paul Chappel, Chair of the Board of Directors Very Worshipful Brother Warwick Bell Past District Grand Master, Chair of the Grand Lodge Trustees Right Worshipful Brother Neville Patrick Past Deputy Grand Master and OSM, The Grand Secretary Right Worshipful Brother Duane Williams Past Grand Warden, our Acting Grand Registrar Most Worshipful Brother Mark Winger Past Grand Master, Grand Treasurer Very Worshipful Brother Graham Law and our Executive Director, Worshipful Brother Andrew Cowie., The Chair of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group, Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Nelson, Past Deputy Grand Master, and the Chair of the Property and Insurance Committee. Worshipful Brother Cameron Smith, and we are to be joined later in the day by Brett Hewson from the Heartland Bank.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, we have a full agenda today. I shall move straight into it.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, the first item on the agenda is to confirm the minutes of the 2023 Special Communication, but before I go to those, I would just advise that the minutes of the 2022 Grand Communication, being that it was part of the Grand Communication, will be confirmed at the Grand Communication in 2025 from then on, will flow into the Annual Communication and then the minutes will flow properly.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

But it's just, constitutionally wise, we can't confirm those meetings till the Grand Communication. So, Brethren, a copy of the minutes of the 2023 Special

Communication has been circulated. And last, some Brother move that they be accepted.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell with Lodge Westminster Number 308, I move that the minutes of the 2023 Special Communication held on the 18th November 2023 be confirmed.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

To second that motion?

RW Bro Neville Patrick – Chair of the Grand Lodge Trustees

Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge Number 245. I second that motion. Grand Master.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, you all had the heard the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner amongst Freemasons. To the contrary? **The minutes are confirmed.**

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Are there any matters arising from those minutes?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. The next item on the agenda is to consider and adopt the annual report of 2023-24 of the Board of General of the Board of Directors and The Freemasons Charity.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge number 308. I move that the Annual Report of 2023-2024 of the Board of Directors and The Freemasons Charity be received.

RW Bro Neville Patrick – Chair of the Grand Lodge Trustees

Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge number 245. I second the adoption.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

All those in favour signify in the usual manner amongst Freemasons. To the contrary?

The Reports are confirmed. Thank you, Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Very Worshipful Brother, Chair of The Board.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I think on this occasion, since time is precious, we will take the report as received, and I recommend you open it up for questions.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, has anybody got any questions with regard to the Annual Report of the Board of Directors and the Freemasons Charity?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren. Some Brother to move that the Annual Report be adopted, please.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge Number 308. I move that the Annual Report for 2023 to 2024 of the Board of Directors and the Freemasons Charity be adopted.

RW Bro Neville Patrick – Chair of the Grand Lodge Trustees

Neville Patrick United Forces Lodge Number 245, I have the pleasure in seconding that motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren. All those in favour of the motion will signify in the usual manner. To the contrary? **The annual report is adopted.**

Brethren, the next item on the agenda is to consider and adopt the Annual Financial Accounts as of 30th June 2024.

VW Bro Graham Law – Grand Treasurer

Graham Law, Lower Hutt Lodge Number 299. I move that the Annual Financial Statements as of 30th June 2024 be received.

VW Bro David Piper – Board Member

David Piper, The United Lodge Number 340, I second that.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, you all heard the motion that the annual financial accounts be received. All those in favour? To the contrary? **The accounts are received.**

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Very Worshipful Brother Grand Treasurer.

VW Bro Graham Law – Grand Treasurer

Thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master. I have a presentation on the financial statements. First of all, as this is my first presentation, the Grand Master asked me to start by introducing myself. And what I currently do in my day job. My current role is at the Stock Exchange - the NZX. I'm the Chief Financial and Corporate Officer, which means I look after all the corporate aspects of the business, except IT. As part of the role. I sit on the board of Smart Shares, which is a fund manager. Previous roles I have been involved in AMP Capital as a fund manager, as Managing Director and CFO, and I have undertaken certain treasurer roles and not-for-profits like the Anglican Diocese, advanced pediatric life support and a few junior sports clubs. Moving into the presentation on slide four.

VW Bro Graham Law – Grand Treasurer

Thank you. I'm going to start by walking everyone through the Freemasons New Zealand financials. Firstly, it's important to note that the Freemasons New Zealand financials keep the net income and assets of the general fund completely separate from the net income and assets of the building fund, i.e., there's no cross-subsidisation of general activities by building fund moneys.

So, starting with the general fund, there is an operating deficit in the current year of \$176,000. That's halfway down the table. That means that the capitation and administration fees are insufficient to cover the costs of running the National Office and Grand Lodge. I note that the Grand Communication year is once every three years, and the costs are usually higher in that year.

Hence, the deficit in a Grand Communication year can be higher. This deficit is important to note when we consider Remit Seven. Thankfully, at this time, though, we have some other non-operating income from which to fund the deficit. However, on the other slides, I'll address the risks associated with those income sources and the potential for them not to be so high in future years.

Moving to the building fund. The operating surplus in the current year was roughly \$1.25 million. This is largely driven by schemes of distribution that contributed funds into the building fund. In the next slide, I outlined the drivers of capitation revenue. It should be no surprise to anyone that reduced member numbers, results and reduced total capitation fee revenue, and this puts at risk the level of services provided by the National Office.

Moving to the other sources of income. Firstly, interest income. There are two factors that drive interest income levels. Firstly, the bank balance levels. They are largely in the general fund. And I am checking to see historically how they got there and whether they'd be better reflected in the building fund. And then secondly, interest rates, which will reduce in the coming years as the OCR rate is expected to fall by at least 1.25% by the middle of next year, putting pressure on interest income in totality.

Likewise, on commission brokerage, which is the next slide. Commission brokerage is from the Heartland Bank deposit schemes. We receive high-level analysis from the Heartland Bank, and what that shows us is a significant demographic or age profile risk, in that around 60% of deposit deposits on which we earn commission are owned by individuals over the age of 70.

VW Bro Graham Law – Grand Treasurer

The Heartland Scheme is open to everyone, not just Freemasons, and I ask that everyone encourage their family and friends to use the scheme too. It's important to note that as a Heartland account owner, you must notify Heartland that you wish to be tagged as part of the Masonic scheme, and I'm sure we'll hear more on that later today. On the expense side of things, on the next slide.

The graph on the right illustrates the fine job our Executive Director, Andrew, has been doing in managing costs. Those costs cover the services provided by the National Office. The Grand Lodge costs and the spending on strategic initiatives, which this year have been mainly on the governance project. The balance sheet on the next slide is relatively straightforward. The general fund has bank accounts, national office, I.T. and fixtures, equipment and then pays bills.

The building fund has bank accounts and property investments, and loans. This includes some majority and minority interests in property companies. As noted on the slide.

Now moving to the Freemasons Charities. Quite a busy slide. The next one.

So there are four charities that are currently managed by the national office, the descriptions of which are on the slide, and I won't repeat them. Hopefully, people can read them. The distributions of funds from those charities are managed by the Charities Management Committee, which is supported by the National Office Charity administrator. The next slide outlines the charity's financial performance.

It basically reflects investment returns, contributions, by way of donation or bequests, charitable giving levels, and then administration expenses, including the paying for National Office services. Focusing on the investment returns. On the slide, I've outlined the investment returns for the four charities. I note that the Potter Masonic Trust has two separate investment portfolios at this time.

The investment portfolios are managed by JB Were in accordance with their independently assessed investment strategy, known as a Sipo. In short, the gross returns generated by JB Were for the year ended June 2024 range between roughly 2.4 and 6.1% above the benchmark returns. This illustrates the value added by JB Were's Active Investment Management.

Moving to the next slide in the charity's balance sheets, not surprisingly, they're dominated by investment values. I note that the charity administrative services offered by the National Office and the JB Were investment services are open to any other charities within the Masonic world that wish to use them. So, to be clear, I'm trying to make it easier for charities to be more efficient.

VW Bro Graham Law – Grand Treasurer

And managed, in their management and, to maximise investment returns by saying that, those services are open to all charities. It specifically does not mean that Grand Lodge wants to take any of those funds. I mean, to be clear, any charity being able to get administrative assistance from the Charity Administrator, or tapping into the JB Were investment funds.

They would be held separately in a portfolio, with appropriate custodial arrangements. ie they'd still be under the control of the current charity. It's just for administrative purposes and investment return purposes. We've got an opportunity to maximise potential charities. And likewise, whilst we currently use for the four Charities a Charities Management Committee, any other charity partaking in those services wouldn't have to go through that process.

If anyone's interested in taking those services, please feel free to make contact with myself or indeed any member of the Board of Trustees Worshipful Master, that concludes my presentation.

See the PowerPoint at the end as an Appendix.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Grand Treasurer. Brethren, is there any Brother who wishes to speak with regard to the annual accounts?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have no questions.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Would somebody please move that the annual financial accounts be adopted.

VW Bro Graham Law -Grand Treasurer

Graham Law, Lower Hutt Lodge Number 299. I move that the annual financial statements for the period ending 30th June 2024 be adopted.

VW Bro David Piper – Board Member

David Piper, the United Lodge Number 340 I second that.

Slides of this presentation are available at the end of the Book of Proceedings

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren. You've all heard the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner. To the contrary? **The annual accounts are adopted.**

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren will now move on to the Remits. There are three separate and distinct sets of remits to be presented today, to be considered today. The first are administrative changes required to the Book of Constitution. And before proceeding further, I wish to advise that Remit Eight has been withdrawn. Remit eight relates to 119, which is the use of property funds. And it's fair to say that in the 38 years I've been a Freemason, and in the last 15 years that I've been associated with the Board, Book of Constitution Rule 119 would have been the major topic of conversation at just about every meeting I've been to.

With that in mind, it has been advised that Remit Eight be withdrawn and that I will appoint a working group with an independent chairman who will look at those parts of the Book of Constitution which relate to the sale of Lodge properties, the use of funds from the sale of used properties, and the application of funds that have arisen from the sale of a Lodge property, or landed funds which are presently held in Lodge bank accounts.

The brief of that group will be the same as it has been for the other two working groups that they are to liaise extensively with all Lodges, and they will report back to the Grand Communication in October the 25th next year with their proposal, after full consultation of a rewrite of 119 and how, as an organization going forward, we handle funds which have arisen from the sale of properties or involve Lodge properties.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Does any Brother wish to comment on what I have just announced? Thank you, Brethren. The second set of Remits relates to the findings and recommendations for the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group, and the last Remits address matters raised by you, the Brethren and your Lodges.

I just want to note, with regard to the Remits from the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group, that the working group has been a totally independent working group.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

The first time I saw the recommendations was the same day that you saw the recommendations, as it was for the Board. We did not see the recommendations until such time as they were made and presented for the board, and they are presented and supported to the Board by the Board at this meeting, there has been, a little bit of scuttle butt to say that the Board and the Grand Master has influenced what was said, and I can assure you that is not the case.

I will ask Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Nelson to talk further when it comes to the actual agreements. Brethren, there are a number of elements to cover. I will allow up to five Brethren to speak in favour of a Remit and up to five Brethren to speak against a Remit. If your points and points have been covered by a previous speaker, then I ask that you refrain from speaking unless you have something new to add.

With regards to the rudiments of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group. I will extend this number if I feel it is in the best interest of everybody for me to do so. Now, Brethren, as Remit voting is both virtual and live, there will be a slight delay between Remits while voting is correlated. However, if there's an obvious majority, I will move on to the next remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Now, Brethren, we come to Remit 1.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Grand Master, Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge Number 308. I move, Remit 1 that the procedures for the annual communication and special communications be established by the Book of Constitution, as noted in the remit.

RW Bro Neville Patrick – Chair of Grand Lodge Trustees

Grandmaster, Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge number 245. I second that motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Brethren, at the special communication, we introduced the concept of an Annual Communication in the Book of Constitution. At that time, we did not outline the procedures for running an annual meeting. And so, actually, in passing this remit, we will formalise the arrangements we're going through today. The intent is to match the processes for a triennial communication.

The one thing it doesn't do in terms of the special communication is change the time for calling, because if a special communication needs to be called. We think that a shorter time period is desired and that remains as it is in the Book of Constitution at this point in time. Thank you, Grand Master.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Does any other Brother wish to speak to the motion?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Therefore, I put the motion, all those in favour signify in the usual manner. Brethren, if you could hold, just hold your cards up, please.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

And the scrutineers are coming down and counting now.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I just need to check with the technical staff. How are we looking with the online votes?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, we have a small technical problem just waiting to solve in a moment.

Brethren, we have a slight technical issue in the background at the moment, so we just, just finish the count of this. And then I'll put the Grand Lodge at ease.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

The issue we're having, as with Zoom, in consultation with the acting Grand Registrar, it is obvious that the feeling of the room is a majority in favour. So we're going to move forward, keep moving forward. Those Brethren that are coming in virtually, we can correlate the votes later so they can do a vote on each remit separately.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Should there be something that comes up is that I am not comfortable that the feeling of this room is a majority in favour of it, then I will hold it there. But let's just keep the meeting moving. So, we will be recording the votes as they stand, and once we get the virtual votes and we'll add it all up and make a total and announce which, you know, should there be more Brethren, vote against it online, then obviously that changes the feeling. So, just so we can get the meeting moving.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So, I then ask for those in favour, any Brethren against the motion? Thank you, Brethren.

The Official result for Remit One after counting physical votes and online votes was 80 'For' and 5 'Against'.

We will move on to Remit Two.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge number 308. I move Remit Two that the Book of Constitution, Rule 51, be amended from the current version, which is, only Master Masons may vote in a Craft Lodge, to read 51 vote entitlement, a Brother of a Craft Lodge who has completed the first three degrees of Freemasonry is entitled to vote in that Lodge.

RW Bro Neville Patrick – Chair Grand Lodge Trustees

Grand Master, Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge Number 245. I second that motion, Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You've all heard the motion. Does any Brother wish to speak?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Thank you. Most Worshipful, Lawrence Levine, Lodge Parahaki Number 269.

There's language used throughout the Book of Constitution, which refers to a member of a Lodge, indicating membership in a particular Lodge. This is referenced in numerous sections. Further, section 121 Rule of Grand Lodge, subsection B clarifies this in defining who is on the Roll of Grand Lodge. So, while the rationale for the remit indicates a problem with associate members not being able to vote, the term associate member never shows up in the Book of Constitution, so it's unclear to me exactly what that problem is.

However, if the intent is to ensure that all Master Masons (sorry, reading glasses) that are members of a Lodge are entitled to vote, then adding the term a Brother of a Craft Lodge and who has completed the first three degrees in Freemasonry, appears to muddy things further rather than clarifying them. Furthermore, the general usage and formal records of Grand Lodge indicate 'full member of' as the status, reflecting that the Brother is a member of a particular Lodge.

So from that perspective, I stand against the Remit; however and I don't know the process. So, I do apologise. Gentlemen, I would like to move a motion to amend.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Proceed.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Thank you. I would propose that a language change could help aid in resolving these discrepancies. The change to be from, as it is stated, a current, as it exists today, to, for Rule 51 vote entitlement. Every member of a Lodge, as indicated by the role of Grand Lodge, shall be entitled to vote in that Lodge, the rationale being that it ties all of these references to who is a member together into one place, namely, that (section) Rule 121. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother. Does your amendment have a seconder?

RW Bro Bryan Wiig - 431

Bryan Wiig Lodge Hatea 431, I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, we have an amendment to the motion and a seconder. Could you please read the amendment out again, Brother?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Yes. Keeping the title vote entitlement as is proposed in the change, every member of a Lodge, as indicated by the Roll of Grand Lodge, shall be entitled to vote in that Lodge.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, you've all heard the amendment. Does any Brother wish to speak?

MW Bro Mark Winger - Grand Registrar.

Mark Winger, Grand Registrar and the draftsmen of this Remit. There are several ways that one can skin a cat, and we can use the wording that has been drafted in the existing remit or the remit that our Brother has promoted, which again achieves the same objective. What I suggest is that we look to plain English. I look at this remit as it is, as the original has been drafted. And the question is, does that make sense? Is it in plain English? Do you understand what it says? And if so, I would suggest you support the original remit. Now, having said that, if the amendment that our Brother has proposed is passed and that becomes the motion, then again, going back to plain English, does it make sense?

Do you understand what it says? And if you do, then it should achieve the same outcome. So there's an option there. What I'm saying is let's look at the existing draft of the new rule 51. If that's in plain English, if you understand what it says, then that will achieve the outcome that's desired.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Right of reply, Brother?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Thank you, Grand Master. I appreciate that there may be a plain English reading of this that accomplishes the same thing. My position is that we seem to be defining the same thing over and over again, and if we have a single place to point to that defines that thing, we would be better off moving forward to use that in the same way that you would define the definition in any legal document.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Well, any other Brother wish to speak? Then, Brethren, I put the amendment. All those in favour of the amendment signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you for the. Thank you. Brethren. Those against.

The Official result after Remit Two counting physical votes and online votes was 55 'For' and 45 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Right Worshipful Brother John Lukaszewicz (Chief Scrutineer), could you please just repeat that?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Okay. We've got the count.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Grant, could you tell me how you're getting on, please, with the technical issue have we got online voting back on?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Okay. Because there is an amendment to remit two. So, the Brethren online need to be aware of the amendment to the remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Okay, so they are aware of the amendment. Okay. Thank you. Brethren. Because of the issues with technicalities by Zoom, I am going to move to Remit Three, Remit Two is in abeyance, and we will come back to the original vote after the Brethren Online have had a chance to look at the amendment. And I'd better just make a note on to the paper about that.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Right, Remit Three.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge Number 308. I move remit Three that the Book of Constitution Rule 159 method of election clause be amended to read as set out in the Remit.

RW Bro Neville Patrick - 245

Grand Master, Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge Number 245. I second that motion, Brethren.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GSec

We can't count the screen until the vote online has been finished because they're both in the same online voting box, the screen. So that was the delay in getting to Remit Three on the screen.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Remit Three is back up now.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Brethren, this Remit comes about because the board was asked to consider the situation that when, when districts and possibly going forward, regions, making or

putting Brethren up for the position of currently District Grand Master, potentially in the future, Grand Superintendent, in the early days, we had 3 or 4 Brethren standing for the role.

More recently, it's been common practice. There might only be one Brother come put forward, and the board is desirous that there be the opportunity for Lodges to have more than one Brother to consider for the role. And so, the remit is as set out, that if at present at reads in the event that not more than two candidates nominated, the Divisional Grand Master can nominate up to two other candidates for consideration.

At that point, those Brethren who are then nominated would go to a briefing. And then from that is my understanding. And then from that process, their names would come forward for the Lodges to ballot.

Thank you. Grandmaster.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I understand we have somebody online wishing to speak to this remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

While we're getting that up. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the remit?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother, if you could just speak, please.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

The online Brother, could you please speak?

We lost some sound.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I will proceed with the speaker in House, we will come back to him.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Thank you, Most Worshipful. The suggested language to ensure there are options, does far more. It unbalances the scales by allowing the Divisional Grand Master, which, if the other changes go through, could change. But that's okay. Sorry, I apologise. I'm not used to my actual age. Okay. It unbalances the scales by allowing the Divisional Grand Master, which, if the other changes go through, would be the Senior or Junior Grand Warden, to nominate not just another candidate when there's only one proposed, but to tip the scales even further by not only nominating one, but two, and without restriction on who those candidates might be.

For example, being a member of Craft Lodge in that district, for example, or that region or geographic region. It's understandable to desire having more than one choice on the ballot. But if the Lodges of a district put forward two candidates, it seems unbalanced for the Divisional Grand Master to put forward two more who don't even have any requirements to be from that district.

So, as proposed, the language to me makes things less rather than more likely to ensure the principles of the election of District Grand Master by Brethren through Lodges, as the rationale would indicate. So, on the face of this, I'm against it. However, I would move a motion that could provide some balance on this.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother, are you moving a motion or an amendment?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

An amendment to the Remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Please proceed then.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Yes, sorry. It would be that. The Book of Constitution, Rule 159 method of election clause, be amended to read - Each Lodge in a district may nominate a candidate for the office of District Grand Master for that District. Such nomination must be lodged with

the Divisional Grand Master not later than 1st April, and the communication here in the event that fewer than two candidates are nominated.

So I've added a word. The Divisional Grand Master can nominate up to a total of two other candidates. So that's three more words. And then I had, who are members of Craft Lodges from within the District, for consideration. I further note that subsection G appears merely clerical, and it's not an issue.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So you've moved an amendment to the motion which has been read out, do you have a seconder?

MW Bro Jim Watt – GM

Do we have a seconder to the amendment? No -The amendment is lost. We revert back to the original motion. Does any other Brother wish to speak? Is the Brother online ready to speak, Grant?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother, could you please speak?

Online Brother 1

The amendment is lost?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Please proceed. Brother.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You're online. We're listening to you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

He's muted. Could you please unmute yourself, Brother, and speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Has he unmuted himself? Grant.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Therefore, I will proceed. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the motion? Then I put the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

Okay. I want just to say two seconds. Grant. Thank you. Brethren. All those against.

The Official result after Remit Three counting physical votes and online votes was 75 'For' and 31 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. For those Brethren that are online, we just had a brief discussion. Now we've got you back. And thank you for that, the wonders of technology. Remits One, Two and Three. We will revert back to those later for you to vote on. And from now on, we've got you online for reverting to Remit Four.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren, we now move to Remit Four.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge Number 308. I move Remit Four, being that the Book of Constitution Rule 242 clause A be amended to read. The Grand Master shall appoint a Trial Commission, comprising not more than three Brethren who have completed the first three Degrees in Freemasonry, and shall nominate the chairman.

RW Bro Neville Patrick - 245

Grand Master, Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge 245. I second that motion.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Grand Master and Brethren. At the Special Communication last year, we brought in the significant changes to the operations of the Board and the Governance of the organisation. As part of that process, it was desired that the judicial function of the board be removed from taking up board time, and that we improve the judicial process. As such, the board has established a judicial panel.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

We went out to at large to, the Brethren and Lodges, calling for Brethren to make themselves available, for membership of that panel. They were, I think I recall up to 15 Brethren put themselves, made themselves available for interview and as a result, nine Brethren have been appointed to the judicial panel, as can be seen from the rationale put, as an explanation to the remit, the, of those nine Brethren, four are master, ah two are master Masons and four past masters, the existing rule and two for two clause A in the Book of Constitution says that the Grand Master shall appoint a trial commission comprising, not more than three Brethren of the rank of installed master, and shall nominate the chairman. So, the challenge with that rule is the two Brethren who we've appointed to the judicial panel, who had excellent skills to be used for, consideration on on trial commission matters, would not be eligible for being appointed to a trial commission if we don't make this adjustment. So that's where this Remit arises. Thank you, Grand Master and Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Chair. Does any other Brother wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Please proceed Brother.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Good morning. Lawrence Levine Lodge Parahaki number 269. While generally sympathetic to this Remit's intent and language. As I, spoke to the Second remit, I would ask that we try to focus our definitions of what we mean by first three degrees in Freemasonry, and who we are trying to pick on for these things. And so I would move to amend, a very simple amendment that it would read, The Grand Master shall appoint a trial commission comprising not more than three Brethren, and this is new language,

each of who are listed on the role of Grand Lodge and shall nominate the chairman, again pointing back to the Book of Constitution Rule 161, which already defines that.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You've moved the amendment. Does the amendment have a seconder.

W Bro Barrie Griffiths - 314

Barrie Griffiths Lodge, Howick Number 314. I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You've seconded? Thank you, Brother. Do we have anybody online wishing to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother Johnson, would you care to speak, please?

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

No.

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

I've got the screen on, but I can't hear a thing.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

We can hear him.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We can hear you. Fine, Brother.

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

So.

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

(unintelligible)

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We can hear you, Brother.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We can hear you.

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

Well on my screen I can't it's not coming up. oh?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Can you hear us, Brother?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

As a Brother cannot hear us, it appears not to be able to hear us. We will move on, Brethren, you've all heard the amendment to the motion. Seconded. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Against the amendment. The amendment is clearly lost. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the original motion? Then, Brethren, I will put the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

Thank you, Brethren. You can put your hands down. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt – GM

Those against?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. Brethren, I can announce we've got online voting working now.

The Official result after Remit Four counting physical votes and online votes was 108 'For' and 14 'Against'.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge Number 308. I move Remit Five. That the Book of Constitution Rule 224 Meetings of the board clauses B and C be amended to read B, at all meetings the chair shall preside or in his absence, his nominee, C five members shall form a quorum, of whom the Chair of the board or the Deputy Grand Master must be one

RW Bro Neville Patrick - 245

Grand Master. Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge number 245. I second that motion

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, you've all heard the motion. Brother Chair.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Thank you, Grand Master. Brethren, with the Special Communication, we, adjusted the composition of the Board, and the Grand Master was deemed to be no longer a member of the Board. He attends board meetings, but he's not a member of the board. And therefore, the existing Rule 224, which said at all meetings, the Chair or in his absence, or the Grand Master was the nominee, was no longer appropriate.

This is a remit, which is, I guess, a consequential change from what was agreed at the Special Communication.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Chair. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the remote?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do we have any online speakers?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have no online speakers. I shall put the remit to the vote. All those in favour signify.

Those against.

The Official result after Remit Five counting physical votes and online votes was 114 'For' and 6 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. We will now move on to Remit Six. Brother Chair.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge, Number 308. I move Remit Six that the Book of Constitution Rules be amended by repealing Rule 144 District clause, Districts clause B and Rule 179 investiture of Officers of Grand Lodge clause A.

RW Bro Neville Patrick - 245

Grand Master, Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge Number 245, I second that motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren you've all heard the motion.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Grand Master and Brethren. In providing further explanation and rationale, in going through, looking at aspects, in the Book of Constitution that needed to be tidied up. The first matter is one regarding Assistant District Grand Masters, I'm told by a very senior Grand Lodge Officer, actually, that when it was first proposed, it was to be an Assistant

The reality is, being, since the rule was established at the last structural change of the organisation, no Assistant District Grand Masters have ever been appointed.

Furthermore, there are no protocols in the Book of Constitution, nor the Collected Rulings which cover for an Assistant District Grandmaster, and particularly what the regalia would be, what the rank would be, in order of precedence, it just doesn't exist.

So the intention is that that rule would be, that clause be repealed. And in regard to the, second matter, which is the of Officers of Grand Lodge, if this rule had been enforced over the last 20 years, it would mean that no District Grand Director of Ceremonies or Grand Stewards should have been invested at Grand Installations.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

All right.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

This was quite a definite rule, which says that the District Grand Master shall invest his three Brethren on his team, 3 or 4 Brethren on his team. And so we've been contravening this rule for some time. So we think the best is to do away with this, to allow for Grand Stewards and District Grand Director of Ceremonies or their successors to actually be invested at Grand Installation.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Chair. Does any Brother wish to speak.?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do we have anybody online wishing to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have no other Brothers wishing to speak. I, therefore, shall put the motion. All those in favour? Thank you, Brethren, put your hands down. Those against?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Those against the motion. We have one to those Brethren voting online. Just want to reiterate, please, that you have one minute from the opening of voting to the close of voting. I'll repeat that. You have one minute from the opening of voting to the closing of voting about voting for you to Lodge your vote. So please be ready to vote as soon as it is opened.

The Official result after Remit Six counting physical votes and online votes was 106 'For' and 9 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. We will now move on to Remit Seven.

VW Bro Graham Law – Grand Treasurer

Graham Law, Lower Hutt Lodge 299. I would like to move that Remit. Remit Seven. Changes to the Constitution 101 D to enhance the calculation of capitation fees to include all appropriate factors, including but not limited to member numbers and the services to be provided by the National Office.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Grand Treasurer. Do I have a seconder?

VW Bro Don Seath - 475

I second that. Don Seath Waikato 475, I second that proposal.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, we have a mover and a seconder. Brother Grand Treasurer.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

Thank you, Grand Master. In my annual accounts presentation earlier on, showing the impact of reduced membership numbers, ultimately resulting in an operating deficit as well as the risks associated with the non-operating income sources, for future years, which currently fund that deficit. This remit expands the factors to be considered beyond just CPI inflationary increases when setting the capitation fee each year, and is aimed at ensuring continuation of services from National Office.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Graham Morgan Online you wish to speak?

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother. Graeme Morgan, Lodge Mangaroa number 419. I just look at this. But I am concerned that the capitation fee increase can be decided by the Board without any discussion or approval by members, which is what normally happens when we're raising our dues from setting our fees, even our Divisional levies. I think this is handing all the power to the Board to raise the dues how they want. As before you used to do that at a communication and put it to the members. And as you made a good case, of course it was raised. So that was my only main concern with this.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother.

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Kevin Down online you wish to speak?

W Bro Kevin Down - 397

Most Worshipful Brother, Brethren All. We are also concerned about the way of defining what the increase would be based on the level of services and range of services to the

National Office. There is no easily understandable method of defining that as a factor in any rise in capitation.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Is that all Brother, thank you. Thank you. Does any other Brother wish to speak?
Proceed.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Lawrence Levine, Lodge Parahaki number 269. The remit proposes that Book of Constitution. Rule 101, clause D be amended as discussed. Particularly D, each year in determining the capitation fee increase, the Board shall consider all appropriate factors, including, but not limited to, the annual consumer price index as determined by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Member numbers. The range and level of services to be provided by the National Office.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

So I've just restated what's there. Where is at the moment D is a specific formula, and any variance to that formula is allowed for, however, requires a balance which is accounted for in section E of the same 101 which states E if, in any case, the Board of Directors seeks to set a fee for a financial year which may exceed the fee calculated as per paragraph D above.

That fee shall be determined at the Divisional Conference for that financial year. So, whereas section D writes the check, section E is effectively the balance by making D entirely subjective rather than an objective formula; it makes the entire point of section E moot because it would never be activated. Therefore, the check is written, but no balance is ever put into place to check it.

From the rationale, it appears the fundamental issue here may be that rather than considering an adjustment to the costs incurred by National Office, the Board sees the fees collected by way of capitation to cover the acknowledged deficit as the primary remedy. Regardless of the motivation, transparency and balance should be maintained.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother. Any other Brother, wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Well, good. Then I will put the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

Thank you. Brethren, all those against.

The Official result after Remit Seven counting physical votes and online votes was 40 'For' and 80 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have had an agreement that Remit Eight has been withdrawn. I moved to Remit Nine.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

Graham Law Lower Hutt Lodge Number 299. I'd like to move Remit Nine, which is aimed at introducing timelines and limits around Lodge accounts being reviewed or audited and filed with the Grand Secretary.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Grand Treasurer.

VW Bro Don Seath - 475

Don Seath Lodge Waikato Number 475 I second that.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, we have a motion. Nine has been moved. And seconded, Grand Treasurer?

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

Thank you. Grandmaster. At the Trustees presentations earlier this year, it was outlined, the, the duties and legal obligations of Trustees and Lodges. Of particular relevance here is record keeping and the preparation of accounts, to assist lawyers to ensure compliance with their legal obligations. We have the Book of Constitution Rule 100 requiring the final, the filing of annual accounts with the Grand Secretary.

It's fair to say that, Lodges are poor in complying with this Rule, and that the completion rate for the 2023 financials is probably around the 60% mark, until people realise they're not allowed to vote at the annual communication, in which case it goes up. There is no there's the partial partially the reason is there's no real guidance around, timelines to bring the accounts to the Grand Registrar in this sorry, Grand Secretary and this, proposal addresses that by bringing in timelines that are consistent with the Companies Act and are quite reasonable in terms of the time that they can be brought.

Secondly, it is also as when I first came in as Grand Treasurer, I was asked to look at, Rule 100 just to provide clear guidance about potentially when, an audit or a review should be undertaken. And, the limits that we put in this, remit were based around incorporated societies. And part, this is because, as Grand Treasurer, one of the biggest worries we have is that Lodges for Masonic entities are not complying with their tax obligations.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

And to, undertake an independent audit would help address this risk subsequent to the remit being, being Lodged, discussions and feedback to the audit committee have written, have resulted in us, reassessing how this is worded at this time. And, we're trying to balance the cost that it would impose on Lodges of having an audit versus, the filing of accounts and the risks.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

So, as a consequence, we'd like to propose an amendment to the Remit, which, I think we have on. Screen do we?

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

So I'd like to propose an amendment to the remit which essentially removes the need for an audit, Well, not the need for an audit, still required to comply with statutory requirements with regard to an audit, but it doesn't force anything beyond that. Otherwise, an independent Review should be changed or takes out the limits for suggestion of an audit.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

Otherwise it remains the same and has the same, guidelines with regard to timelines for filing with the Grand Secretary.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Moving a formal amendment?

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

And I would, yes. I would move that the formal amendment of the remit be amended to strike out the thresholds for requiring an audit beyond statutory requirements.

W Bro Cameron Smith - 500

Cameron Smith, Lodge of The Liberal Arts number 500, I second that proposed amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, we have an amendment to the motion which has been moved and seconded. Any further wish to speak to the amendment? We have John D Brooks online. Please go ahead, Brother.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother, can you hear us?

W Bro John Brooks - 47

Yes, I can, Very Worshipful Brother. It seems to our Lodge that, this could fall heavily on, the small Lodges if we have to. Have an independent audit or review. Rather than having someone within the Lodge do the review of these accounts. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother, does any other Brother wish to speak?

W Bro Cameron Smith - 500

Cameron Smith, Lodge of The Liberal Arts number 500, I think there is a definition of the term Review and I think it would be helpful if that definition were put up.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, we were asked to provide a definition of review, which is on the screen at the moment. In italics.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So a reviewer defined as an individual who is suitably qualified and experienced with a level of knowledge of the organisation in order to be able to identify the events and transactions that may have a significant effect on the financial statements. This definition also covers independent review. So that answers the, Brother's question.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have an online Brother wishing to speak. Please proceed.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Withdrawn? Now he has withdrawn. Please proceed, Brother..

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

I would effectively speak in favour of the amendment. It's worth noting that the word independent, which I had to spend a lot of time digging into to figure out exactly what it meant, has actually been removed, per what's been amended. So it actually eases it. I would also add, though, that the initial guidelines, as far as when an audit should be put in, were really pretty prudent. So I assume that you have good reasons why you're removing them. But, yeah, I would I would speak in favour of that amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brother, does any other Brother wish to speak with the amendment? Then Brethren, I will put the amendment. All those in favour will signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We are voting on the amendment to the Remit, Grant.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. Those against.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We'll just wait for online to close.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

But does any Brother. We, back to the amended Remit, as it has been amended. Does any Brother wish to speak to the remit, the amended remit, sorry? Do we still need to do the. Oh, sorry. We're going to wait for the amendment to be passed.

Thank you.

Have we got an online through Grant?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Chief Scrutineer, how are we looking?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, there's a clear majority for the amendment. Therefore, the amendment now becomes the motion. Does any other Brother wish to speak further? Then I put the motion. All those in favour of remit nine will signify in the usual manner.

Thank you, Brethren.

Those against.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

There are no votes against.

The Official result after Remit Nine counting physical votes and online votes was 118 'For' and 5 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Therefore, Brethren, we will move on to Remit Ten.

VW Bro Graham Law – 299 Grand Treasurer

Graham Law Lower Hutt Lodge 299. I would like to move Remit Ten. That, currently the Book of Constitution, Rule 100 only extends to Lodges. This remit extends the requirement on financials to Masonic entities. And like, well, like trustees who those in charge of governance on either boards or partnerships or however, a Masonic entity is structured, will have requirements to file financial statements, to keep records.

And this is to assist them; otherwise, really the same reasoning as the previous remit. With regard to concerns around ensuring that, taxes complied with.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do I have a seconder?

VW Bro Don Seath - 475

Don Seath Lodge Waikato Number 475. I second that proposal.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Grand Treasurer.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

Apologies. I jumped ahead of myself there. This, this remit is a replicant of the previous remit, only applied to Masonic Entities, as, currently, the Book The Constitution does

not cover Masonic Entities. Masonic entities do have the same they have statutory obligations to keep records and prepare accounts. And this is aimed at assisting those in charge of governance, be it directors or partners, depending on the Masonic entity structure, with discharging those legal obligations.

I just wanted to add the additional note that, we certainly have proforma financials available from National Office for either Lodges or Masonic entity, should anybody wish to see or use those, and I can give a view with regard to how to complete those should it be required. I thought that would start helping.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Grand Treasurer.

VW Bro Graham Law - 299

Oh, sorry. Grand Master and like the previous remit, I would like to move an amendment to Remit Ten, which removes the audit threshold. In a similar manner to the previous Remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. We have an amendment to the motion. Do I have a seconder?

W Bro Cameron Smith - 500

Cameron Smith, Lodge of the Liberal Arts number 500, I second the proposed amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. We have a proposed amendment which is to replicate the removal of the, thresholds as per remit Nine. Does any Brother wish to speak to the amendment?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have no Brother wishing to speak to the amendment. Therefore, for the amendment, all those in favour of the amendment will signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, we've got a count. Thank you. Those against?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

There was a clear majority in the House to the amendment. Therefore, I'm going to proceed to put the Remit Ten with the amendment now becomes the motion. And I ask all those in favour of the motion to signify in the usual manner.

Thank you Brethren.

Those against?

The Official result after Remit Ten counting physical votes and online votes was 99 'For' and 20 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We will move on with Remit 11.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell Westminster Lodge number 308.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Sorry. Brother, we just got a slight technical situation. I suggest that we have five-minute comfort break. Let's all be back here at 10 to 12. Please. Grand Lodge is suspended.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Grand Lodge is resumed. Brethren, we have a technical issue with Zoom. It is not in-house. As with Zoom itself, it is not allowing those online to vote using the online system. So my proposal is that we will move forward as we have been online. They can count with a show of hands. Okay. So Brethren, online you will show your hand if there is an obvious majority that is included in this room.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Here we will proceed. If there is, it looks to be a division between for and against. We will have to revert back to an actual count. So, I will call for an if there's an obvious majority here and on the screen, we will take it as read. If there appears to be a division, then I will ask you to put your hand up again for and then against with a delay between, so they can count on the screen.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Has any Brother got any issues with what I propose? Therefore, Brethren, we will move on with Remit 11.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell Westminster Lodge number 308, I formally move Remit 11, which is to adopt the recommendations of the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group in regard to Divisional structure, there being six parts to that remit which deal with Masonic divisions, Masonic division boundaries, Lodges and geographic area geographic regions, Grand Superintendent, and Head of Division. The seconder is?

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Grand Master, Graham Wrigley The Avon Shirley Lodge Number 185. I'm happy to be the seconder for Remits 11 through 17.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Grand Master and Brethren, myself, as the Chair of the Board, is formally moving this agreement. But these Remits do come from the Operational Review Working Group. Therefore, I defer my speaking rights to Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Nelson, as Chair of that working group, who will make the first comments.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, when we were asked to form this working group, our terms of reference were particularly to create a structure which we considered to be appropriate for the membership of in our current times, as opposed to that which was created under the divisional system in 2020, in 2000. So today, in supporting these remits, I'm doing so on behalf of a working group that was completely as the Most Worshipful Grand Master has said, quite independent from any other parts of the Grand Lodge structure.

So in speaking to these remits individually at the start, we exercised the rights, perhaps to consider the larger areas that we would need to be, under the system of control, given our membership numbers. And you'll see that by the geographic regions that we refer to here. So there will be the geographic regions that will be subsequently explained, perhaps in each of the remits as they follow. But to support these, these regions were under the consideration of the membership that we had and have, over those particular geographical areas.

So the geographic region remains a group of Lodges established under rule nine. The important thing about this would be the provision that there was certainly consultation. These are not set in concrete on those on geographical lines and borders. But certainly we evolved these based on all the research, the feedback and the numbers that we have. Not an easy task, but this is what we are proposing. I also see that there is the proposal to change to Grand Superintendent. There were several reasons for this. Primarily one was that there was a District Grand Master who was quoted as saying, I am the Grand Master of this District.

I am Grand Master. But that wasn't so much the issue either. We have feedback from other constitutions who make comments that we have in the New Zealand Constitution, and rather large number of titles with the word Grand Master in them. So it was resolved on, in that respect, to suggest that that be changed to Grand Superintendent. So indeed, that's really the reasons for those changes at this point.

Each Division, will be administered, the North Island and South Island under control, of course, of a proposal for a Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden. And each of those two islands. The reasoning behind that was that the Grand Wardens and their appointments actively Grand wardens, don't have a great deal of responsibility or involvement in their term of office.

And it was considered that if the appropriate positions were, people were appointed to those, that this would be an appropriate, responsibility, to devolve from the three divisional Grand Masters to one for each island. Bearing in mind, again, the analysis of

the numbers that we, looking at in Craft at the present time. So you'll see that the role of Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden should remain similar to the proceeding this period.

Two divisions shall be under the control of a Divisional Grand Master. That's the course. Transitional arrangements. What I want to say here and, Very Worshipful Brother Steve Griffin, as the development of the transitional plan. This is considered to be an evolving suggestion and evolving plan over the three years following. It is not to take immediate effect.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

I'm going to ask Very Worshipful Griffin if he would just come forward for a moment and explain this transitional plan.

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

Great. Steve Griffin Waihenga St Marks Number 37. Brethren, the, implementation or the transitional plan? It's almost a plan for a plan. All right. Given what we currently know, there are a series of processes, a series of steps we need to go through, and those are hopefully articulated clearly in the plan. Hopefully, most of the Brethren present today will have had the opportunity to perhaps read the main plan or the abridged version, which has been made available.

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

However, what I would like to say is consistent through that plan is consultation. This isn't a plan to say this is a cookie cutter, which we are going to apply to every single geographic area within New Zealand. Yeah, it recognizes that the areas are unique, the Lodges are unique, and the plan is all about consultation with those Lodges to determine what is the best fit for the regions going forward.

So I'd just like to emphasize that Brethren, it is about consultation. It is about working with the Lodges to determine what is going to be right for the Lodge, right for the region, and right for Freemasonry going forward. Okay.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Brethren, that really was the tenor when this working group was first set up, it was a consultative process, and I made it clear at the time that it was to be collegial and the

representation on the, working group has been very broad in terms of experience, very broad in terms of geographic input as well. And we're hoping that taking all that into account, I can only pay tribute, really, to the work that each of us has done to produce the documents that hopefully you've all been able to see.

The comments on, consultation 17 various options have been made available over that time, including Zoom meetings, including the regional meetings where we attended in the Dunedin, in Christchurch, in Wellington, Palmerston North, Cambridge, and Auckland and those who took the opportunity to come along gave their input. All of those things have been considered.

And the final proposals that are placed before you today, and each of them has been thought through, very carefully in that way, I can only reinforce what Steve Griffin has said, that this is consultative. And, well, these proposals, put in place, bearing in mind the terms of reference we had, given the size and scale of this organisation.

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

Now, then that's why these are being proposed in the way they are. We're speaking with, individual Remits at the present time, this particular one. But I can only say that all the way through this process. We have as far as possible, given the wide range of opinions, considered those opinions and debated those opinions in many meetings, physical and by Zoom, of this group as well.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

So, I can only recommend to you, Brethren, as the changes right from the start for yourselves. This was not to be placed before you as a fait accompli. It was there to create the idea that we can work through now in a consultative way, with all the Brethren, all the districts. And if there are geographic areas, for instance, to be changed or altered, then of course that will be taken into account.

So please, if you are considering those issues, bear in mind this has always been right through for our working group, consultative and was a foremost consideration that of you as Brethren. And so I hope today, as these remits are placed forward before you, you'll take into consideration that there's been a great deal, a great deal of thought, over some very skilled Brethren, over a long period of time.

I simply act as a Chair, but I can only compliment the numbers of those working group Brethren that place so much time, effort, and thought into what is being proposed today for the future of The Craft. Most Worshipful Grand Master.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Right Worshipful Brother Nelson. Brethren. I will just add one small note here, which has not been raised. The reason these Remits have come to this meeting is that as of the 1st of February, we must call for the offices for the 2025-2028 term. Therefore, this is the only time we could actually vote on these changes. So whilst some Brethren have felt this has been rushed, there has actually been 18 months of consultation. But the reason it is before this Communication is because we must call for nominations as of the 1st of February next year, for the offices for the ensuing period. Does any other Brother wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I have one Brother online. Leslie MacKenzie, are you there? Brother?

RW Bro Leslie MacKenzie - 183

Thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master. I would like to move an amendment to clauses three and four on behalf of Lodge Clinton Number 183. On clause three, I would like to get the word may be replaced with the word shall. If a Lodge resolves to join the Geographic area then by right they should be allowed to. And the Board of Directors should not be able to refuse such a request. And then clause four that the would with towards the end be deleted and replaced with "and the approval of" so the amendment would read: The Board of Directors shall establish geographic regions comprising local groups of Lodges, and may from time to time alter in size geographic regions and establish new geographic regions. After consultation and the approval of the Lodges involved. And the rationale is the Lodges must be able to have the final say as to what geographic regions they wish to be part of. Consultation would not necessarily mean the outcome is what the Lodges concerned wish to happen.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother.

RW Bro Leslie MacKenzie - 183

I formally move those amendments.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You formally move those amendments. Do you have a seconder.

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

Yep. Paul Johnston Lodge Aorangi Timaru 196 I will second the amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother. Brethren, we have amendments which have been moved and seconded. Any Brother wish to speak? Brother Johnston.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother Johnston.

RW Bro Paul Johnston - 196

No thank you, No. I was seconding the motion to get it discussed.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You've seconded it. Thank you. Does any Brother wish to discuss the amendment?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Then I put the amendment. Oh, sorry.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Grand Master and Brethren Warwick Bell Westminster Lodge 308. Can I make the comment that, Constitution, Rule 8, Clause c, already reads that this is not a new clause, already reads that the board of directors may, with the written request of the Lodge. So. So that is already the status quo. That's what it is.

And I'm suggesting that, it be changed to shall. So you're actually changing a rule of the Book of Constitution that has been in the Book of Constitution for quite a long time. So you're changing the focus and similarly with the Rule concerning the after consultation, with the Lodges involved, that is the current rule and has been the rule that has existed for some time.

I don't know how long, but that's the status quo. These, changes to the rules are only designed only to deal with the wording in terms of geographic region. And Lodges in a geographic region. I just make that point.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Thank you, Brother Chair. Brethren. Now that we have an amendment to the motions. So that is an amendment to, portion three, that the word may shall be replaced with the word shall and to, portion four that, after consultation with approval of the Lodges involved, I or, sorry, and approval. So I missed that out and the approval, Brethren, you've all heard the amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

All those will signify in the usual manner known amongst Freemasons.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Those against.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

I think you moved too fast on that for and against.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Sorry, Brethren. We'll go back to that again. We're just. We're just trying to coordinate things in my ear. I can present those in favour of the amendment. Please raise your hands again.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, put your hands down. Just waiting for the....

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Those against?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Just confirming, Brothers Scrutineers, that you are getting the votes off the top table.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, put your hands down. We'll just correlate those for the amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Whilst we wait on the, amendment, which does not have a dramatic change in the, agreement, as it stands, we will proceed with any other further comments on the agreement as it stands. Does any other Brother wish to speak?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Oh. Sorry. Lawrence Levine, Lodge Parahaki Number 269. As someone that clearly likes words and loves the craft. I was hoping and I'm not sure procedurally how this works, so I do apologise. My, I had two nominal amendments that I thought would be an improvement since we would live with this for some time if it is passed, even with as even as amended.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

And so I would ask, the favour of Most Worshipful how how to put those forward in the midst of another amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Proceed Brother.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Thank you. The first would be to drop the term geographic from the Remit and all subsequent respective changes that follow my rationale being that the reality is that all the documents surrounding the agreements and every conversation I've had with everyone has always dropped the word geographic anyway, from the discussion, because it's much better on the tongue than on the eyes.

It makes for plain language. The Second amendment is really where I get in the weeds. I would like to add a comma after access and after director's may, because it provides for a better, basically better readability, clarity and parallel structure. So if we're going to live with the document for some time, we might as well make it as good as we can the first time.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So, just to clarify with it is under three.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Yeah for purposes...

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Having said that, Brother. Changes to the grammar naturally follow, so that's fine. So, yeah. Your amendment is that the word geographic.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Be dropped across the board.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Be dropped across the board. Do you have a seconder for your amendment?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We don't have a seconder. The amendment is lost.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Fair. And these commas. We don't like the commas either?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Grammar is sorted out of the rewrite. Yeah. I appreciate what you said. But it will be sorted out in the rewrite. Chief Scrutineer, do we have a count, please, on the amendment?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Remit Eleven and the amendment for Remit 11. The result is 58 in favour, 43 against. The Remit of the amendment is won. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the original remit? Therefore, the amendment becomes the Remit and I now proceed to vote the Remit. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Have we got to count, Brethren? We have. Those against?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, as this motion has an effect on motion 12, we just have to wait while the final count is done, sorry.

The Official result after Remit Eleven counting physical votes and online votes was 83 'For' and 28 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And those of you who are hungry I can assure you that lunch will be at 1230.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren. I have been advised that I need to bring up to date with the arrangements for dinner this evening. So, this is a dinner event for those that are registered to attend at ampersand. Arrival is 6.30 to 7 pm. And for 7 p.m., welcome from us, orders taken, entrees, etc. 8 p.m. onwards.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So those of you that have registered to attend dinner this evening. Excuse me. Arrival is between 630 and 7 pm. We're seated at seven with 7.30 with orders, etc. to be taken. Thank you. Brethren.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge Number 308. I formally move Remit 12 that is subject to the preceding Remit 11 being adopted, which it has been. That the meeting requests the Board of Directors to consider amending the governance management collected rulings, etc., as stated in the remit

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Graham Wrigley, The Avon Shirley Lodge Number 185. I second the motion.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, when the working group tabled their recommendations. It was apparent that this aspect of the recommendations was not something that could be included in the previous remit because the collected rulings make it the prerogative of the board to actually establish, how many geographic regions there are with or will be within each division.

But the intent of this remit was therefore to for the for the meeting, the will of the meeting to be conveyed to the board that it supported the concept that the working group expressed, which was five geographic regions in the North Island and four geographic regions in the South Island on the Southern Division. At the end of the day, if this remit is passed or not, the board still will be consulting, as we've talked about on, the what the Lodges desire in terms of the geographic region boundaries.

And the board will be listening to Brethren at large in that regard. So but this is, this is, this is intended to say the recommendation from the working group with the meeting supports that recommendation or not. It doesn't necessarily say there will be 4 or 5 geographic regions in the Northern Division and four in the South. It just indicates what you, indicate to the board that that's what is desired or not.

Thank you. I'll hand it over to Right Worshipful Brother Nelson if he's got any further comments on this?

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Grand Master Kevin Nelson Lodge Aquarius 466. Brethren, over the period of feedback we've had, there has been some heat generated, perhaps on some of these boundary

lines that have been drawn as though they are going to be absolute that has been explained by the Chair of Directors at the moment. And I think if we look at that, in the rationale, in accordance with the Book of Constitution rule 9, the board will consult with Lodges in regard to their inclusion in the geographic region to make a final decision.

And I think that's where perhaps there has been some concern that those boundary lines were drawn absolute. And as has been explained to the board's prerogative, to decide those, in consultation with the Lodges. And I just reassure you that that's really been the rationale behind, thinking while those lines have been drawn, practically looking at the, very carefully, looking at the, population base, Masonic population base in those areas, they were the lines that were drawn on the basis of trying to get an even distribution as possible but not always practicable.

Of course, but also that we had been at least achieving as close as we can in dividing it up into those geographical regions. A fair representation, of Lodges in a much broader area of responsibility for what will be a Grand Superintendent, perhaps. So really, the rationale that's been explained by the chair is what we have considered all the way through to just to reassure you, there was never an intention to say those were absolute lines drawn on a map.

They are, of course, drawn on a map, but they're very suggestive items only and that the consideration is most important. Right throughout the country, we were aware of that. And as a reassurance, Most Worshipful Grand Master, that that was taken into account all the way through our considerations. So I hope in that the explanation that the Chair has given you, it does give reassurance that those aspects are continuing to be listened to by the Board, and certainly it has been taken into account by this working group and our considerations and proposals.

W Bro Gavin Deevy PDistGDC - GIG

Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the Remit

RW Bro Neville Patrick - 245

Grand Master if I may. Neville Patrick, United Forces Lodge 245. My question, perhaps based on a concern, is if the boundary lines of these regions are extended, I'm concerned about the support those Lodges in the far reaches of those regions will

actually get. Bearing in mind that the District, sorry, the Superintendent, has his role is going to be far more stretched, and will he be able to get to those, far-lying, far-lying Lodges? And I'm questioning that, because I believe it's a concern we should question. Because if we don't, we could end up with perhaps a metropolitan organisation and not a rural organisation as well. I just made that point for you to consider.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Right Worshipful, will any other Brother wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Proceed Brother.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Lawrence Levine, Parahaki 269, Pardon me. I want to thank the working group first, because I do know how hard that was. This is an insurmountable task that they were asked to do. So I'm not meaning to undermine it in any way. But I, I share some of the concerns that, Right Worshipful Brother Patrick has put forward as this remit is dependent on the previous remit and represents a significant shift in governance and has put forward in several parts for the purposes of, this interchange, I can't be complete in things like pastoral care and aspiration and inspiration that I think are vitally important to The Craft.

But I but I will propose that, sorry, I've lost my track. At the core of the concerns about it are not overarching structural proposals of breaking down the Divisions into Geographic Regions, but rather that the proposed Regions seem to be sorry, the proposed Geographic Regions, because I've lost that battle, seem to be deaf to the wisdom associated with the Book of Constitution eight C, which is referenced in part three of remit 11 as well, in which the request of the Lodge is acknowledged. In the formulation of the proposed remit. Few, if any, Lodges were consulted that I've witnessed to understand their preferences relating to the communities of service, senses of identity, or even the practical geography being served; it comes across as a valiant effort to cut without necessarily having measured twice. The wording of the remit itself as what is wise, to indicate that changes will be made in consultation with the relevant Lodges and Brethren, but it is clear to me at least, that this consultation has not taken place, nor the views of the Lodges and Brethren been well considered, at least from what I have seen. As well, looking at section 58 of the same section, several of the geographic regions proposed, I'm sorry as well. Looking at section 58 of the same section illustrates that A,

B, and D fail to be considered effectively in several of the geographic regions proposed drafting of a more comprehensive document.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

It's something I'm working on. However, I would move a motion, you know, move an amendment, that this remit be amended in in, to change; There are three numbers in it. I move to change those numbers to 15, ten and five and further add the language that this in the initial regions at the time of this passing of this remit, are to overlay the existing districts.

The board considers that future amendments to regional geographic boundaries may be desirable, and may create new geographic regions, or consolidate geographic regions as deemed appropriate, in consultation with the relevant Lodges and Brethren. As noted, the board can do this anyway. I'm really asking that we start where we are. Let the board...

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I just need to confirm.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Yes, sir.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Your amendment is this whole spiel or is your amendment just to the changing of the numbers?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

It is. It is the changing of the numbers followed by the initial regions.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Please give me the exact wording you wish to change.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

It should we change to read in accordance with Rule nine, the board has established 15 geographic regions which are allocated as follows a northern Division ten geographic regions b southern Division five geographic regions. The initial regions at the time of the passing of this remit are to overlay the existing districts. The board considers that future amendments to regional, geographic boundaries may be desirable, and may create new geographic regions, or consolidate geographic regions as deemed appropriate, in consultation with the relevant Lodges and Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

That is your amendment.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

That is my amendment. Much of that is in there already.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brother. Do you have a seconder? Do we have a seconder to the amendment?

W Bro Allan Cooper - 431

Allan Cooper Lodge Hatea Number 431 I second that amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You second the amendment. Brethren, we have an amendment to motion to Remit 12, which reads, changing established nine geographic regions, northern Division to ten geographic region, southern Division to five geographic regions. Brother, would you please read the wording for your amendment slowly.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

From the beginning?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

No, no.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

From that point.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Yep.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

The initial regions at the time of the passing of this remit are to overlay the existing districts. That's new language. And then that carries the board considers that future amendments to regional geographic boundaries may be desirable and may create new geographic regions, or consolidate geographic regions as deemed appropriate, in consultation with the relevant Lodges and Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother. We have an amendment. Graeme Morgan Online. You wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother.

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

Thank you Most Worshipful. I'm concerned that if we entered this, would that mean that by February next year, you've got to... would the Board have to ask for nominations for like fifteen District Grand Masters or equivalents?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Correct.

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

I would say that would seem to negate the entire purpose of trying to, the proceeding, to leave it to. So, it seems pretty, a retrograde state. That's all I can say.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the amendment?

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

Steve Griffin, Waihenga St Marks number 37. Most Worshipful and Brethren, Brethren, I feel like I just I need to reiterate what has been said already. Yeah. As part of our process moving forward, as part of the implementation, it is about consultation and working with the Lodge to work out what is going to work within a particular region.

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

We're not saying this is a cookie cutter approach, which we're just going to roll out nationally. So that the, comment by our Right Worshipful Brother around out outliers within regions and coverage will be taken into account. What do we need within a region to make it work. Right. So we've already passed in Remit 11.

You know, that it will be through, consultation and approval with the Lodges. And what we're now saying is as part of a rationalisation. And when you think about it as a reorganisation, it is a rationalisation that will be done in full consultation with the Lodges going forward. Just to give an example, we had a series of webinars.

We talked about Almoners within districts, and currently one particular district or region had six Almoners And of course we were talking about one of Almoners. Well, then in my mind, and as part of that consultation, that might be one Almoner and a group of five other support people, because that's what we need in that region to make it work.

So this is all about what do we need to make it work? All right. So please, Brethren, consider that as we move forward. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother. Does any Brother wish to speak to the amendment.

VW Bro Doug McNab - 153

Grand Master, Doug McNab, Sorry. Doug McNab, District Grand Master, Bay of Plenty. Lodge Rotorua Number 153. The system is different in that Waikato / Bay of Plenty districts. We've already created a unit by agreement with the Lodges and with consultation. We've really consulted between ourselves with two Lodges to see whether they want to join our district or not.

I think it's pretty much up to once you define your regions, geographic or not, once you define them. It's up to the people, to say, do we want to be involved with this for on the, you know, the border, or do we want to be involved with that one and they should have the right to do so with the agreement of the other Lodges within the proposed new boundaries.

And it is it is working and is working in the case of Bay of Plenty Waikato. So I see nothing wrong.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, thank you, thank you Very Worshipful Brother. Any other Brother wish to speak. Therefore I put the amendment I believe I oh, sorry right of reply. You wish the right of reply, you may do so.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

I thank you I. I would wish that Lawrence Levine Lodge Parahaki number 269. I want to point out the context of this remit to begin with, because I think it's important that we all have the same understanding of it, and that is that it is indicating to the Board of Directors where we would like their thoughts to be at a starting point.

And so if while I understand what I'm proposing as an amendment, basically says, leave it alone right now, then go figure it out, they'll, to strike that amendment down, and that's fine. But the other amendment, if left alone, says we would like it to just be these nine board of directors. Take that as consultation from us. We have now provided you that as our starting point.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

So I think it's quite important to recognise that I don't for a moment think that we should actually have 15 forever moving forward. I think it needs to be done in consultation, carefully and thoughtfully. And I'm worried that cutting to nine off the bat is just too fast.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother, f for your comments. I just have to note that if your amendment goes through, that is the exact situation that will occur. We will have, as I mentioned earlier, we need to call for nominations to the 1st of February. If your amendment goes through, then we would need to call for nominations for 15 grand superintendents effective 1st of February.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Well, but so in fact, if you really don't like that, then vote against the amendment and remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother and Brethren. Anybody that wish to further Brother wishes to speak with the amendment. Therefore, I put the amendment. All those in favour.

Those against.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, once we've got the count, it is clear that the amendment is lost.

MW Bro Jim Watt – GM

Brethren. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the Motion? The original Remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Online. Are we ready to vote for the original Remit?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thanks. Just waiting for a Brother who wishes to speak.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I have a Brother online. Of what? Wayne Severn you wish to speak to the remit?

W Bro Wayne Severn - 419

Sorry. No.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother. No. Okay. Do we have any others online?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have no others online. Brethren, I put the original remit as it reads Remit 12. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

The result of the amendment 12 was 18 for 94 against. That was the amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Just make. Sorry, Grant ready to go online. For what? Sorry.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Sorry. And online for. Against. Please.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

No, no. It's online.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, we just, waited for the online against. So, Brethren, whilst we do an online,

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Those For and Those against.

The Official result after Remit Twelve counting physical votes and online votes was 83 'For' and 39 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Lunch is ready. Brethren, I propose that we break for lunch and return at 1 p.m.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Grand Lodge is Suspended.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I call Grand Lodge to Order

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I now move to Remit number 13.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge, number 308. I move Remit 13. Is that subject to the previous Remit 11 being adopted, which it has been, that the following Constitutional,

consequential amendments be approved to come into effect immediately prior to the communication in October 2025. And, I note that is a meaning the Constitution referring to District, amending the Constitution, referring to District Grand Master, amending the book of Constitution, referring to District Grand Masters and such other consequential amendments to the Book of Constitution, as are required and to amend Rule 186, clause A from District Grand Masters and Past Provincial Grand Masters, their insignia of being the square and five point star, to include Grand Superintendents in that clause.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Chair

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Grand Master Graham Wrigley, The Avon Shirley Lodge Number 185, I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. You all heard the motion, which was moved and seconded. Does any Brother wish to speak to the motion?

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master, if I could observe that. Obviously, these are the consequential amendments, from the book. We believe we've been through the Book of Constitution fully to pick up the necessary consequential amendments. I will make the observation that, following this meeting, the Grand Secretary will need to issue a revised book of Constitution, but that these consequential amendments don't apply to the Book of Constitution until immediately before the communication in 2025.

That is because we still have to manage the craft under the existing Book of Constitution in regard to district grandmasters, divisional grandmasters, etcetera. So there will be two there'll be two editions of the Book of Constitution arising from this meeting. Okay. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brother Chair, is everybody quite clear on what was just explained. Does any Brother wish to speak to the motion? Then, Brother, Brethren I put the motion for the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do we have a count?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Online. Are we ready for the against? Ah, Brethren, all those against the motion signify in the usual manner.

The Official result after Remit Thirteen counting physical votes and online votes was 90 'For' and 10 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Based on that, I will now move to Remit 14.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge number 308. I move Remit 14. Being the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operation Review Working Group in regard to the establishment of the role. The rank of Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies and the Grand Superintendent of Education, and the disestablishment of the rank of Grand Lecturer, as set out in the remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Chair.

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Graham Wrigley, The Avon Shirley Lodge 185, I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Most Worshipful

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I'll leave further explanation of this remit to the Chair of the Working Group, Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Nelson.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren all, Kevin Nelson Lodge Aquarius number 466. Brethren, when we were considering the situations, particularly with regard to education, we looked at the roles of the current and historic roles of the Grand Lecturers. We applaud what they've done over those years, but it's also recognised that any form of advanced education in a Masonic sense simply isn't coordinated in that way.

It was considered that, with the suggestion of a Grand Superintendent of Education, it didn't include it would include research and education. And in fact, we would probably look at amending that title as well, possibly as the proposed procedure. The purpose being that, as you'll be aware, worldwide Masonic education is a very important aspect of Freemasonry.

And at the present time, we don't have a call that a curriculum or curriculum, which can be imparted through, The Craft in an organized and structured way. So in proposing this, a Grand Superintendent of Education or Research and Education, it would coordinate and advance the educational process through Freemasonry in New Zealand. And in doing so, that was the consideration of the working group that this was to be an important role, a role it would encompass, those of what Grand Lecturers have done over the past years.

And Masonic research, presentation and education, but in a coordinated and advanced way, so that in time we would have for younger Freemasons formal qualification, perhaps formal ways of advancing in various aspects of education through the system. And that's why we propose, the expansion of the role of Grand Lecturer to incorporate somebody who is responsible for those nationally who would develop curriculum or curricula as well, and as such, then coordinate more education that we currently have through our system.

And so I'm proposing that we consider as a working group, that was extremely important to have, a Grand Superintendent of Research and Education. And that would coordinate the roles, perhaps from input from research Lodges, but also coordinate the roles of

aspects that grand lectures have done in the past, and more particularly, to have, a planned advanced education process for Freemasons as they advance through our system.

So that was the purpose of increasing this role, to one which was coordinated throughout the country. And I think it's vital and important Most Worshipful Grand Master, that we do indeed advance a role and a rank, of this nature. And then from there, that person will be responsible for the development of all of the education, research, coordinating it throughout New Zealand.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

The second one of Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies. And whilst that role was just disestablished, not that long ago, I was Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies for six years. And in that time, it's recognized that while we currently, we need to have coordination in many respects on a national basis, there are other occasional ceremonies of Grand Lodge.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

There are questions which arise on ritual on a national basis, which need to be clarified and, and have been clarified. And my role I did that for, for that time, it's far more coordinated and far more, complex perhaps, than people initially appreciate. The Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies role initially was established in the 1980s, to simply control and coordinate the Grand Installation Ceremony that has changed over the years considerably.

And as such, most of the inquiries and there are many, on procedures and protocols that come through to the Grand Superintended of Ceremonies were, over the years, written up on that basis. Then we considered that with the advance of a Grand Superintendent of Education, that coordinating also the ceremonies, and all of the aspects relating to protocol and, and ritual, would have some coordinated process under a Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies, quite an advanced role, in fact, and it has And a job description of that will be developed by the board, in consultation in the time ahead. But importantly, both those Grand Superintendents roles we consider to be vital, in this reorganization and reorganizing structure. And so in that respect, Brethren, I fully recommend and support these two ranks to be established.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Right Worshipful Brother. Graeme Morgan online. You wish to speak?

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

Graeme Morgan, Lodge, Research Lodge of Wellington number 194. I have a couple of points to make about this one. One, you seem to be trying to do three things with one remit. So if you disagreed with one part of it, you either accept the whole lot or you have to reject all of it.

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

I think that this should have possibly been three very much. The second point I'd like to make is that although there's no problem with the idea of a Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies, I don't see the point of Disestablishing Grand Lectures if the Grand Master doesn't want to appoint anyone or doesn't see the need for any Grand Lectures.

He it he can simply not appoint someone. And the final thing is, I also don't see why the Grand Superintendent has the same jewel as a Grand Lecturer or a Past Grand Lecturer. It would, you wouldn't be able to differentiate them. Normally, you can look at someone's jewel and you see straight away what rank they are. Ahh but If you have multiple people wearing the same jewel, that would make it harder to differentiate. But in saying all of that, I'm still going to actually support this remit because I think it's a step forward.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Thank you Brother. Your points are noted. Thank you. Furthermore, does any other Brother wish to speak for or against the motion?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Go on.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

May I ask a question?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Microphone Grant?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Check check.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Yeah. It's on.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Okay. Thank you. Lawrence Levine Lodge Parahaki number 269. If I heard that introduction to this correctly, it was noted that rather than just being the, Grand Superintendent of Education, it was almost preferred that it should just be to the Grand Superintendent of Research and Education. Why don't we just do that now rather than saying, oh, that really should be this.

We are in every position to do so right now, so I would move to amend it to do so.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

The Brother you're moving an amendment. Please state it.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Add "Research and" in front of Education in all elements of this remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

To The Grand Superintendent of Education. So, your amendment?

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Sorry, Yes, the amendment would be to, 124 124 C to add to make it Grand Superintendent of Research and Education and 186 A, three to be Grand Superintendent of Research and Education.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do you have a seconder.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

There is no second.

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

Steve Griffin Waihanga St. Marks Number 37 I second that motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Second the motion. Brethren, we have an amendment to the motion that the, Sit down. Brother.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Yes sir.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

That the, I was just thinking of your feet. Grand Superintendent of Research and Education. We have an amendment. Does any Brother wish to speak to the amendment?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Anybody online Grant? Nobody online. Okay, Brethren, I therefore put the amendment. The amendment to remit 14 is as read out that clause 124C and, 186A be amended to read the Grand Superintendent of Research and Education. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, those against the amendment.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, whilst we wait on the, change of the amendment or the total for the amendment, Trevor McKenzie online wishes to speak to the amendment. Go ahead. Trevor.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Are you speaking to. Does the amendment. Sorry, does the outcome of the amendment affect what you have to say? Please, Trevor.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Now? We lost him? ok.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Just to remind us of those Brethren online, please, only use the, hands up, when we're doing the voting. So when they ask for voting, please don't use the hands up for anything else wishing to speak. Otherwise, it, upsets the count.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren. With the result of the amendment...

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do I have anybody want to speak to the amended remit? No one online? Therefore, Brethren, I put the amended remit. The remit is as was read out, which changes the Grand Superintendent of Research and Education. All those in favour signify in the usual manner amongst Freemasons.

Against

The Official result after Remit Fourteen counting physical votes and online votes was 99 'For' and 13 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Moving on. Brethren, we will now move on to Remit 15.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, Westminster Lodge number 308. I move Remit 15 that the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operation Review Working Group in regard to the rank of the Grand Almoner and the Grand Secretary being raised to Right Worshipful be approved in accordance with the wording set out in the remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother Chair.

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Graham Wrigley The Avon Shirley Lodge Number 195, I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Most Worshipful. Brother Chair.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I defer to the Chair of the Working Group to make further comment on this remit.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Kevin Nelson Lodge Aquarius 466. Brethren, we believe that these proposals ought to be self-evident, that the significant rank of the Grand Almoner in the, organisation deserves the recognition. And historically, as President of the Board of Benvolence. At one point, it was a set of, benevolence, but we felt at the end it's self-evident, given the significance of the role in the case of the Grand Secretary that was also regarded as having a significant role.

And one thing we were pointing out was that this is the only constitution in Australasia that doesn't recognise the Grand Secretary with a Right Worshipful rank. And so we felt that it was appropriate, given the work and the significance of the Grand Secretary and his role, that too should be recognised appropriately, and therefore the working group recommends these alterations and proposals. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Any other Brother wish to speak well? Just cost me another beer. Any other Brother wish to speak? Therefore, Brethren, I will put the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

All those against.

The Official result after Remit Fifteen counting physical votes and online votes was 102 'For' and 9 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have nobody in the room. I will move on. Therefore, with Remit 16.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, The Baden-Powell Lodge, number 381. I moved Remit 16 that the recommendation of the Masonic Structure and Operation Review Working Group regarding the Right Worshipful Brethren who had served active rank, being entitled to dress regalia, be approved in accordance with the wording set out for the remit.

Thank you, Most Worshipful.

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Graham Wrigley, The Avon Shirley Lodge Number 185, I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Most Worshipful

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren. I deferred to the Chair of the Working Group to make further comment.

RW Bro Kevin Nelson - 466 - ORWG

Kevin Nelson Lodge Aquarius 466. Brethren, this this was considered very carefully, particularly with the respect to the current role of the Grand Wardens, but also had the original remit 12 passed. We also have to consider the, on-flowing really the on-flowing effect. It will be, on the Grand Wardens, who will then be responsible for the North and South Islands in that original remit.

So in this respect, it was considered, too, that we had to address the issue of dress regalia in particular, and the right to continue to wear that. It was considered and a lot of, comment was made about the relevance of honoris causa rank, as opposed to that of the active rank of the Grand Wardens and as not to diminish the role of or the, respect with the respect with which the honoris causa rank, is given.

But nevertheless, it still was recognised that the act of rank was that of the Grand Warden, not honoris causa. Another question that was raised at that time was all very well, but what about the costs of these chains? I should point out to you that it's only been a relatively recent, trend that we have had regalia paid for, by the National Office as a consequence of Divisional Grand Master changes. The custom, and it should be remaining that way, I'm sure, would be that on the cessation of the active office of the senior Grand Lodge, officers wearing chains, in the division or the district, such were to be the case.

then that would be paid for by collection. And it was historically the case under the old provincial system. The province collected the donations from the Lodges to pay. So this does not become a cost to the Grand Lodge office or to, Freemasonry as an organisation, but rather a respect given to that officer by the Brethren whom he has served.

So in addressing that particular aspect, cost is not going to be, or should not be an issue. The we do believe as a group, a working group, after some consideration, so that the active Grand Wardens, would have the right to continue to wear their chains. And those who had retrospectively, as a separate proposal, retrospectively serve the active grand rank.

And we have a table of those are not that many, to be frank, would still be in the same position of not being supplied with that should that remit pass, but it would be a cost to them or to whoever may choose to arrive, to get donations to approve that and present it to them. So that's why the proposal is being made in its present form.

And looking at the future under the new role that the Grand Wardens will have, we believe that to be, appropriate, that they would retain the badge of officer the dress regalia of the badge of office after they have served that active term. Thank you,

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Right Worshipful. Any other Brother wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have no other Brothers who wish to speak. I therefore put the motion. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren. All those against.

The Official result after Remit Sixteen counting physical votes and online votes was 93 'For' and 18 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I now move to Remit 17.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Warwick Bell, the Baden Powel Lodge, number 80, 381. I move Remit 17, which is the last of the recommendations from the Masonic Structure Operation Review, that the recommendation of the working group in regard to meeting on licensed premises be approved, that the Book of Constitution Rule 86 meeting on licensed premises be repealed.

MW Bro Graham Wrigley - 185

Graham Wrigley The Avon Shirley Lodge Number 185, I second the motion.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Most Worshipful

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I'll defer to, Very Worshipful Brother Steve Griffin, for making further comment on behalf of the working group.

VW Bro Steve Griffin - 37

Most Worshipful Grand Master ,Brethren, Steve Griffin, Waihenga Saint Marks No 37 Brethren. This was debated on the working group. And really, I think it's an acknowledgment of the sign of the times currently, as you know, meeting on licensed premises is forbidden. This was actually to give some scope for Lodges to potentially look at the co-location on other premises moving forward, where, you know, by chance alcohol was being served.

So the view was all those things are open for consideration. It still needs a directive from the Board of Directors, but it's no longer forbidden. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Any other Brother wish to speak? Therefore. Brethren, I will put the vote. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

All those against. Why am I not surprised?

The Official result after Remit Seventeen counting physical votes and online votes was 111 'For' and 5 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And, Brethren, we now move on to Remit 18, which was tabled from the special communication last year. And I call for the mover of... Brethren. Thank you. I call from a mover from Lodge Takahe. Is somebody available?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Yeah. Do we have somebody from Lodge Takahe online? Thank you. Please proceed. Brother.

W Bro Kevin Down - 397

Thank you.

W Bro Kevin Down - 397

Most Worshipful. Kevin Down Lodge Takahe number 397. In putting this amendment to the motion. We considered the greater role and greater workload that, is falling on fewer

and fewer members. And, Grand Lodge, administration in particular. We felt. That by limiting the participation to four members on the Board of Directors and three from the Board of Trustees, or vice versa. It would spread the workload quite a lot. And also have a, less stress on those members to distinguish themselves between the two roles. Whether the Board of Trustees or the Board of Directors. As an aside to that, it would also give a greater degree of oversight on the board's workings and ensure that any decisions and changes of the Board.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Board, sorry, Brother, might. Sorry, Brother, I need a second before you proceed, please.

W Bro Kevin Down - 397

I beg your pardon.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do we have a seconder for the motion.

W Bro Clive Chandler - 236

Clive Chandler Master. All right. In Lodge Doric Brighton No 236

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother. You may proceed now.

W Bro Kevin Down - 397

Thank Most Worshipful. We would also we also considered that it would ensure that any changes and decisions, must be on demonstrated merit. So that the, the Lodges nationally can see where the, rationale behind the change or the decision has been made. That, is that is it Most Worshipful. Thank you Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

But thank you, Brother. Any other Brother wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother chair.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, the current structure of the board, as it will be from, hopefully, the appointment of the new seven Grand Lodge Trustees this afternoon, is that the seven Grand Lodge Trustees will also be the seven Directors. That was a very strong recommendation of the All of Governance Working Group, who consulted quite widely, and looked at best practice in terms of what was the way to proceed.

The risk we is that we have four, directors at the table who have the responsibility of Grand Lodge Trustees, and another three as Directors in the those sitting around the table have an imbalance in looking at their responsibilities. Some are sitting there with responsibility as a Grand Trustee and as a director. And the other three are looking at it from a Director's point of view only, and it is beneficial for all those sitting at the table to be in the same situation.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

The board over the last 12 months has worked very effectively. Working with the matters of, of Grand Lodge Trustees and Directors at the same table. And, the Board accordingly is not supporting this Remit. Furthermore, we had a legal opinion, that and was advised that Trustees and Directors can be one and the same.

As long as we hold separate meetings to consider matters as trustees or directors. Now, this process is actually used by our biggest Masonic trust in the country, where the trustees and the directors are one and the same. And during the meeting, they actually, in voting on a particular matter from a director point of view or trustee point of view, the minutes are being made up as the meeting goes on.

So both meetings are running concurrently and it works well. So, that the formula has been tested, as we noted in the, board response. And we would, strongly recommend that, you vote against this remit. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you for Brother Chair, Graeme Morgan, online.

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

Hello, Most Worshipful, Graeme Morgan, Research Lodge of Wellington number 194. I'd just like to say that I don't support this change. The current system that we've got it's only been in place for just about a year. And I just think that we should allow it to settle. And, you know, allow the Brethren who have done a very good job as Board of Directors and as Trustees, to continue for a full term before trying to change anything, you know, and just don't change anything. But this isn't broken. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brother. John Brooks is online.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You there? Brother?

W Bro John Brooks - 47

I am online, Very Worshipful Master, but I have nothing to say. I'm not quite sure why that's popped up.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother, I appreciate that. Does any other Brother wish to speak? Then, Brethren, I will proceed to put the motion. The remit. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren. Those against. The motion is clearly lost. We will move on.

The Official result after Remit Eighteen counting physical votes and online votes was 27 'For' and 82 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. I will move on then to Remit 19, which is in two parts. Remit 19 is in two parts. Do I have a mover for Remit 19?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Do I have a mover for Remit 19? Is there a representative from Browns Bay Lodge here?

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

and online?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And online? ok.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Leo Tancio, representing Browns Bay Lodge number 346 for, Remit 19 part 1. I move to changing Rule 201 from one Lodge, one vote to one member, one vote, that the procedure for conducting ballots and for voting on Remits at annual communications, special communications and annual communications and divisional conferences be amended to provide for voting of all matters by individual preference rather than Lodge by Lodge.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother, do we have a seconder for the motion?

W Bro Andy Winter - 182

Brother Andy Winter, Worshipful Master, Lodge North Harbour Number 182.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren. Proposer of the motion. Do you wish to speak?

W Bro Leo Tancio - 346

Representatives must have already read as published. I have nothing else to add.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Nothing else to add. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the motion? Part one.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

No other Brother wishes to speak. I will therefore. Sorry. We have one online. First, please put the Brother through Online.

VW Bro Graeme Morgan - 419

Most Worshipful, Graeme Morgan, Lodge Research Lodge, Wellington, number 194. I don't see that, we should change the current system of voting by Lodges. If we had one member, one vote and imagine how this, event could go, you could be easily end up with, you know, some Lodges not represented at all, or, you know, a group of Lodges getting together and overwhelming, the rest because they turned up this way with one Lodge, one vote, each Lodge gets its a representative to Lodge to vote on their behalf. And I think it's worked pretty well. And I don't see the reason for a change. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother. Any other Brother wish to speak?

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I just note the Board's response, in the paper that's been issued, and, I, like the Board of Directors, does not support the remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. Any other Brother wish to speak? I'll therefore put the remit 19, part one. All those in favour, please signify.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

All those against.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Part one is clearly lost.

The Official result after Remit Nineteen – Part 1, counting physical votes and online votes, was 21 ‘For’ and 97 ‘Against’.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We’ve got a count. Thank you Brethren. I will then move on to part two, Browns Bay Lodge. And do you wish to speak?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Proceed, Brother.

W Bro Leo Tancio - 346

That the Book of Constitution 203, clause A, section six as follows. Be deleted. It reads us. No. No appointment shall be valid or operative unless all Lodge returns, fees and other monies owing by the Lodge to Grand Lodge as of the 30 day of June of the year, are filed or paid at least one month before the commencement of communication.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother. Is there a seconder to the motion?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Does the Brother online wish to speak to second the motion or to speak for.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

No. Do I have a seconder for the motion?

W Bro Andy Winter - 182

Brother Andy Winter, Worshipful Master, Lodge North Harbour Number 182.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

You second the motion. Thank you. Brethren, we have a motion which has been moved and second further from Browns Bay. Do you wish to speak further on the motion?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brother, do you wish to speak further to the motion?

W Bro Leo Tancio - 346

Most Worshipful Grand Master must have just a subsequent Remit. 19, part one, if confirmed. But, as it was lost already. Representative will be based on individual members qualification. So again with what was already stated and explained in the rationale, which was published with the remit. I have nothing else to add.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Nothing else to add. Thank you Brother. Any other Brother wish to speak for. The Chair?

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren. All the board responses. So it's been noted, but I just highlight that Lodge's bylaws do agree to obey the Book of Constitution. And obviously, the orderly governance and management of the Craft requires all Lodges to undertake certain administrative reporting functions. Surely Lodges who are non-compliant with the provisions of the Constitution should not enjoy the same rights as the vast majority of Lodges who do comply with the requirements.

If a Lodge is not compliant, they are informed of the issue and invited to address the omission or oversight so the Board does not support this Remit.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Brother Chair. W Bro Don Casagrande, You wish to speak.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Don, do you wish to speak?

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

You're on mute.

RW Bro Duane Williams - GS

Don, you're on.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Mute. Proceed Don.

W Bro Don Casagrande - 272

Not at all. Sorry. I don't know why the hand went up. I have nothing to add, sorry.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Don.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, any other Brother wish to speak for the motion? Therefore, I intend to put to the motion all those in favour, signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. All those against.

The Official result after Remit Nineteen Part 2 counting physical votes and online votes was 14 'For' and 101 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren. We will now move to Remit 20. Is there a member of the Lodge of Remembrance present? Please?

RW Bro Bruce Pagan - 64

Bruce Pagan from Fortitude 64. I hold the proxy and have been appointed as the representative of The Remembrance Lodge. 318. I formally move the motion Most Worshipful.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Right Worshipful. Does the motion have a seconder?

RW Bro Bruce Pagan - 64

I'm the representative of the Remembrance Lodge here at Communication I move. I'm asking for a seconder from the floor.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We ask for a seconder from the floor.

RW Bro Bryan Wiig - 431

I'm representing Hatea, not Fortitude, but I will second the motion for Hatea 431.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. The motion has a mover and a seconder. Please proceed, Right Worshipful.

RW Bro Bruce Pagan - 64

Thank you Most Worshipful. So the intent is... the intent is quite clear. The Lodge is aware of the Board's response. We believe that the rationale, sets it out quite clear, and I've got nothing further to add.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you Right Worshipful. Does any other Brother wish to speak to the motion?
Brother, please proceed.

W Bro Lawrence Levine - 269

Lawrence Levine, Lodge Parahaki number 269. I'm very sympathetic to the intent of the motion of the remit. This remit requests an abatement of capitation for certain Brothers who are infirmed. I'm sympathetic with the intent and aware of the potential impact on the Lodge with Brethren in this situation, but I must concur with the Board's response. In our Lodge we paid capitation not for a Brother who was infirm, but for one who is literally deceased. Nobody was happy about any of it, but the lines have to be drawn somewhere, and we understand and accept that, in addition, without demonstrable financial need, as a fundamental, this remit reduces financial burden for reasons that the Brother in question may not even have any need for. Thank you Most Worshipful.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Any other Brother wish to speak to Remit. The Chair.

VW Bro Warwick Bell - Chair Board of Directors

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren all. I just note that the Board's response is that we don't support this remit. I think the words there are in in our board response are quite clear. I'll make the further observation that the remit as it stands also is not clear in terms of who are in full time care, does that mean someone who's, full-time care in the personal residence?

Any, this matter would need to be further worked upon before, to gain some clarity. I thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brother. All those in favour signify in the usual manner.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

All those against.

The Official result after Remit Twenty counting physical votes and online votes was 22 'For' and 89 'Against'.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Sorry. Item seven on the agenda. Item seven on the agenda. Item seven on the agenda is the appointment of the Grand Lodge Trustees, Directors. I wish to note here that the interview process was followed with all those. We had a number of applicants. The decision was made by the interview panel that we retain expertise on the Board, but also introduce new Brethren.

So the and of course, you remember that for the transition, we combined the Trustees and the Directors. So, for the last year, we've been operating with about 12. So, the recommendations of the interview panel for Grand Lodge Trustees and Directors are as follows. Most Worshipful Brother Graham Wrigley Past Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Neville Patrick Past Deputy Grand Master and OSM, Very Worshipful Brother Warwick Bell Past District Grand Master, Very Worshipful Brother Dave Piper, Past District Grand Master, Very Worshipful Brother Don Seath, Past District Grand Master, Brother Mark Bunting Master Mason, and Right Worshipful Brother Paul Chapel Deputy Grand Master, ex-officio. Brethren, I want to note here that as part of the transition phase, there will be another election at this time next year, and then we will go into the full cycle. So, Brethren, I move formally from the chair that these Brethren be appointed the Grand Lodge Trustees and Directors for the next ensuing year.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Moved from the Chair. All those in favour?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you, Brethren, against. The motion is carried.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I note, for expulsion from Freemasons New Zealand, Worshipful Brother Neil McGee and Brother Herbert Bruce Armitage. This is noted. There's no vote required for that. Brethren.

Is the representative of Heartland Bank with us?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren will have a five-minute break. While we are just getting set up for the presentation.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, if we can take our seats, please. There is a test match that I know some of you want to go home and sit and watch.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

As I said earlier, it's \$100 fine for any Brother who discloses the final score. Thank you. Brethren, if you take your seats, please, so we can move on.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren, it's my pleasure to introduce Brett Hewson from Heartland Bank. Thanks for coming today Brett and I hope we haven't kept you waiting too long. Appreciate you've been here and the floor is yours very much.

Brett Hewson - Heartland Bank

See the PowerPoint Presentation as an appendix.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Just before you. Go, just has any Brother got any questions about of Brett while he's present, he's here. On behalf of Freemasons New Zealand, I'd like to personally thank you for.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Is it retirement?

Brett Hewson - Heartland Bank

Yes, retirement.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Wish well, you in retirement and somebody will find a membership form for you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I would like to call on Worshipful Brother Cameron Smith, Chair of the Property Committee, just to give us a brief update and just for Cameron's, coming up to the table, you remember earlier in the day I mentioned the formation of a working group going forward, looking at property. Thank you. Cameron.

W Bro Cameron Smith – Chair of the Property and Insurance Committee

See the PowerPoint Presentation as an appendix.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Worshipful Brother Cameron.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Worship. Brother Cameron, Brethren, just before I closed Grand Lodge, I just have a couple of comments to make in a couple of presentations. But first of all, Brethren, I'd like to thank you all today for your active participation in the proceedings. We had a lot of work to go through and what it signifies to me anyway from this in the special communication, that there is real value in us holding these on an annual basis.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So, Brethren, I thank you for your participation, and I especially thank you all for the very positive manner in which you acted during those presentations. During the, working of the remits. Brethren, I just want to raise one thing, and I'm not too certain, actually, how we're going to manage this. So, just keep, your eyes on your correspondence.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Because of the cost of accommodation in Christchurch, we've had to move Grand installation forward a month, so Grand Installation now is labour weekend next year 25th of October. That compresses up the period of time where we need to call for nominations for the various offices, some of which is actually detailed in the Book of Constitution. Now we know what after today's Remits we know what we're working with.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

We have to go through and look at those dates and how we manage that going forward. And, there will be a circular coming out probably early next year with revised dates for appointments and everything else we'll probably have. I think the Book of Constitution allows us to take a postal vote so well in all that by postal vote.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I have a, I'm just going to get out of here before I trip myself up.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I have 2 or 3 presentations to make today, which are very important. So as part of the remits today, I'm just checking that they've got me camera for those online. Have we. We have. Okay good. So today's rematch with the appointment of the new directors and trustees. We actually finalized the all the governance review which started in 2023, and I just want to acknowledge those Brethren. Now, that committee was chaired by Right Worshipful Brother Pat Cooney, who at the time was Deputy Grand Master, who subsequently resigned from the craft for personal reasons. But asking these other Brethren to come up Right Brother Neville Patrick Past Deputy Grand Master, he was the trustee representative on that group.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Very Worshipful Brother Warwick Bell, Past District Grand master. He at the time was, the Central Division representative on the board of General Purposes, and he was a member of that group, Worshipful Brother Andrew Cowie Master of Lodge Zetland and Executive Director at the time he was on that group, he was a master mason and subsequently joined us as Executive Director.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And Brother Reece Prewett Master Mason, who I understand is not here today. Thank you so.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

My poor Grand Secretary has got a whole pile of certificates here. So just give me a second.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you for all your time and effort. And you've worked very hard, sincere as all these Brethren have. They've all been part of the transition. So thank you very much. Just a certificate of appreciation for. All your work. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Warwick, you've worked tirelessly on that. And I know you've put a lot of on. I think you might really appreciate that.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Andrew, you sort of jumped considerably from the fire into the firepit because you ended up having to drive this afternoon. So I thank you for all your work on that. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. And the other two, I'll arrange for these to be given to them. I'd like to thank now, Brethren, you here today the work that was carried out by the Masonic Structure and Operational Review Working Group, and they put considerable time and effort into that review. And as you've already heard, it's not over yet. We've we've essentially got four years of hard work ahead of us to get that structure 100% perfectly correct.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And as I said, right back at the beginning, when we first started down this process that we're not going to get 100% correct at the beginning, but let's move on from there and sort things out. So I want to acknowledge those Brethren who are present today. And they, Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Nelson Past Deputy Grand Master as Chair, Most Worshipful Brother Graham Wrigley, Past Grand Master.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

RW Brother Pratt, Oh, by the way, Brethren, we all need to sing Happy Birthday to Russell. It's his birthday today. He is. He has, reached the heavy pension day today, so happy birthday Russell, and thank you for all your work. Very Worshipful Brother Steve Griffin.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Very Worshipful Brother Andrew Alexander, who's not with us today, Worshipful Brother Bill Taylor from Wellington, who was Secretary, Past Grand Steward is not with us today. Worshipful Brother Kieran Crickmar who I saw on screen before with Kieran. Thank you for your work. Grand steward from Wellington, Worshipful Brother Shane Paterson I think I saw you here so much that I did and Worshipful Brother George Swanepoel who is not with us.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So Brethren, I'd like to acknowledge all the work that you've done. Kevin. It's been a mission.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

It was. I've seen you wipe your brow many a time though. I think the sign of the third degree was used a couple of times, but, but thank you. And I thank you for your work. Thank you for your work. Most Worshipful, thank you for stepping up as the Trustee and the Director's representative on the group. Very much appreciated.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Steve was called in. We lost a couple of Master Masons from the group. Steve was called in to step in, and Steve brings expertise on forward forward-thinking of management. And Steve, thank you for your work. You've done very well. And Shane, Shane went on to this group as a Master Mason and ended up as Master halfway through. Thank you for your work as well.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

I know that you had a really good input on this from the the point of view of the younger Masons, and that was really appreciated. Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, I'd like to mark the occasion of two of our senior Brethren today who have both finished six years as Trustees of Grand Lodge. The role of Grand Lodge Trustees has changed considerably, as you have gathered over the period of of the all the governance review, etc., and these two Brethren had to sit through how they used to do thing as Trustees, and they'll all of a sudden have somebody come up and pull the carpet out from underneath them and tell them they had to rethink the whole package again.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And that is Right Worshipful Brother Eddie Eeles and Right Worshipful Brother Steve Salmon. Steve, could you please come up?

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And what I really want to note here is, as I said, we pulled the carpet out from underneath them, but they got on with the game. They bought into what we were planning to do. And they have worked tirelessly in their term, and they finish the term as Grand Lodge Trustees at a time when we're going into exciting new looking forward.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And I want to thank both you, Eddie, thank you for your work, Steve. Thank you for your work. It's really appreciated. And I have a certificate of merit here for you, Worshipful Brother and I have on behalf of ...

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

A small gift on behalf of the Grand Lodge for appreciation for six years of hard work. Thank you. Steve.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

So thank you, Brethren for your work. It's really appreciated.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Oh, yes. And last but not least, now, Brethren, some of you may not know this, but worldwide there is an arrangement of obviously, you know, there's about 162 Lodges. We've Grand Lodges we're in amity with, and we have representatives, they have representatives of their Grand Lodge, representatives of us in New Zealand, and we in New Zealand have members of our Grand Lodge who are representatives of their Grand Lodge.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And the whole idea was communication before now. I was in Perth the other day and I ran into that when I was with the Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of South Australia and the Northern Territory. Sorry, my special Brother Wrigley, you get to get two please. They asked me to appoint you as our representative of their Grand Lodge.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Congratulations. And the certificate to show it.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Thank you. Brethren. Just before I wind up, I would like to acknowledge the work of Grant, David and the team in the back room for all the work. They've had a few trials and tribulations that I was with the, with the technical side. But we've got through, and I appreciate all the work you've done Grant. T I'd like to thank Our Grand Secretary Right Worshipful Brother Duane Williams. He keeps me in line and he does a fantastic job on your behalf. You just don't really appreciate the amount of work he does. So, Duane, Thank you.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Our Executive Director, Andrew, and the team of National Office, please pass on my thanks to the girls in the office. And thank you to you for your work. To the team of the Northern Division that pulled today together. And we had a hiccup. But it's all gone very well. And I thank you for all the work you've done.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

That's very much appreciated. To the executive that sat at the table here with me today. Appreciate you for all the support and all the work you do on Freemasonry. You give your time freely, and I know that you work tirelessly on behalf of Freemasonry and on behalf of everybody. I appreciate what you do. Thank you Brethren.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

And now, according to this, any other business, by permission of The Grand Master? Does anybody got anything urgent to raise? Then, Brethren, I will proceed with closing Grand Lodge.

MW Bro Jim Watt - GM

Brethren, assist me in closing this Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

VW Bro Chris Bayne - GDC

You will remain standing while the Grand Master and his executive team retire.



FREEMASONS
New Zealand

Annual Communication Financial Report



Grand Treasurer

Graham Law

Experience

Current roles include:

- Chief Financial & Corporate Officer at NZX Limited (the New Zealand Stock Exchange)
- Directorships include SmartShares Limited (funds management)

Previous roles include:

- Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer at AMP Capital Investors NZ Limited (funds management)
- Treasurer of various not for profit organisations including Wellington Anglican Cathedral



FREEMASONS

New Zealand

Freemasons NZ

Financial Performance

Income and Expenses	2024 General Fund \$	2024 Building Fund \$	2024 Total \$
<u>Operating Income</u>			
Capitation Fees	456,632	-	456,632
Other Income (including Administrative Services)	383,800	12,594	396,394
Member Contributions (net)	-	1,018,402	1,018,402
Building Fund Loans Interest and Rental Income	-	288,215	288,215
Total Operating Income	840,432	1,319,211	2,159,643
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
National Office	788,001	-	788,001
Grand Lodge	189,073	-	189,073
Strategic Initiatives	39,705	-	39,705
Building Fund and Property Rental Expenses	-	78,202	78,202
Total Operating Expenses	1,016,779	78,202	1,094,981
Operating surplus/(deficit) before tax	(176,347)	1,241,009	1,064,662
Interest Received	165,985	18,007	183,992
Brokerage Commission Received	272,622	-	272,622
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	262,260	1,259,016	1,521,276
Taxation	60,827	1,644	62,471
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	201,433	1,257,372	1,458,805

Freemason New Zealand's general operating activities (i.e. the General Fund) are kept separate to the building operating activities (i.e. the Building Fund).

General Fund

- Income:
 - capitation fees; and
 - charging for administration services performed for various masonic charities and trusts.
- Expenses:
 - National Office costs (including staff, IT, administration costs, rent, general insurance etc)
 - Grand Lodge (including governance costs, ceremonial, annual communication and strategic initiatives costs).

The General Fund runs at an **operating loss** before non-operating income, which relates to bank interest and commissions from Heartland Bank deposit scheme.

Building Fund

- Income - interest on loans, rents on properties and receives lodge contributions relating to buildings.
- Expenses – mainly administration fees, property rental costs and EV charger project costs.

The Building Fund made a **surplus** in the current year.

Freemasons NZ

Capitation

Reduced member #s has resulted in less Capitation Fees to fund National Office services and resulted in an operating loss.

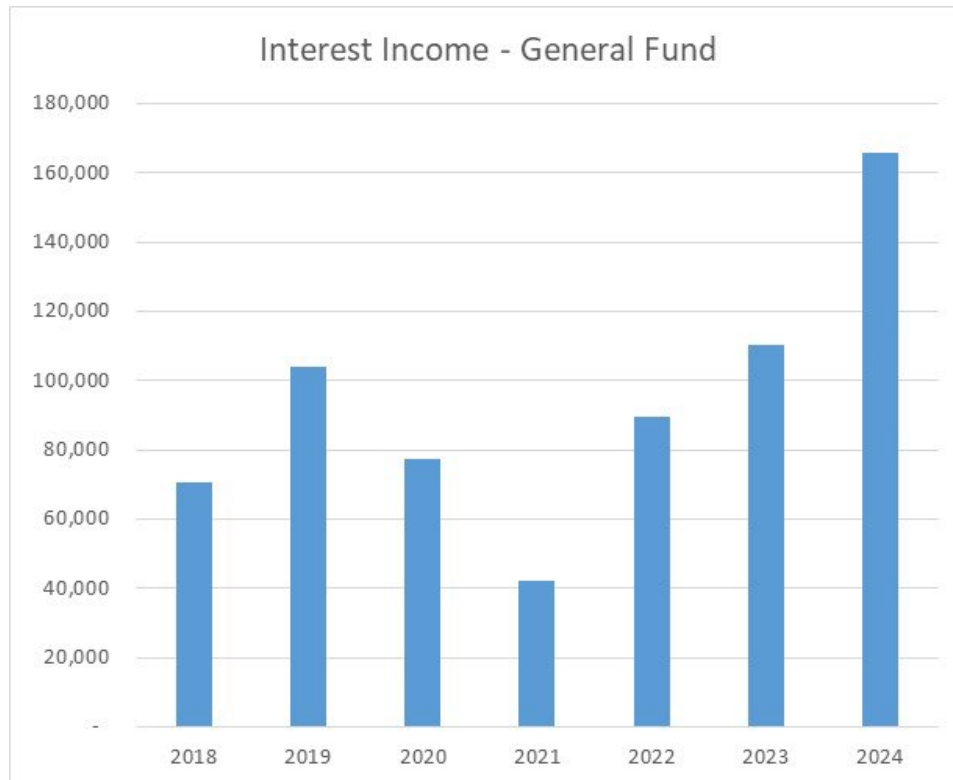


Freemasons NZ

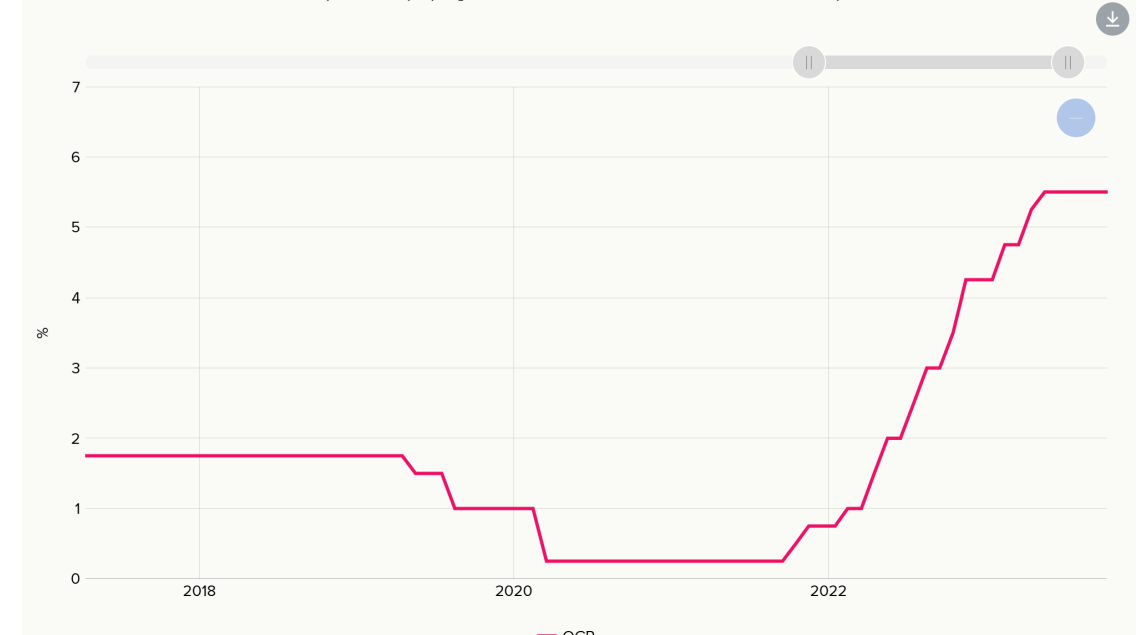
Interest Income

The level of interest received is dependent on:

- Bank / term deposit levels; and
- interest rates, which are now falling (with the OCR recently dropping to 4.75%)



Official Cash Rate (OCR) (updated at end of month)



Freemasons NZ

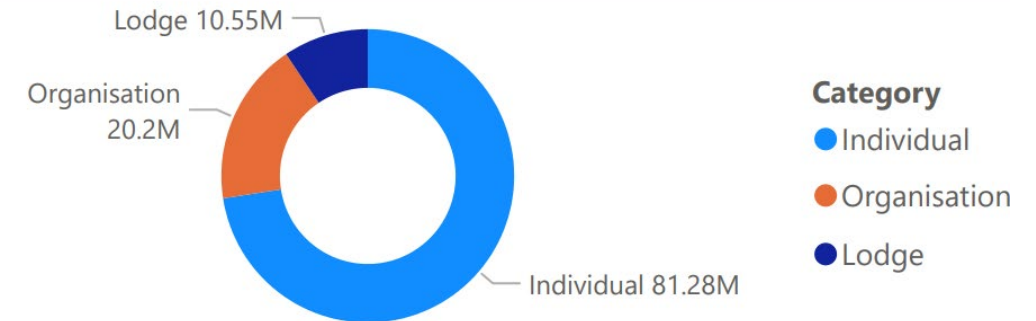
Commission Brokerage Income

The Heartland brokerage commission is exposed to an age profile risk

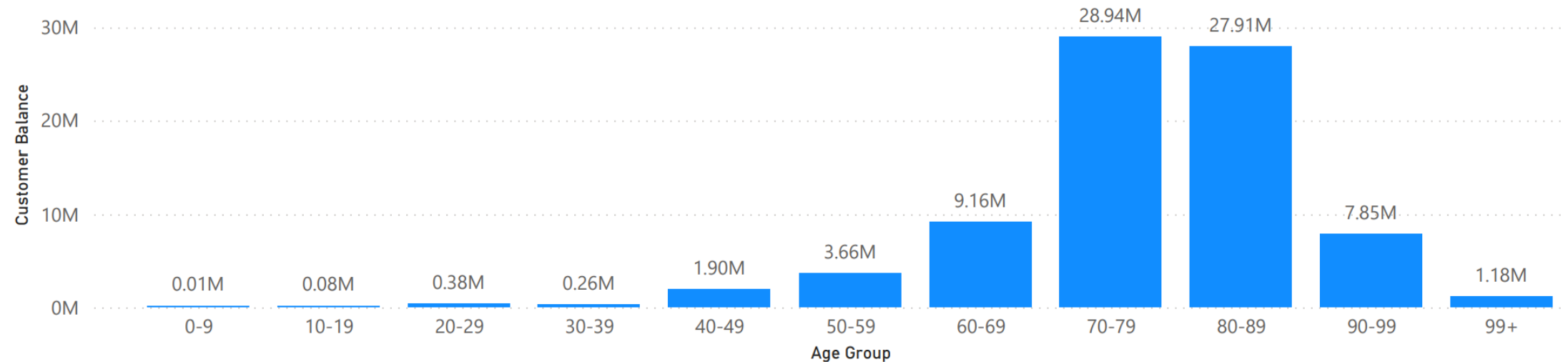
Individuals >70 years old make up 59% of the Heartland Deposits

Organisations (lodges, trusts, companies) and individuals (i.e .relatives) can all be part of the Heartland Freemasons scheme

Total Balance \$ by Account Category



Freemasons Age Profile - By Customer Balance

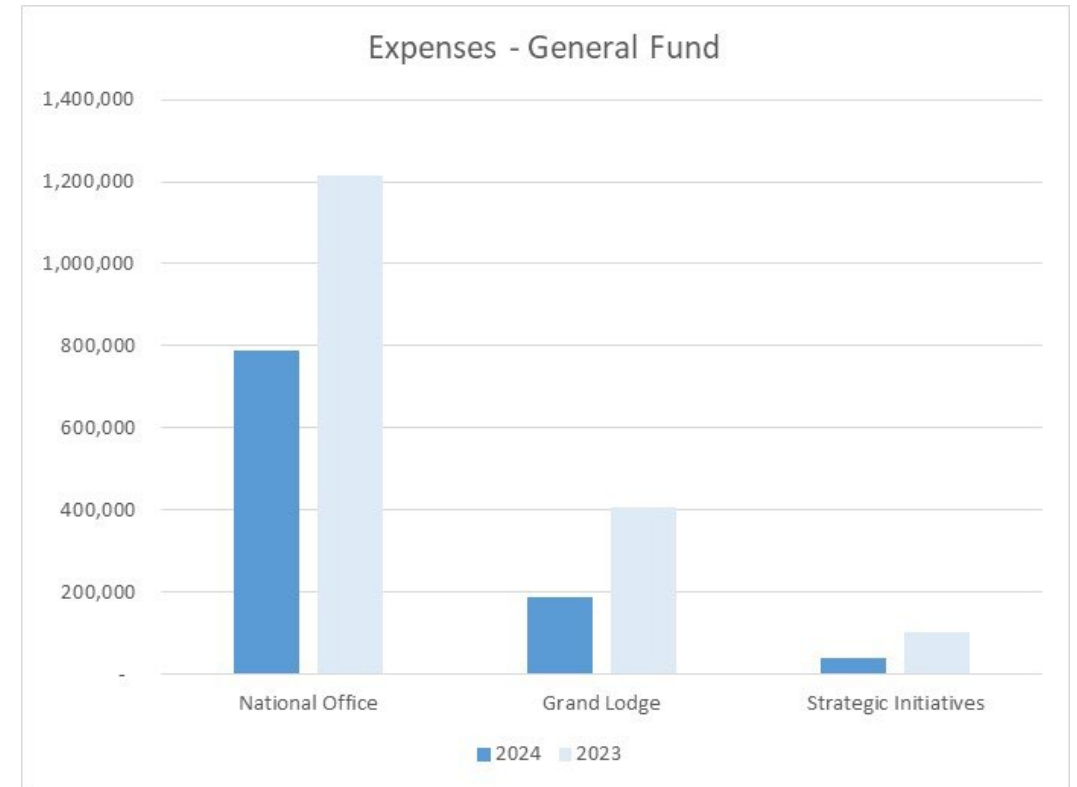


Freemasons NZ

Expenses

General Fund expenses (down 41%) comprise:

- National Office Expenses (down 35%)
 - Include employee, IT admin and marketing costs
 - Insurance scheme costs were incurred in 2023 and charged directly to the lodges in 2024
 - Excluding insurance and tax paid the National Office expenses were down 13%
- Grand Lodge costs (down 53%)
 - Include GL Board, admin, Officers expenses, NZ Freemasons magazine costs and Grand / Annual Communication costs
 - Annual Communication costs (Nov 2023) are significantly lower than Grand Communication costs (Nov 2022)
- Strategic Initiatives (down 62%)
 - 2024 – Governance Policy project
 - 2023 –
 - the acquisition campaign and docudrama; and
 - membership services and website refresh projects



Freemasons NZ

Balance Sheet



Net Assets	2024	2024	2024
	General	Building	
	Fund	Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts	3,099,553	1,859,690	4,959,243
Other Current Assets	95,592	(10,803)	84,790
Total Current Assets	3,195,145	1,848,888	5,044,033
Non Current Assets			
Building Fund Investments	-	7,960,182	7,960,182
Property, Plant & Equipment	126,690	33,901	160,591
Total Non Current Assets	126,690	7,994,083	8,120,773
Total Assets	3,321,835	9,842,971	13,164,806
Current Liabilities	146,944	426,545	573,489
Net Assets	3,174,891	9,416,426	12,591,317

Freemason New Zealand's General Funds net assets are kept separate to the Building Funds net assets.

The **General Fund's** operating assets are predominantly in bank balances / term deposits and office equipment.

The **Building Fund's** investments are in property investments and loans, including:

- Canterbury Freemasons Centre Limited – 85% ownership;
- Whakatane Masonic Properties Limited – 100% ownership;
- Minority interests in other masonic property companies;
- Lower Norther Island Limited mortgage; and
- Loans to lodges.



FREEMASONS
CHARITY

Freemasons Charities



Freemasons Charity

The Freemasons Charity is an independent charitable trust which aligns itself fully with the strategic direction of Freemasons New Zealand for the purpose of providing support and improving the lives of New Zealanders.

The Freemasons Charity works together with Lodges, Districts, and other charitable organisations to achieve outcomes focused on benevolence and almoning, enhancing our communities, education and personal development, and supporting innovative and quality medical research.

Potter Masonic Trust

A charitable trust established in 1933 by Frederick Seymour Potter To assist in the development, education and well-being of children.

Potter Masonic Trust funds projects benefitting children and youth in the northern half of the North Island. The Potter Masonic Trust Grant Programme focuses on opportunity for change, improving health, respite to family, access to support, and demonstration of the values of Freemasonry.

Lawson-Smith Educational Trust

Established under the terms of the Will of the late Max Lawson-Smith, the Lawson-Smith Freemasons Education Trust Veterinary and Animal Science Scholarships aim to promote and support the studying of veterinary programmes at Massey University.

Hugh McDougall Rankin Educational Trust

The late Hugh McDougall Rankin established the Trust to encourage and reward high-performing Science students in Christchurch with scholarships, aiming to provide educational support and opportunities by increasing students' scientific skills and qualifications.

The Rankin Trust provides annual secondary scholarships to students attending Christchurch state secondary schools, and tertiary scholarships to students attending University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, and Ara Institute of Canterbury.

Charities Management Committee

The Charities Management Committee oversees and carries out the charitable purposes of the various trusts under the umbrella of The Freemasons Charity.

This involves adopting an annual budget, setting a business plan, and approving and monitoring the operational and management structure of the charity as to ensure the attainment of the charitable objectives of the Trust and governance requirements.

The CMC oversee the trusts and portfolios with administrative support from the Charity Administrator.

Freemasons Charities

Financial Performance



Income and Expenses	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	Freemasons	Potter	Lawson-Smith	Hugh McDougall	
	Charity	Masonic Trust	Education Trust	Rankin Ed. Trust	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Income</u>					
Investment Income (realised and unrealised)	4,292,482	5,129,652	245,224	274,074	9,941,431
Bequests and Donations	47,825	2,617	-	-	50,442
Total Income	4,340,307	5,132,269	245,224	274,074	9,991,873
<u>Expenses</u>					
Grants, donations and related expenses	1,274,227	1,319,334	55,141	75,287	2,723,990
Other expenses	325,283	296,452	17,643	20,842	660,220
Total Expenses	1,599,511	1,615,786	72,784	96,129	3,384,209
Surplus for the year	2,740,796	3,516,483	172,440	177,945	6,607,664

Investment income (net of investment management costs) - Investment returns in 2024 were significantly above long run average returns

The gross investment returns (before management fees and costs) and related benchmark returns were:

	Gross Return	Benchmark
- Freemasons Charity	11.72%	9.35%
- Potter Masonic Trust - Investments	12.79%	9.88%
- Potter Masonic Trust - Property	15.53%	9.41%
- Lawson Smith Education Trust	12.64%	9.35%
- Hugh McDougal Rankin Education Trust	11.94%	9.35%

Grants, donations and related expenses

Grant and donation levels set in accordance with the Distribution of Income Policy, which balances:

- Maintenance of the financial assets in real terms; and
- Funding charitable activities in the short to medium term

Other expenses includes the administration services fees charged by Freemasons New Zealand National Office.

Freemasons Charities

Balance Sheet



Net Assets	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	Freemasons	Potter	Lawson-Smith	Hugh McDougall	
	Charity	Masonic Trust	Education Trust	Rankin Ed. Trust	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Investments (current and non-current)	40,490,158	38,170,694	2,140,709	2,524,564	83,326,126
Current Assets (including bank balances)	77,905	28,119	2,584	24,277	132,885
Current Liabilities (accounts payable and accruals)	(60,142)	(13,225)	(3,864)	(10,864)	(88,095)
Net Assets	40,507,921	38,185,588	2,139,429	2,537,977	83,370,915

Investments are independently managed by JB Were under a SIPO
(Statement of Investment Policy & Objectives) for each charity

Other masonic charities have the option of using the services of:

- Freemasons New Zealand National Office charities / finance teams; and
- The independent investment management provided JB Were



Questions?

Freemasons AGM

Auckland November 2024

Brett Hewson



FREEMASONS
New Zealand

Agenda

- Freemasons Scheme - Performance and Activities
- Heartland Group - Annual Results
- Questions



FREEMASONS
New Zealand

Freemasons Scheme Overview

- Partnership commenced 8th February 2013
- Based on the aligned values and community focus
- Migrated from an earlier scheme with ANZ/National
- Commission paid monthly to Grand Lodge at 0.25%pa
- Dedicated email, 0508 number and staff
- Annual Scholarships and Sponsorships and Advertising in the magazine.
- Number of Accounts 2440 (2465 11/23) Number of Customers 1252.
- Current balances \$112.0m (\$109.7m) 2.2% (5.5%) YOY Growth



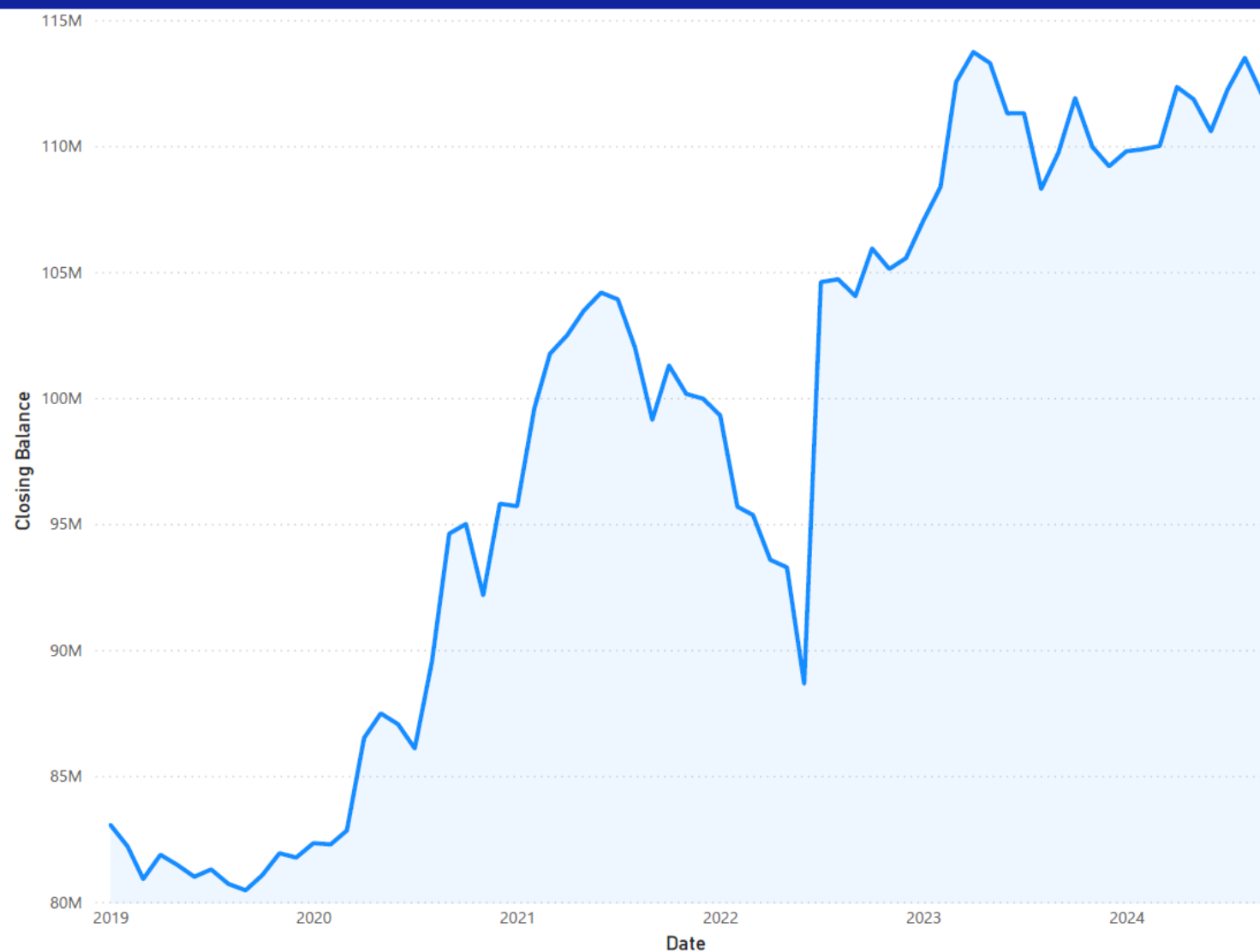
FREEMASONS
New Zealand

Freemasons Scheme Performance

Freemasons Historical Balance

Year	Closing Balance	Month Growth
2019	977,723,897.38	-1,499,725.92
2020	1,061,720,202.69	14,046,655.12
2021	1,213,671,847.77	4,169,468.68
2022	1,195,839,217.67	5,577,577.26
2023	1,326,700,318.34	3,545,767.43
January	107,035,304.86	1,481,651.69
February	108,377,043.42	1,341,738.56
March	112,544,638.21	4,167,594.79
April	113,730,955.10	1,186,316.89
May	113,292,060.04	-438,895.06
June	111,297,718.30	-1,994,341.74
July	111,305,946.11	8,227.81
August	108,299,094.70	-3,006,851.41
September	109,746,009.38	1,446,914.68
October	111,905,748.00	2,057,475.71
November	109,964,116.71	-1,941,631.29
December	109,201,683.51	-762,433.20
2024	1,002,257,126.31	2,837,833.12
January	109,793,256.02	591,572.51
February	109,878,858.43	85,602.41
March	110,006,742.61	127,884.18
April	112,345,561.40	2,338,818.79
May	111,854,551.42	-491,009.98
June	110,589,473.28	-1,265,078.14
July	112,244,943.83	1,655,470.55
August	113,504,222.69	1,259,278.86
September	112,039,516.63	-1,464,706.06
Total	6,777,912,610.16	28,677,575.69

Freemasons Historical Balances



Freemasons Scheme Performance

Freemasons Accounts and Balances by Region

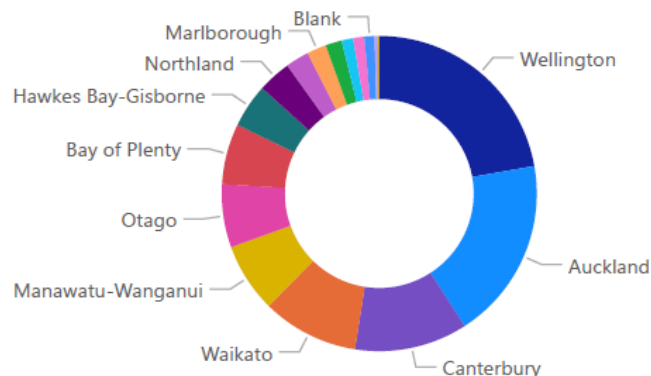
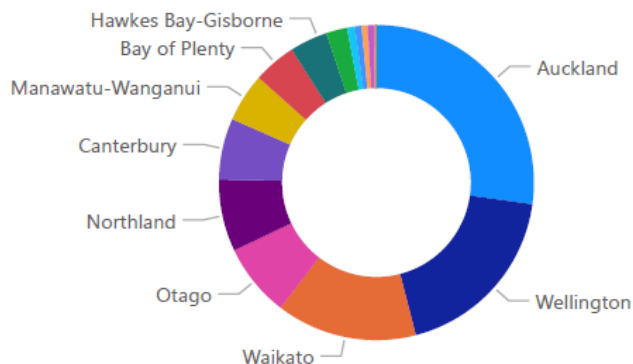
Date

30/09/2024

Region	# of Customers	Customer Growth	# of Accounts	Account Growth	Balance	Balance Growth
Auckland	234	0	411	-2	30,487,551.45	-77,871.23
Wellington	278	0	566	-1	21,033,984.72	-54,248.76
Waikato	124	0	240	2	16,175,343.35	-294,451.07
Otago	81	-2	170	-1	8,407,169.21	-263,870.53
Northland	43	0	103	0	8,278,061.28	-632,612.44
Canterbury	145	0	278	2	7,039,361.42	-250,181.36
Manawatu-Wanganui	89	0	191	-2	5,608,000.08	13,859.69
Bay of Plenty	78	-2	144	-2	4,917,711.49	41,088.07
Hawkes Bay-Gisborne	56	-2	119	0	4,306,674.98	20,877.21
Nelson-Tasman	21	0	37	-1	2,433,564.91	-2,346.64
Southland	15	0	24	0	904,356.38	3,212.31
Blank	13	0	26	0	765,189.37	6,076.34
Marlborough	25	0	46	-1	707,529.77	2,108.26
International	30	-1	57	2	694,527.58	5,319.89
Taranaki	14	0	20	0	168,073.55	18,354.83
West Coast	4	0	6	0	99,700.69	-64.39
Incorrect Post Code	2	0	2	0	12,716.40	43.76
Total	1252	-7	2440	-4	112,039,516.63	-1,464,706.06

Balance by Region

No of Customers by Region

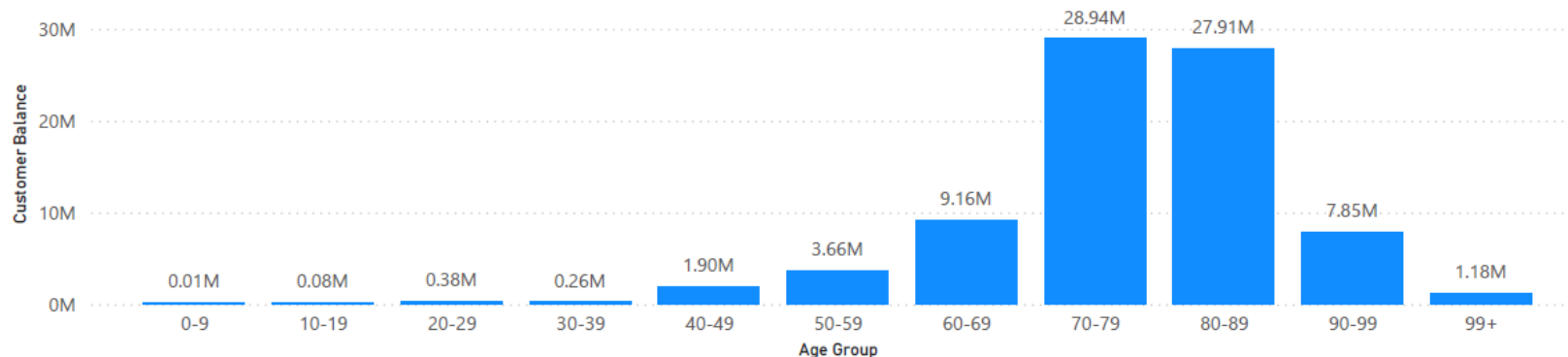


Freemasons Scheme -Performance

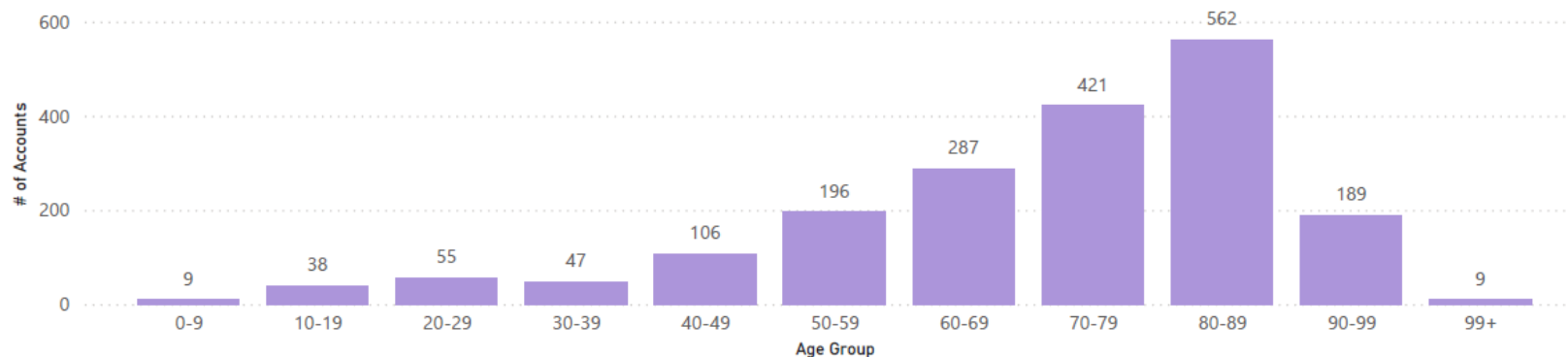
Freemasons Age Profile - By Customer Balance

Date

30/09/2024

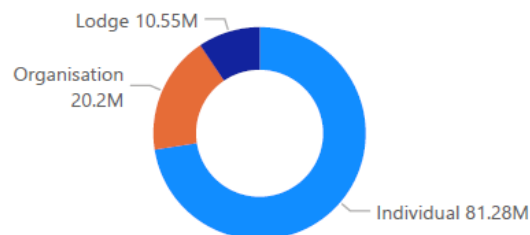


Freemasons Age Profile - By # of Accounts

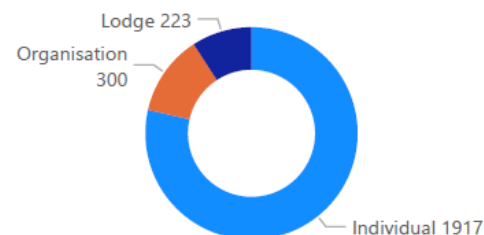


Total Balance \$ by Account Category

of Accounts by Account Category



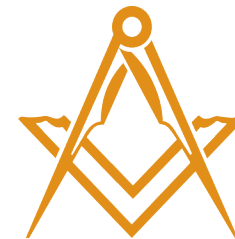
Category
● Individual
● Organisation
● Lodge



Category
● Individual
● Organisation
● Lodge

Freemasons Scheme-Activities

- Scheme Grows \$2.3m (\$5.9m) year on year to \$112.0m
- Annual Commission paid 12 months to September \$281,364 (\$267,087) (\$244,305)(\$230,312) (\$239 049) 0.25% since 1st Dec 2019.
- Some Senior staffing changes within Heartland Bank- Geoff Greenslade Retires.
- Continuation of Monthly Analytics Pack
- Continuation of Advertising, Scholarship and Sponsorship commitments.
- Increased focus on Reverse Mortgage Advertising
- Use of Digital Marketing TD Campaign November–13 applications of \$0.330m



Planning for 2024

- Interest rate environment – now softening
- Ongoing need for all of us to speak for the scheme.
- Continued use of Digital Campaigning and to advertise in the magazine.
- Target continued expansion in customer base .
- Target expansion in revenue through Reverse Mortgage marketing.
- Continued collaborative approach with Grand Lodge.
- Useful Contact details 0508 373 362 freemasons@heartland.co.nz

2024 Annual Results

Year Ended 30 June 2024

A Solid but not a Record year reflecting the challenges of the current economic environment.

HEARTLAND

Financial performance



Net operating income
+5.1m vs FY2023

\$290.4m



Net profit after tax¹
-22.2%vs FY2023 Underlying
profit \$102.7m -6.7% FY2023

\$74.5m



Gross finance receivables²
+6.4% vs FY2023

\$7.2b

Strategic highlights



Completed the Challenger Bank Acquisition now rebranded to Heartland Bank Australia



Equity raise of \$210m to fund the purchase



Completed an upgrade of Heartland's Core Banking System in November 2023



Heartland Bank Awarded Canstar Savings Bank of the year for the Seventh Year



Australian Reverse Mortgages loan book surpassed A\$1.8bn.



New Zealand Reverse Mortgage Book surpasses \$1.0bn



Heartland Trust provides Grants to the community of \$886k for YE 2024 (\$716k)



NZ Reverse Mortgages remains **Consumer Trusted** for the seventh in a row.

Our Values

Our mātāpono (values)



Mahi tika

Do the right thing
Do what's right and true.



Mahi tahi

Be one team
We're all in this together.



Mahi toa

Have big ambition
Feel the fear and do it anyway.



Mahi tipu

Be always evolving
Strive for excellence.

Thank you

HEARTLAND
— BANK —



FREEMASONS
New Zealand

**TRUSTEE
LIABILITY,
PROPERTY
&
INSURANCE
ISSUES**

**UPDATE
ANNUAL
COMMUNICATION
9TH NOVEMBER 2024**



SO, WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE DIVISIONAL SEMINARS IN JUNE 2024?

- The Grand Lodge Group Insurance Scheme ("*GLGIS*") has been renewed for the 2024/25 year;
- The Grand Lodge Management Liability policy has also been renewed for the 2024/25 year;
- Lodges must update their by-laws to comply with both the Trusts Act 2019 ("*the Act*") and the Book of Constitution ("*BoC*");
- A number of lodges still continue to be in breach of both the Act and the BoC by not filing either their annual return, their annual financial report, or both;
- A strategic plan for masonic property is being developed for wider consultation during 2025.



GLGIS–RENEWAL FOR 2024 / 25

- Insurance cover for all risks covered under the GLGIS will be renewed effective from 31st August 2024;
- Neville Newcombe Insurance Brokers Limited have been appointed brokers to replace Crombie Lockwood (now Gallaghers);
- Hollard Insurance have been appointed insurers. Hollard are the general insurance partner to Kiwibank and have a Standard & Poor's "A" financial strength rating;
- The Fire Service Levy ("*FSL*") increased by 0.0135% effective from the renewal date (\$1.35 plus per \$10,000 of cover).



GLGIS–RENEWAL FOR 2024 / 25

- Renewal notices have been issued and lodges/masonic entities have the option of paying premiums monthly;
- **PLEASE** check your renewal notice to ensure that you have the correct level and type of cover and immediately notify the broker of any changes to be made;
- Some lodges/masonic entities may have to get an insurance valuation to ensure that the level of replacement cover is adequate;
- By law, you have to complete a Fire Service Levy Declaration. Depending on the indemnity value of the property, the premium may (slightly) increase or decrease.



PREMIUM RATES FOR THE 2024/25 YEAR - COMPARISON

	2023/34	2024/25	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Total Sum Insured	\$112,018,132	\$233,666,622	+\$121,648,490	+108.60%
Total Premium	\$300,958	\$477,918	+\$105,420	+35.03%
Premium Rate (%)	0.27%	0.20%	-\$105,420	-.07%



A REMINDER ABOUT THE PROCESS TO FOLLOW IF INSURING FOR LESS THAN REPLACEMENT VALUE

➤ If you go to...

<https://freemasons.nz.org/2024-seminars>

- ...you will find draft lodge and trustee resolutions that can be used for this purpose. These resolutions can be easily modified for use by a company.
- For lodges and lodge trustees, it is important to note the following clauses in both the resolutions of the lodge (members) and the trustees:



A REMINDER ABOUT THE PROCESS TO FOLLOW IF INSURING FOR LESS THAN REPLACEMENT VALUE

➤Lodge members resolution:

“Moved by <name (not a Trustee)>, seconded by <name (not a Trustee)>, that the Secretary of the Lodge be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Executive Director of Freemasons NZ for the attention of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.”

➤Lodge trustee's resolution:

“Moved by <name of trustee>, seconded by <name of trustee>, that the Secretary of the Lodge be directed to send a copy of this resolution (including a copy of the Lodge resolution) to the Executive Director of Freemasons NZ for the attention of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.”



GRAND LODGE MANAGEMENT LIABILITY POLICY

- **Who is covered?** All craft lodges PLUS all masonic entities that have their assets insured under the GLGIS.
- **What is covered?** Public Liability (\$20,000,000), Statutory Liability (\$2,000,000), Associations Cover (\$2,000,000), Legal Defence Costs (\$1,000,000), Director's & Officers Liability (\$500,000) plus other liability cover.
- **Who is the insurer?** Vero Liability (Standard & Poor's AA-financial strength rating).
- **Who pays the premium?** Freemasons NZ



A REMINDER ABOUT RECORD KEEPING OBLIGATIONS FOR LODGE TRUSTEES

- Section 45 of the Trusts Act 2019 requires each trustee to keep the following records:
 - The trust deed (the lodge By-Laws), including any changes;
 - Records that properly identify all the assets and liabilities, income and expenses of the trust;
 - Proper accounting records;
 - A record of all trustee decisions, including minutes of all meetings;
 - A copy of any written contracts that the trustees enter into.
- In the case of a lodge, the trustees **must instruct** the secretary and treasurer to maintain these records on their behalf.



THE RULE 119 D CONUNDRUM

d. Any income from the investments of the Lodge Building Fund controlled by a Craft Lodge may be used by the Craft Lodge.

THE RULE 119 D CONUNDRUM

	Lodge A	Lodge B	Lodge C
Building Fund	Investments	Building	Investments
INCOME			
Dues	\$2,100	\$21,700	\$13,800
Refectory	\$0	\$1,800	\$10,200
Other	\$0	\$3,100	\$1,900
TOTAL	\$2,100	\$26,600	\$25,900

THE RULE 119 D CONUNDRUM

	Lodge A	Lodge B	Lodge C
Building Fund	Investments	Building	Investments
EXPENDITURE			
Refectory	\$9,100	\$4,100	\$5,000
Rent	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
Building Costs	\$0	\$13,100	\$0
Other	\$7,000	\$9,300	\$28,000
TOTAL	\$20,100	\$26,500	\$33,000

THE RULE 119 D CONUNDRUM

	Lodge A	Lodge B	Lodge C
Building Fund	Investments	Building	Investments
Operating Loss/Profit	-\$18,000	\$100	-\$7,100
Building Fund Interest	\$34,000	\$0	\$0
PROFIT/LOSS	\$16,000	\$100	-\$7,100



**WE ASKED
YOU THESE
QUESTIONS
AT THE JUNE
2024
DIVISIONAL
SEMINARS**

- Given the significant liability issues associated with, in particular, mixed-use (masonic/commercial) property should we:
 - “Stick to our knitting” and only own/build dedicated masonic property?
 - Do we need more than 100 properties with a combined value in excess of \$150 to \$200 million for a membership of about 5,000?
 - If you were asked “what are the strategic masonic locations in your district or division”, what would your answer be?



**... AND WE
WOULD
REALLY
APPRECIATE
YOUR
ANSWERS**

**Let us know what you think
and email any “answers for
the future” or any
suggestions/ideas to:**

secretary@freemasons.nz

