

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California STRATEGIC PLAN

Freemasonry

Freemasonry is the world's first and largest fraternal organization. It is a body of knowledge and a system of ethics based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, faith, country, and fraternity.

Our Mission

The mission of the Grand Lodge of California is to understand and convey the wisdom of Masonic teachings to its constituent lodges in a way that engages and inspires members to conduct their lives according to Masonic tenets and values. The Grand Lodge charts and guides Masonic lodges within California and provides important resources and unity to lodges and members.

Our Values

Our Mission is guided by the enduring and relevant tenets of our fraternity - Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth - and our core values, which include:

• Tolerance

The fraternity values religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, 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 the duty of our individual members to be engaged in their community and its governance as well as to vote in public elections and to exercise all of our liberties within due and proper bounds.

• Philanthropy

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

• Family

We strive to be better husbands, parents, and family members and are committed to protecting the well being of members and their families, especially when they are in need. We provide the avenue for the involvement and encouragement of family members in the family of freemasonry.

• Personal growth

Our continuous pursuit of knowledge, ethics, spirituality, and

leadership brings more meaning to our lives.

• **Ethics**

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

Our Vision

Freemasonry in California is a relevant and respected fraternity committed to attracting, developing, and retaining members of high quality who seek self-improvement and opportunities to make a positive difference in their communities. Through the study of our heritage and dedication to new and ongoing Masonic education, members understand and can apply the tenets of Freemasonry. The organization is well led and governed.

Our vision is measured by member vitality, lodge prosperity, and the general awareness of Freemasonry throughout California.

Member Vitality

Masons in California are informed and well connected to their lodge, to the Grand Lodge, and the worldwide brotherhood of the craft.. They understand and practice what it means to be a Mason both inside and outside the lodge. They actively develop their Masonic knowledge and share it with others.

Key measures of member vitality include:

- personal and professional achievements
- the quantity and quality of new shared Masonic study
- philanthropic activity
- membership recommendations
- participation in lodge, district, Grand Lodge, and community activities and programs
- Involvement of Grand Lodge leadership in national and international forums and activities of freemasonry.

Lodge Prosperity

A lodge is a brotherhood of Masons who attract and develop leaders, retain quality members and inspire pride in the membership and the community.

The prosperous lodge possesses the ability to:

- attract quality members
- impressively convey Masonic teachings through a relevant and thought-provoking performance of the ritual
- sponsor worthwhile educational, philanthropic, and social activities
- govern and manage the business of the lodge and center association effectively, efficiently, and with high standards of integrity and accountability
- maintain a Masonic center that demonstrates commitment to providing a quality environment for Masonic and community activities through the maintenance and renovation of existing centers, or the

development of new ones.

Community Awareness

California communities are aware of Masonry's mission and values through lodge activities and programs that improve public education and the general well being of fellow citizens. Lodges and the Grand Lodge effectively use the Internet and local media to communicate with their communities.

Community awareness is measured by:

- the frequency and quality of lodge participation in community activities and programs
- media coverage of Masonry
- the quality of lodge and Grand Lodge Web sites
- public inquiries on lodge and Grand Lodge Web sites

The following have been adopted by the Grand Master as initiatives for the current Masonic year.

2008-2012 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

I. Membership

- Prospect cultivation and relations
- Candidate advancement
- Member Development
- Member Retention

II. Lodge Development

- Lodge revitalization process
- New lodge development strategy

III. Masonic Knowledge

- Education
 - o Improved candidate and member education
 - o Increased and enhanced statewide educational events
 - o Programs to encourage new Masonic research and writings
 - o Increased emphasis on applied Freemasonry
 - o Relevant educational resources for Masons, their families, and communities
- Ritual
 - o Improved approach to instruction
 - o Impressive conferral of degrees
 - o Advanced technology for lecture delivery
 - o Recognition of outstanding ritual work

IV. Leadership Development

- Comprehensive training program
- Leadership identification and cultivation
- Increased awareness of leadership opportunities
- Lodge officer development strategy

V. Masonic Center Development and Preservation

- Masonic property standards
- Standardization of center association business practices
- Masonic center preservation and capital planning program
- Preservation and utilization of historic sites
- Preservation of historic artifacts

VI. Communications

- Quality communication tools and improved websites
- Expanded resources for lodges
- Expanded distribution of Masonic information
- Expanded distribution of the *California Freemason*

VII. Community Involvement

- Community program development
- Increased participation in community events
- Effective use of Public Ceremonies at community events

VIII. Masonic Relief

- Increased care for Masons, widows, and their families
- Increased participation in Masonic Philanthropies
- Lodge support for other charitable programs
- Individual involvement in community relief

IX. Masonic Youth Organizations

- Increased member participation in youth leadership roles
 - Accept a higher responsibility for the growth and mentoring of our youth
 - Increased participation and engagement in the programs and events of our three youth orders.
- Ensure financial stability of our Demolay Chapters, Job's Daughters' Bethels and Rainbow Girl Assemblies
- Ensure Fraternal-wide support and participation of our youth and the development of new emerging Chapters/Bethels/Assemblies
- Support fund raising activities
- Increased awareness of safety issues regarding our youth
- Provide a safe environment for our youth to meet.
 - Assist the youth order's leadership in the development and implementation of youth protection programs
- Create an environment of cooperation and support of our youth that will foster a strong desire to continue the experience through membership in our adult Masonic organizations
- Increased education of Masonic History, ideals, values and Masonic relationship to the principles of our youth orders

X. Grand Lodge Infrastructure Development

- Develop leadership skills within Grand Lodge members to assume positions of responsibility on Grand Lodge Committees and Constitutional Boards
- Provide a constant flow of leaders within the Grand Lodge hierarchy
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness of Inspectoral Corp.
 - o Annual Inspector Seminar (Current Inspectors)
 - o Inspector Development Academy (prospective Inspector candidates)
 - o Provide up-to-date technology for ease of reporting

XI. Worldwide Masonic Experiences

- Insure that California Masonic recognition is available to our members when traveling in foreign jurisdictions
- Continue to provide Masonic Forums
- Provide assistance to emerging Masonic organizations in developing countries