

Proposed Bylaw Changes
Grand Lodge Convention
June-2026
Submitted By
Roma Lodge#1573

Delegates of Roma Lodge #1573 are proposing the following bylaw changes to **ARTICLE 57- STATE DELEGATES:**

State Delegates are the representatives of the Local Lodges in the Grand Lodge.

1. Each Local Lodge shall have the right of representation to the Grand Lodge ~~based on the State Delegates count specified by the State Recording Secretary as Follows~~ **by two voting delegates:**
 - ~~1. One State Delegate for the first 25 members;~~
 - ~~2. One State Delegate for each additional 40 members (i.e. 40, 80, 120, etc.);~~
 - ~~3. One State Delegate for a fraction over one half of 40 members (i.e. 21 or more);~~
 - ~~4. Junior members shall not be included in calculating the total membership count;~~
 - ~~5. The number of State Delegates of any Local Lodge shall not change for a period of two years regardless of variations in the numerical strength of that lodge.~~

Rationale

1. Roma Lodge #1573 proposes the changes to Article 57 to reduce the financial burden on local lodges for providing delegates based on lodge membership. Adopting a Senate versus House of Representatives structure, as used in the U.S. Congress, gives local lodges adequate and equal representation regardless of how big or small their lodge membership.
2. For those lodges with fewer than 25 members could be exempted from having a second delegate by the Grand Lodge.
3. All lodges would be encouraged to send as many members as they wished to participate in all convention related meeting and activities. However, when voting would occur only two delegates with official credentials would be allowed to vote.
4. Roma Lodge understands the pros and cons of using the current method of delegate numbers. However, with the loss of membership and local lodges placing a bigger financial burden on lodges and members for sending more than two delegates to the convention needs to be changed.

ARTICLE 5-GRAND LODGE CONVENTIONS

- A. The Grand Lodge meets in Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions. Every meeting is called a Grand Convention which shall meet in:
1. Ordinary Session every other year at a location previously selected for three (~~3~~2) days starting on the fourth Thursday of the month of June;

Rationale

1. Roma Lodge #1573 proposes the changes to Article 5 to reduce the financial burden on local lodges for providing delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention.
2. The current method of the required number of delegates based on ARTICLE 57-STATE DELEGATES penalizes local lodges with large memberships to send many delegates.
3. Grand Lodge Conventions are unfair to those lodge members who are younger and employed. With the current itinerary for conventions it forces younger members, who may not be self-employed, to take 2-3 days of vacation time or unpaid leave to attend the convention.
4. The rational against this change is that the Grand Lodge will not be able to raise the same amount of donations for scholarships and other causes if there is not a convention. This is not a valid objection.

ARTICLE 82 ELECTION REGULATIONS FOR ALL RANKING UNITS

Add Section G to state the following:

G. Election of representatives of each district shall **only** be voted upon by delegates from filial lodges in that district and ***Only Grand Council members*** who are from that district.

Rationale

1. Why should delegates from the North or South Districts be allowed to vote for representatives from the Central District and vice versa? Why should Grand Council officers and past officers be allowed to vote on representatives from each district? Only delegates in each district should vote on their representatives.

Add Section H to state the following:

F. All Grand Council members and past officers shall only vote for items on a ballot at the convention where they do not have a member of their local lodge who is a voting delegate.

Rationale

1. In 1999 there were 244 delegates at the Grand Lodge Convention and 19 Grand Council or past state officers. The Grand Council and past state officers represented only 7.7% of the total votes cast.
2. At the 2025 Grand Lodge Convention there were only 56 delegates and 19 Grand Council or past state officers. This represents 33% of the total votes cast.
3. The Grand Council has determined that a Grand Council member cannot represent their local lodge as a delegate. However, if a local lodge has one delegate and a member of their lodge is on the Grand Council in essence they are getting two votes for a ballot item. While other lodges with one delegate and none of their members are in the Grand Council, they only get one vote.

ARTICLE 67 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Remove Section B

~~B. Associate Members are those who meet the criteria of a Regular Member but who are of the age of 66 and over when joining the Order or have elected not to join the Death Benefit Plan at the time of application to join the Order. They shall not be entitled to Death Benefits, but may become members of the Hospitalization Benefit Plan if qualified under the rules of said plan.~~

Rationale

1. If a member of the Order meets all the qualifications of being a regular member, then regardless of whether they are eligible or not of the death benefit if they choose not to have it they should be considered Regular members.
2. The Grand Lodge of California is 501 (C) (8) which is a non-profit that provides a benefit to its members. This should not determine if a member is a Regular or Associate member.
3. As we have seen with the national organization they finally added "Daughters" to the title of the organization because "Sons" was too limiting. We need to be more inclusive rather than discriminating.
4. This should be the first step in removing different classifications of membership. If you are a member of the Lions Club, Kiwanis or Rotary you are a regular member.
5. If you are interested and motivated in carrying on the Italian Culture in your community, you should be able to join the Order regardless of your heritage.
6. If you are **not** of "Italian Descent" and marry someone, who is, you can join as a Regular member. So, what happens if your spouse of "Italian Descent" dies, should you still be considered a Regular member?
7. The Order needs to stop discriminating against those who want to become Regular Members of the organization.

The Grand Council needs to look at the following articles and clean up the language or delete these articles completely.

Article 13-F-Speaking at Grand Council meetings.

Article 20-E-5 copies to local lodges of bylaw changes.

Article 27-B-14-Queen Pageant

Article 29-C-Fiscal Year January 1-December 31st.

Article 30-Men, Women Local Lodges

Article 32-L-Selling raffle tickets to other lodges-Obtain permission of the state president.

Article 35-B-\$100 per family member.

Article 35-C-\$250 limit on spending by local lodge-5 day notice

Article 35-E-Donating to non-SOI causes.

Article 36-F-religious or political discussions.

Article 36-J-Extraordinary meetings-5 days notice.

Article 38-C-2-Local officers cannot spend over \$250.

Article 41-A-Presidents 3 consecutive 2-year terms.

Article 47-J-Form 990EZ Tax Return

Article 52-C-Guard announcing members.

Article 54-Local arbitration board.

Article 57-M-Elimination of fines for delegates.

Article 66-B-3 members can keep a lodge.

Article 67-Regular versus Associate members.

Article 74-B-Local lodge dues a minimum of \$12.

Article 75-C-Letter of resignation by members who drop.

Article 75-D-Reinstatement-90 days

Article 79-A-Funeral Services-Family

Article 88-C-Parades

Article 89-Quarterly Reports-Fines