



Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Dedicated Members for Change

August 31, 2013

Dear Dedicated Members for Change,

Those of you who attended last May's Grand Lodge Sessions in Sacramento will remember that we had a significant number of bills, resolutions and elections, and we spent a very large portion of our time hand-counting (and re-counting) votes. Frankly, when you add it up, I wouldn't be surprised if we determined that a good three or four hours of our collective time was spent just in the act of counting. I, for one, felt that this was not a productive use of our time, and (you may recall) that I stood up to speak (soon after my election as Grand Warden) and pledged to all of you that I would work to bring electronic voting to the next and future Grand Lodge Sessions. I felt - and I know many of you felt - that it was time to bring us into the 21st Century on the use of technology at our meetings.

I am pleased to report that the Grand Lodge Board of Directors (GLBOD) - unanimously - felt the same way.

We have now purchased an electronic voting system that will be used at our next Grand Lodge Sessions. And because we have purchased it (rather than renting), the system will be available to us at all future sessions. The system is simple and user-friendly. Each voting representative will be given a small electronic device (no larger than a garage-door opener or cell phone) that the representative will use to vote on bills and resolutions as well as elections. Simply clicking a button on the device casts a vote. The main benefit of this electronic system is that votes are instantly tabulated and are instantly announced. After voting is closed, we will have large screens which display the vote. No long and tedious delays while we manually walk around the room counting (and recounting) votes. And the system is accurate. No longer will we have the concern that we miscounted a showing of hands.

In addition, the system can be made even more user friendly because the large screens can display the precise issue on which we are voting, and can also display amendments in real time. This avoids confusion and misunderstanding on the issue that is before the body. And as an extra, added attraction, each and every vote is recorded by the system for historical purposes, and can be printed out for the Secretary's records. Of course, there are safeguards that will be put in place so that only authorized voting representatives can vote. (And clicking the device 10 times doesn't record 10 votes - only the last click on each device is recorded as the actual vote.)

As with any new system, we will fully explain how it works at the next session, prior to actually



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utilizing it. But the system is no more complicated than marking a paper ballot. I think all of us, and the Order, will be well-served with electronic voting.

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Dave Rosenberg, GW

p.s. I will be on vacation and traveling for the next couple of weeks, and will be unable to send out DMC Newsletters for awhile. So, we will be on a little hiatus, but will return soon. In the meantime, please note that we are creating an historical record of all DMC Newsletters since our inception in December 2010. These old newsletters are being preserved, and provide not only a great historical record, but also provide useful and practical suggestions for growing our Lodges. You can access this historical information at www.davisloge.org. Once on the homepage, click on "About the Odd Fellows" and then click on "Dedicated Members for Change" - this will bring you to the page containing the old and recent newsletters. The webmaster, Stewart Savage, is slowly and carefully loading the newsletters and currently has them going back to May 2013.