

Richard Brouse Degree Lodge – April 27, 2025

Present: Mason Wolf, Debra LaVergne, Dave Reed, Paul Dickinson Goodman, Katrina Hazen, Stacy Thomason, Jay Thomason, Debbie Wolf, Tom Blackburn, Alison Holeman, Jane Beckman, Kevin Sitz, Robert Seibel, Jack Cain, Lisa Harrigan, Carol Wahrer, Mary Jane Shabelin, Larry Guenther

Degree Lodge was opened at 8:12pm by Degree Master Mason Wolf. Robert Seibel was appointed as Warden pro-tem.

The minutes of March 23 were approved as distributed.

### **Sick and in Distress**

Michael Steineke was sick with a fever. He got a job as the full-time, paid fire chief for Shasta County.

### **Committee Reports**

The pile of wood debris needed to be disposed of. The burn season for Siskiyou County ends at the end of April. Lizzie Martinez can haul it away and take it to the dump. The \$300 dump fees were approved by the Executive Committee.

It was moved by Debbie Wolf and seconded by Jack Cain to ratify the action of the Executive Committee. The motion carried.

Michael Steineke says that removing the debris was part of his contract and will reimburse the degree lodge.

Debbie Wolf will take over the First Degree team. She will coordinate with Katrina to cast the Third Degree. Mason Wolf intends to take the list of needed roles to Grand Lodge to finish the casting. The limitation on that approach is that people who are distant are unable to come to rehearsals. Second degree was conferred in Saratoga last week with everyone off script. It will be conferred again in Redwood City in June.

Debbie Wolf recruited roles for the First Degree.

Debbie Wolf has a spreadsheet for degree casting.

Larry Guenther thinks there will be at least a quorum of members of Davis Encampment to do the Patriarchal Degree at the Cave. Mason Wolf wants to get more people joining the Encampment branch. He sees the Encampment branch as a meeting place for leaders from multiple lodges.

Larry Guenther has at least six or seven members committed to performing the Initiatory Degree. He is working on recruiting more.

Candidate Desmond is recovering from surgery and not available for interviewing yet.

Timothy Owen Price is a member of Manchester Unity and lives in Alabama. He wants to come to California and the Cave weekend. He will probably join an Odd Fellows Lodge in Mobile.

Fundraising committee:

Stacy Thomason showed her use of the lodge logo on coasters and hot pads for merchandising.

Larry Guenther asked if the lodge has official letterhead to use on receipts to donors. He was invited to design one.

Debbie Wolf showed a letter she has drafted as Ambassador Committee. She wants review quotes about the Cave Degree weekend for the back of the letter, preferably not all from members of the Degree Lodge.

Stacy Thomason is now on the Logistics Committee.

Alison Holeman asked if there is an age limit for attendance at the Odd Ball. As a social event, it is not limited.

Mason Wolf requested photos of the Cave to put into a slideshow that will run during breaks of Grand Lodge sessions.

Larry Guenther asked about raising the fee to \$75. It was moved by Larry Guenther and seconded by Robert Seibel to change the registration fee to \$75. There was much discussion about the effect of an extra \$20, especially on people who have limited incomes. People who work might have to take a day off from work to attend. Tom Blackburn suggested adding a donation space on the form. Maybe there can be a discount for degree team participants. Jack Cain suggested making the increase \$10 instead of \$20. Larry Guenther and Robert Seibel accepted that as a friendly amendment. The motion passed 8 to 7. It was moved by Larry Guenther and seconded by Debbie Wolf to create a scholarship process. The motion was tabled. Larry Guenther, Stacy Thomason and Debra LaVergne are assigned to report back next meeting under Unfinished business.

The Rocking Maddie Ranch has an Airbnb unit that can house up to 8. The location is convenient for the Cave, but not for the Lodge hall in Downtown Yreka. Its availability should be announced.

Richard Brouse Degree Lodge is a 501c(3). Mason has gotten it listed on Benevity at Adobe so his donations can get corporation matching grants.

### **Financial Report**

beginning balance	\$628.14
income	\$110
Disbursements	
Lizzie Martinez for Dump Fees.	\$300

ending balance \$438.14

**Good of the Order**

Lisa Harrigan just got a job at Maker Nexus. That gives her access to all kinds of crafting equipment.

Debra LaVergne announced 20 days to go and she is counting down.

Jane Beckman is working on a creative use of the degree lodge to help members to get their degrees, then transfer out of True Fellowship #52.

Jack Cain announced an initiatory at Garcia Lodge in Point Arena.

Tom Blackburn said that the degree lodge and the cave are getting worldwide attention.

Degree lodge closed at 9:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra LaVergne