

Richard Brouse Degree Lodge #190 - February 23, 2025

Present: Degree Master Mason Wolf, Deputy Degree Master Stacy Thomason, Secretary Debra LaVergne, Financial Secretary Larry Guenther, Treasurer Deborah Wolf, Warden Andrew Crockett, Chaplain Jack Cain, Trustee Michael Steineke, Katrina Hazen, Jane Beckman, Sara Bruce, Jay Thomason, Alison Holeman, Dave Reed, Annie Cronin, Carol Wahrer, Alan Winston, Mary Jane Shabalin, Tom Blackburn.

The Degree Lodge was opened in the third degree by Degree Master Mason Wolf at 8:04 pm.

Michael Steineke is waiting for the weather to clear enough to do the welding while everything is still wet enough to avoid fire danger. He will have an estimate for the rest of the deck work in March. Grand Lodge has requested a W-9 form from him. He has submitted an invoice for the latest work.

Ambassadorial committee – Katrina Hazen did a flyer. She visited California Odd Fellows Lodge #1 and gave them information about the 2025 degree weekend. Annie Cronin spoke to Southern California Odd Fellows at the Grand Conductor reception. GW Carlos Juarez plans to promote it on his visits. Ed Burns might arrange a bus.

Odd Con report – DM Mason asked about plans for the Odd Con. Alan Winston talked about the costs of hiring musicians, which can be high because of the costs of transportation and lodging. Annie Cronin mentioned the musicians available in the Bay Area, specifically at Sycamore Lodge #129 and Cupertino #70. Alan asked about the vision for the event. Blue grass music can work with the English Country Dance that he calls. Carol Wahrer looked in Google and saw a Contra dance group in Yreka. Andrew Crockett spoke about the vision of a formal ball with dancing called by Alan. If we find local musicians, what might they charge? For lodge members - ask them to work free.

For others, it's a private-party gig comparable to a wedding and they'll probably charge between 150 and 500 dollars. The kind of musicians we want would play jigs, reels, and marches. Irish musicians can work, Contra musicians, and some classically trained musicians for English. Committee was appointed to find musicians – Stacy Thomason, Alan Winston (Alanprincewinston@gmail.com), Jane Beckman.

Odd Con logistics – Debbie Wolf reported. Annie Cronin had talked to Jack Cain about possibly having a whiskey tasting as a fundraiser.

Bylaws Committee – Mason Wolf is drafting bills for Grand Lodge

- 1) To clarify that membership in the degree lodge replaces the cave associate membership, and that membership in the degree lodge does not count against the allowed associate memberships.

It was moved by Larry Guenther and seconded by Alison Holeman to endorse this bill to go to Grand Lodge. The motion carried.

- 2) To remove the requirement that Noble Grand and Vice Grand of a lodge be present when a member of the lodge receives a degree.

It was moved by Larry Guenther and seconded by Andrew Crockett to endorse this bill to go to Grand Lodge. Discussion focused on the wisdom of allowing candidates to show up alone with a letter and no members of their lodge. The motion carried.

Secretary Debra LaVergne and Treasurer Deborah Wolf presented the annual report. It was moved by Larry Guenther and seconded by Andrew Crockett to approve the corrected report and send it to Grand Lodge. The motion carried.

Michael Steineke will look into options for improving the road leading up to the cave when he goes to do the welding.

Applications for Membership – Brother Desmond Purnell, DOB 9/30/1985, 219-512-3175, purnell.desmond@aol.com, 1405 Jefferson Ave #A, Laporte IN 46350. He is planning to come to the degrees in September.

Jack Cain and Carol Wahrer were appointed to the Interviewing Committee by DM Mason and Larry Guenther was appointed by DDM Stacy Thomason.

Fundraising – DM Mason would like the role of the ambassador committee to expand to include fundraising. Therefore, he added Jack Cain to the committee. Andrew Crockett suggested approaching his lodge about splitting the profit from their bolo tie fundraiser. Larry Guenther suggested a whiskey tasting at Grand Lodge Sessions asking for donations for RBDL.

It was moved by Larry Guenther and seconded by Andrew Crockett that RBDL will start fundraising for our own behalf after Grand Lodge has paid the existing contracts with Michael Steineke.

Catering – Joseph Ouellette taught and advised the members of Yreka #19 last year and they are more comfortable with the prospect of cooking for the degree weekend.

Mason Wolf has spoken to the Best Western Miner's Inn about a discount again. They have set aside a block of 40 rooms and will have a code for us to use.

Andrew Crockett reported on the props from Sierra Park. He has re-established communications with them. He will schedule a visit with a U-Haul to collect the props and bring them to the San Jose Odd Fellows Hall for sorting. DM Mason added Andrew Crockett and Sara Bruce to the Props committee which already had Jane Beckman.

Degree teams – Carol Wahrer and Livermore members will be joining San Francisco for the third degree team. District #107 will be conferring the second degree in Saratoga on April 22 and DM Mason Wolf expects to lock down the participants then.

Andrew Crockett will prepare a presentation on the rules for deducting expenses spent in support of a 501(c).

Meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra LaVergne