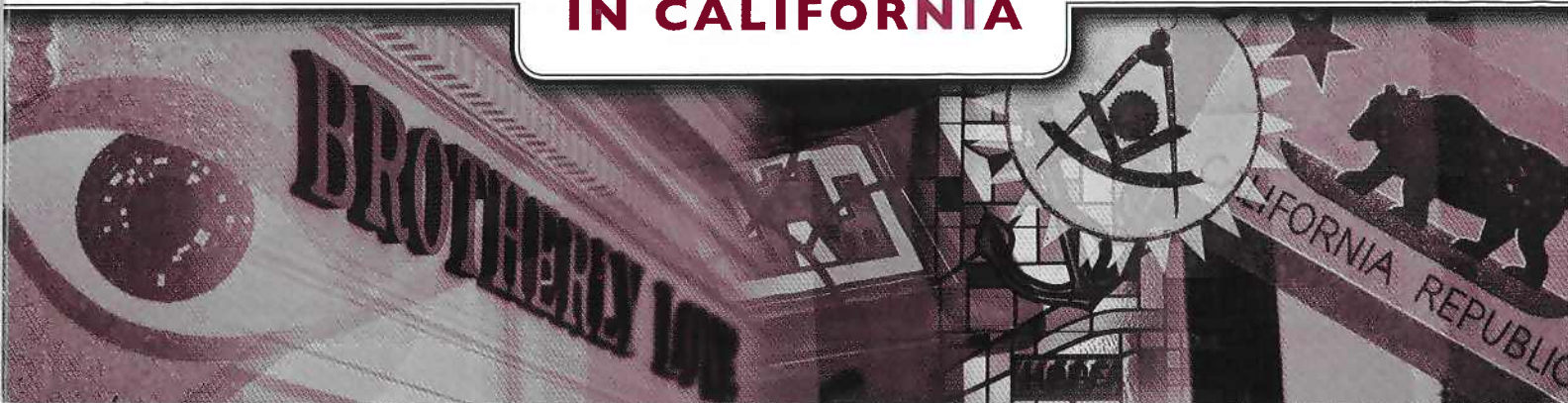


MEMBER'S GUIDE TO

Masonry

IN CALIFORNIA



Masonic values

Freemasonry is a fraternity based on the belief that each person has a responsibility to help make the world a better place. Through philanthropy, personal development and community service, the fraternity lets men associate with other men of honor and integrity who believe that honesty, compassion, love, trust and knowledge are important. Masons believe in the importance of religion; men of all faiths and religious beliefs are members of the organization. Freemasonry celebrates ethnic diversity and welcomes men of all racial backgrounds.

As Masons we value and promote:

Philanthropy

We make a difference in our communities through charitable giving, community service and volunteerism.

Ethics

Our lives are based on honor and integrity, and we believe that honesty, compassion, trust and knowledge are important.

Personal growth

Our continuous pursuit of knowledge, ethics, spirituality and leadership brings more meaning to our lives.

Tolerance

The fraternity values religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences. We respect the opinions of others and strive to improve and develop as human beings.

Freedom

Masons value the liberties outlined in the U.S. Constitution and continually promote freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship a Supreme Being in an individual way, and other important liberties. We believe it is our duty to vote in public elections and to exercise all of our liberties within proper bounds.

Family

We strive to be better spouses, parents and family members and are committed to protecting the well being of members and their families, especially when they are in need.



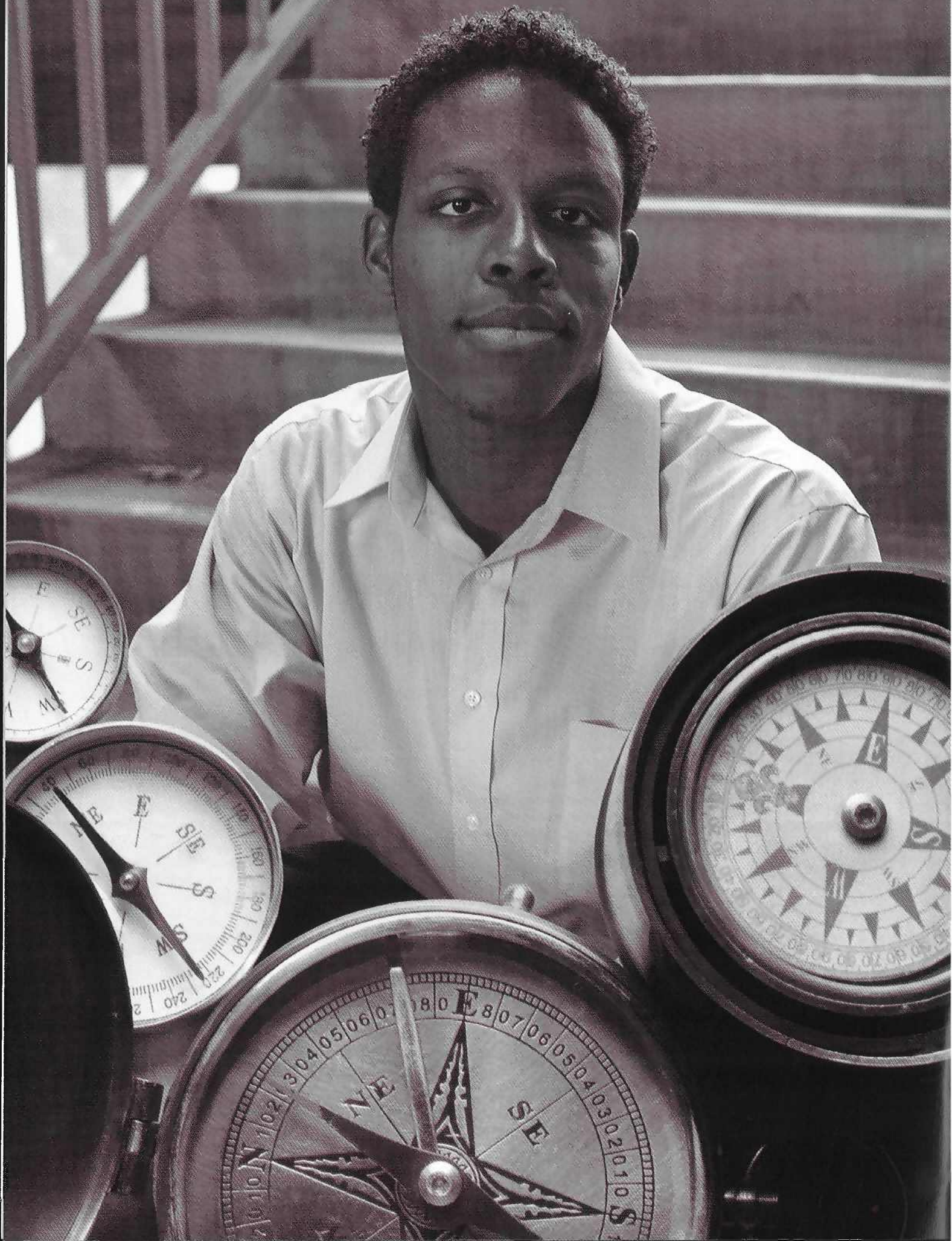
Welcome,

BROTHER

Your guide to Masonry in California

As a member of the world's first fraternity, you have joined the tens of thousands of brothers who are the Masons of California. This guide will familiarize you with the organization and provide information about how to fully participate in the fraternity for a lifetime of friendships, personal growth, philanthropic activity and fraternal support. While this guide is comprehensive, it does not cover all aspects of the organization. Please feel free to ask questions of your lodge officers.

Welcome, brother!



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Your Degree Work

ADVANCING THROUGH THE THREE DEGREES

As a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, you have embarked upon an experience of Masonic education that will last a lifetime.

The degrees of Masonry are serious, educational and time-tested teachings. Each degree has a primary lesson.

Your initiation in the first degree is a great beginning. As you prepare yourself to receive the second and third degrees, you will develop a deeper understanding of the role Masonry will play in your future as you strive to achieve success and fulfillment in life.

As an Entered Apprentice, you are entitled to attend your own lodge when opened on the Entered Apprentice degree and may attend another lodge if accompanied by a Master Mason of your lodge who will vouch for you.

To gain the most benefit from your membership, you should immediately begin preparing with your coach to take the Fellow Craft degree. When you become a Fellow Craft, you will be entitled to attend any meeting of your lodge opened on either the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degrees in your lodge as well as visit other lodges when you are accompanied by a Master Mason of your lodge to vouch for you.

The next step is to prepare yourself to take the third degree and become a member of the Masonic fraternity, with all the rights and privileges of a Master Mason, including full participation in the business of your lodge.

RECEIVING DEGREES OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

If you move out of state, either temporarily or permanently, you may receive your second and third degrees, including coaching and examinations for proficiency, in a lodge outside our California jurisdiction. To request this courtesy, which must be approved by the lodge in which you were elected and Grand Lodge, submit a written request to the secretary of your lodge.

Discussing Masonry With Non-Masons

You are encouraged to share your pride and feelings about Masonry with others, especially your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Let them know what being a member of the fraternity means to you. As is true of any fraternal organization, the only things not to be discussed are the rituals, grips and passwords of the three degrees.

Tell others why you became a Mason and the rewards of membership: personal growth; friendships with men and their families who share your beliefs and values; participating in community service and philanthropic programs; and being part of an organization committed to making a difference.

You may talk freely about the purposes and principles of the fraternity, membership requirements, financial obligations and expectations of members while honoring your duty to protect the secret portion of the ritual from improper disclosure and maintain the confidentiality of all lodge proceedings.

Prepare yourself with answers to two frequently asked questions: "Who are the Masons?" and "What do Masons do?" Several answers are appropriate:

- ▶ Masonry is the world's first and largest fraternal organization.
- ▶ Our mission is to promote our members' personal growth and self-improvement.
- ▶ We are devoted to family, faith, country and fraternity.
- ▶ We are obligated to aid and assist one another and our families.
- ▶ We believe each of us has a responsibility to help make the world a better place.

- ▶ We give back to our communities and support numerous Masonic philanthropies dedicated to education, children and leadership.

Remember, a man must ask to join the fraternity. Your role is to share your pride in the fraternity and provide appropriate information that motivates a man to seek membership.

- ▶ Tell him about the fraternity, its purpose and principles
- ▶ Tell him what benefits Masonry will bring to his life

Personal growth

Friendships with men and their families who share your beliefs and values

Participating in community service and philanthropic programs

Being part of an organization committed to making a difference

- ▶ Tell him why you became and remain a Mason
- ▶ Tell him why he would make a good Mason
- ▶ Tell him about membership requirements, financial obligations and expectations of members

You may ask a man if he has considered membership in the fraternity, if he would like to have information to help him make such a decision, and if he has questions about Masonry. Give him the wallet brochure and the membership information packet. Let him know that he can complete the application.

Your Membership

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

The rights and duties of California Masons are stated in the California Masonic Code and the Ritual. Following is a summary of rights and duties from the California Masonic Code:

Rights of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft

- ▶ You may sit in the lodge in which you received the degree or degrees when open in the degree. You may visit another lodge working in your degree, with the consent of the Master of your lodge and the Master of the lodge you visit, and when accompanied by a Master Mason who has sat in lodge with you.
- ▶ You may be buried with Masonic honors.

Rights and duties of Master Mason

When you become a Master Mason, you will have the following additional rights and duties:

RIGHTS

- ▶ You may participate in all lodge meetings. For a breach of propriety, or if a member presents himself in a state of intoxication, the Master may refuse admission to the meeting.
- ▶ You have the right to a Masonic memorial service or burial with Masonic honors. If your financial circumstances require it, the lodge may pay your burial expenses and the burial expenses of your widow and any orphans dependent upon her.
- ▶ You may seek relief from the lodge.
- ▶ You have the right to vote on matters before the lodge and on applications for degrees and affiliation.

- ▶ You may request a demit or transfer to another lodge.

DUTIES

- ▶ Uphold the moral duties contained in your obligation.
- ▶ Obey Masonic law in the California Masonic Code and the rights and duties contained in the Ritual.
- ▶ Retain membership in a lodge and pay dues.
- ▶ Protect the esoteric or secret portion of the ritual from improper disclosure.
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality of all lodge proceedings.
- ▶ Comply with any notice from your lodge if you can do so without great inconvenience. This notice may be personal and delivered to you or directed to all members of a lodge as an insertion in the lodge bulletin or sent by mail.
- ▶ Obey a summons, which is an imperative order to appear as specified.
- ▶ Attend the funeral of a deceased member of your lodge or any other Master Mason residing within the vicinity of your lodge at the time of his death.

RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Political or religious involvement

When you are in your lodge or Grand Lodge, you may not discuss political or religious matters. Invocations, benedictions and prayers which would have a sectarian significance are not delivered. Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges do not interfere or voice an opinion with regard to political or religious matters.

Business activities

Masonic lodges do not regularly offer goods or services to the general public and do not provide a forum which encourages business relations to grow nor which enhances any commercial advantage of its members.

Alcoholic beverages

Alcoholic beverages are not served, consumed, or sold during a lodge meeting or in a lodge room or other room in which Masonic ceremonies are normally conducted. Lodge funds are not used to purchase alcoholic beverages and lodges may not maintain, on a regular or permanent basis, a bar stocked with alcoholic beverages. Alcohol may be consumed in the banquet room of a lodge or in some other venue.

Financial aid solicitation

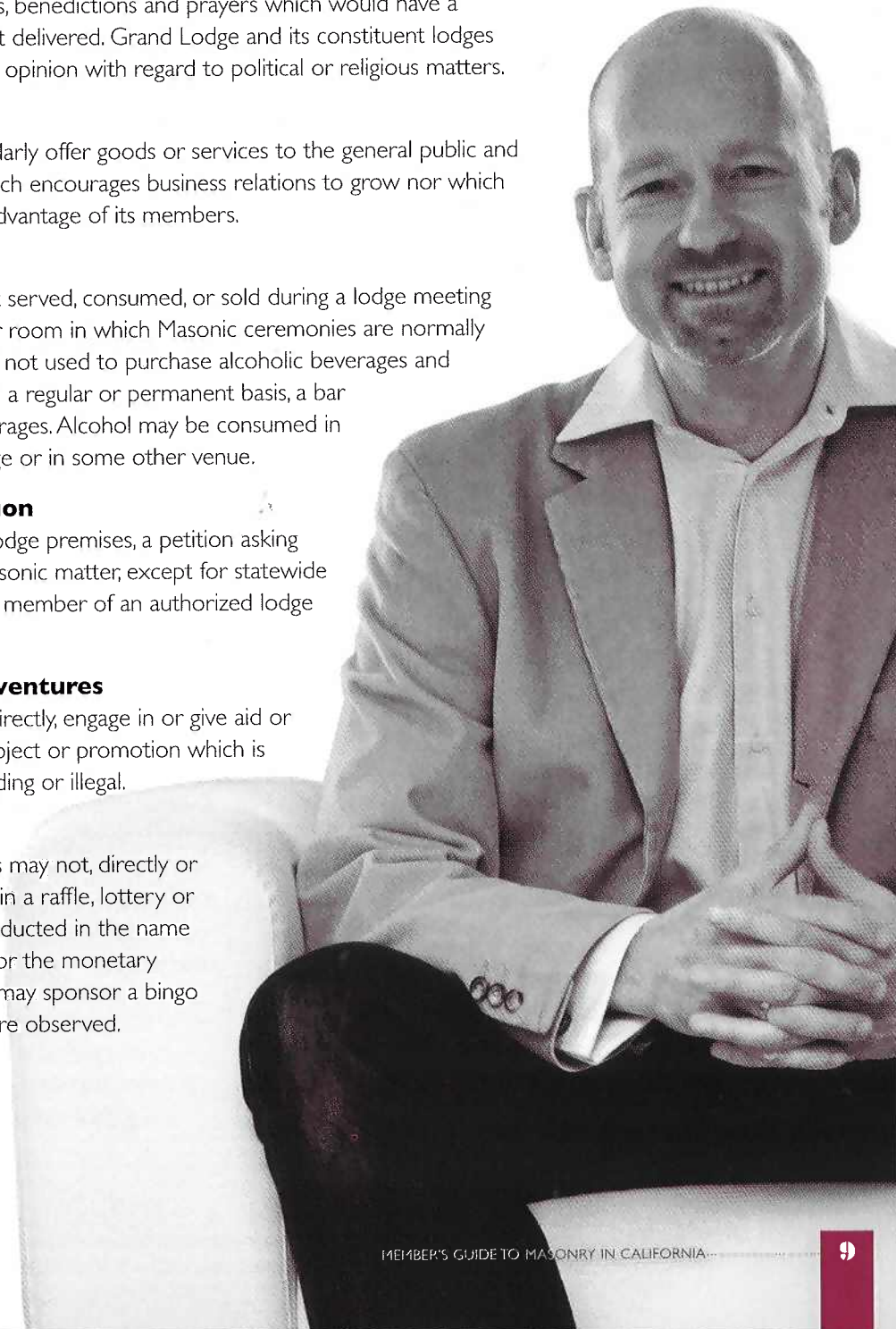
You may not circulate, on lodge premises, a petition asking financial aid for any non-Masonic matter, except for statewide public school purposes as a member of an authorized lodge committee.

Fraudulent or illegal ventures

You may not, directly or indirectly, engage in or give aid or support to any business, project or promotion which is unethical, fraudulent, misleading or illegal.

Gambling

Masonic lodges and Masons may not, directly or indirectly, aid or participate in a raffle, lottery or other form of gambling conducted in the name of, or directly or indirectly for the monetary benefit of a lodge. A lodge may sponsor a bingo game only if specific rules are observed.



DUES

Dues begin at Master Mason degree

Each lodge establishes its own dues. Dues begin the first day of the month after you receive the Master Mason degree and are due by December 31 each year for the coming year. It is customary for the lodge secretary to send notices of dues payment before the end of the year. If a lodge increases its dues, members who have paid in advance must pay the increase.

You will receive a dues card, which you may be asked to show as proof you are a member in good standing.

Life membership

Some lodges offer a life membership plan which forever exempts a participating member from paying annual dues in the lodge. There are several benefits to becoming a life member:

- ▶ Annual dues payment is no longer required
- ▶ You will never be suspended for non-payment of dues
- ▶ You will leave an ongoing financial legacy to support your lodge activities in perpetuity
- ▶ Your widow and/or orphans will always be eligible for relief

Your lodge may offer one of the following payment options for purchasing a life membership:

- ▶ Pay an amount not less than 20.83 times the lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership

- ▶ Pay an amount equal to the lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership multiplied by the factor indicated opposite the member's age in the following schedule:

Age 18 to 49 inclusive:	21 times annual dues
50 to 54 inclusive:	19 times annual dues
55 to 59 inclusive:	17 times annual dues
60 to 64 inclusive:	14 times annual dues
65 and over:	11 times annual dues

A life membership is an executed contract that can be rescinded only by consent of the lodge and the life member.

Suspension for non-payment of dues

If you do not pay dues for 12 months, you will be notified of suspension from lodge membership and you will be declared suspended if all dues have not been paid by your lodge's next stated meeting. If sickness or inability to pay is the cause, contact your lodge to request additional time for payment or a remit. A member will not be expelled from Masonry for non-payment of dues.

Restoring membership after suspension for non-payment of dues

Your membership will be restored automatically if, within two years, you pay the amount due at the time of your suspension as well as the dues that accrued while you were suspended. If your suspension lasts longer than two years, a request for restoration must be voted upon by your lodge.



MULTIPLE LODGE MEMBERSHIPS

You may be a member of more than one lodge, which is a multiple membership. You must apply for affiliation and be elected by the lodge in which you want to affiliate. A multiple membership is either a dual or a plural membership.

Dual: Dual membership is membership in lodges of different jurisdictions. If you move to another jurisdiction (a recognized Grand lodge in a different state or country) which allows dual membership, you may affiliate with one or more lodges of that jurisdiction and maintain your membership in your California lodge.

Plural: Plural membership is membership in two or more lodges in the same jurisdiction. You may retain membership in your first lodge and affiliate with one or more other lodges in California.

As a multiple member you pay the dues required by each lodge in which you are a member and enjoy the rights and privileges of membership in each of the lodges. Multiple members cannot serve as Master, Warden or Secretary of more than one lodge at the same time, except for research lodges.

If you, your wife, widow or orphans are in need, relief is shared by the California lodges in which you hold membership in proportion to the length of your membership in each lodge.

If you are a multiple member, you may withdraw from a lodge, in this jurisdiction at any time by requesting a Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership, which will be decided upon at a stated meeting.

TRANSFERRING YOUR LODGE MEMBERSHIP

You may transfer your membership to another California lodge by applying for affiliation. You will need to show your dues card, which is proof that your dues are paid for the current calendar year, and a demit indicating termination of membership in that lodge.

You may transfer your membership to a lodge in a jurisdiction outside California by asking your lodge secretary for a Certificate of Standing specifying the date through which your dues are paid. When you are elected to the other lodge, a notification of election will be sent to the lodge you are leaving and a demit indicating your lodge membership withdrawal will be issued.

WITHDRAWAL FROM LODGE MEMBERSHIP

A member may not resign from membership in the fraternity—

"Once a Mason, always a Mason."

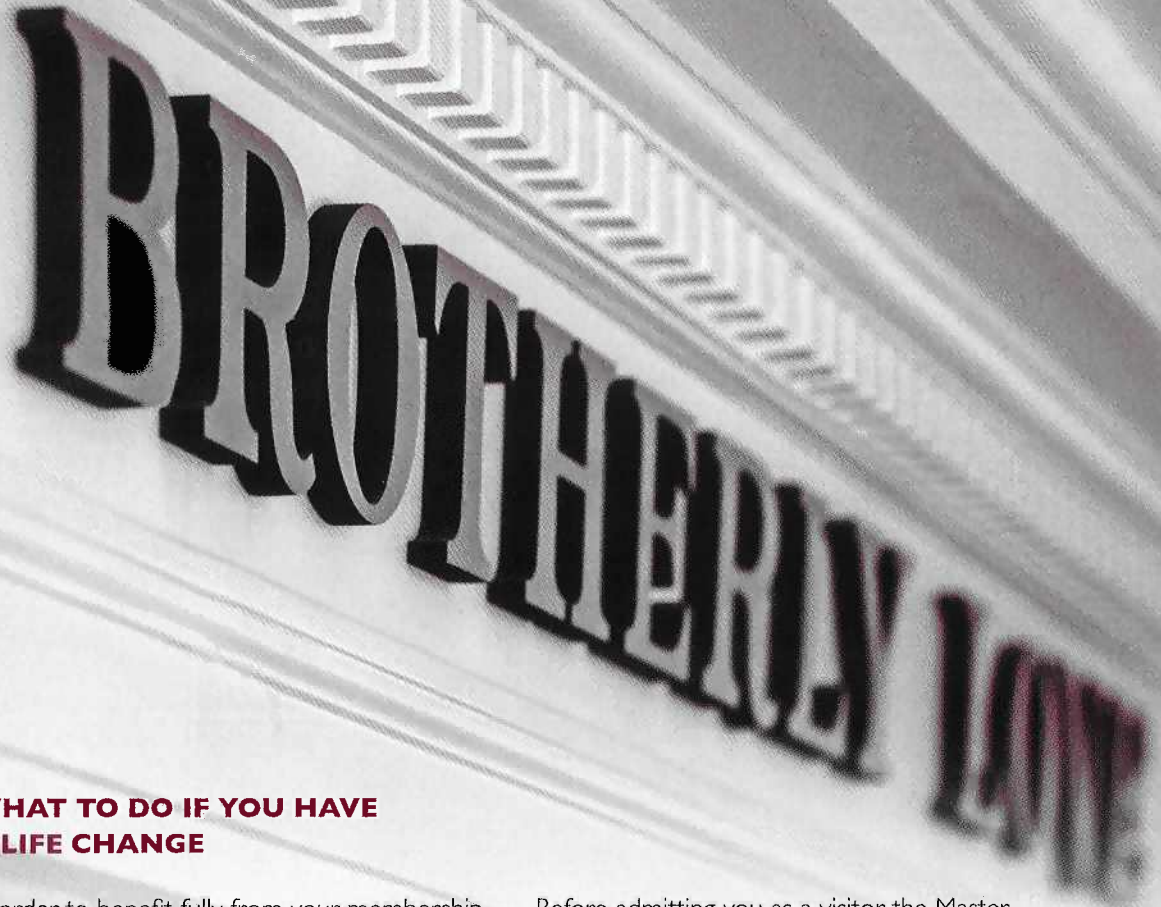
Membership in a lodge, however, can be terminated but only by:

- ▶ Dissolution of the lodge
- ▶ Consolidation of the lodge with another lodge
- ▶ Receiving a demit (withdrawal) or obtaining a Certificate of Discontinuance of Multiple Membership
- ▶ Expulsion
- ▶ Death

You may withdraw membership in a lodge at any time, provided you are a member in good standing, by requesting a demit from your lodge secretary. Membership in the lodge will terminate as of the date of the demit, but you will remain in good standing for a period of one year from the date of your demit. If you

do not become a member of some lodge within that year, you will no longer be entitled to the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation, and you will remain subject to the duties of Masonry and disciplinary jurisdiction of Grand Lodge. If you hold a demit for longer than one year, all Masons and lodges are prohibited from having any communication with you involving the esoteric or secret portion of the ritual.

If you are an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, you may withdraw from the lodge at any time if the lodge approves your request and issues a demit. If you receive a demit, you will not be entitled to the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, except the right to apply for affiliation, and you will remain subject to all of the duties of Masonry and disciplinary jurisdiction of Grand Lodge.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A LIFE CHANGE

In order to benefit fully from your membership and receive all member communication from your lodge and Grand Lodge, it is important that you keep your member profile information current. When changes occur in your life, it is important to inform your lodge secretary. These changes include:

- ▶ Home address
- ▶ Phone number
- ▶ Email address
- ▶ Occupation
- ▶ Marital status

If you move to another town, state or country, Grand Lodge can assist you in connecting with lodges in your new area. Information about your marital status is important because of the fraternity's obligation to care for Masonic widows and orphans.

VISITING OTHER LODGES

A privilege you have as a Master Mason is to attend a meeting of a lodge other than your own. The Master or presiding officer of the lodge may grant or refuse attendance.

Before admitting you as a visitor, the Master or presiding officer of the lodge you visit will request proof you are a Mason and evidence from your lodge showing you are in good standing, which is your dues card. You may be asked to retire from the meeting if controversial or sensitive matters will be discussed.

MASONIC REGALIA

Masonic regalia include aprons, jewels and implements of office and the Master's hat. The apron may be worn at any Masonic gathering at which lodge officers are authorized to wear their aprons.

Except for burial of a Mason or for the performance of other strictly Masonic duties or ceremonies, you are not to appear in Masonic regalia in any public meeting, procession or parade unless a special dispensation is requested and granted by the Inspector. Rings, pins, shirts, and other clothing and accessories bearing Masonic logos are permitted.

