



Freemasons Victoria Constitutional Changes and Engage 133 2 December 2016

**Message from MWBro. Don Reynolds
Grand Master**



My dear Brethren

I am delighted to announce a very special partnership between Freemasons Victoria and the Blue Lounge Social Club which is delivering excellent work in our community attracting and supporting many of our members under 50 years in their introduction to Freemasonry.

The Blue Lounge Social Club now has around 90 members and is dedicated to supporting Freemasons Victoria recruitment, retention, education and support of young Freemasons, their families, friends and the community. Please view the Blue Lounge Social Club welcome [here](#).

Brethren, our future depends upon embracing our next generations and working with them to pave the way for a vibrant 2025 and beyond. Today we have only 88 members under 25.

This partnership will be key in helping us to accelerate our vision and mission with younger members aspiring to become leaders and agents of change in our community, stepping up to emulate Masonic behaviours loudly and proudly and challenging any forces that that diminish our identity and render us irrelevant in today's world.

If we are to be an attractive proposition for new members and to retain our valuable existing members, we must be an organisation in which to be proud. Being invited to become a Freemason must be an honour and one that prospective members hold in high regard.

Please join me in collaborating with our young members, many of whom are also members of the Blue Lounge Social Club. Together we will create a bright future!

Become a More Active Participant!

A great opportunity exists for any member to assist the New Membership Team in 2017 and beyond. The New Members Volunteers are pivotal for Freemasons Victoria to engage with potential prospects who are considering taking the next step in joining Freemasonry. You can find out more information [here](#).

To see an important document on the **14 December 2016 Quarterly Communication**, please view [here](#).

**MWBro. Don Reynolds
Grand Master**

**Message from RWBro. Richard L. Elkington
President of the Board of General Purposes**



Dear Brethren

Your Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master have recorded a message to you about the upcoming proposed Constitutional changes and a webinar in which you can engage. Please see these messages [here](#).

Board of General Purposes November Meeting Outcomes

Your Board met in November in Geelong. Please see information [here](#).

In my final weekly Friday email to you explaining the [proposed constitutional changes](#) on which you will be asked to vote in the upcoming 14 December 2016 Quarterly Communication we examine:

- That **Rule 310** shall be deleted and the following paragraph substituted therefor:-

"The eight elected members of the Board of General Purposes shall hold office for four years, with four retiring each two years, and shall be elected by the Board Selection Panel as provided for in these Rules. No elected member shall serve more than two terms consecutively. If the President appointed by the Board of General Purposes is one of the eight elected members of the Board, then the Board Selection Panel will supply a replacement eighth member in accordance with Rule 312."

- That **Rule 312(b)** be amended by deleting the word "three" and substituting therefor the word "four" and that **Rule 312(c)** be amended by deleting the words "Grand Master" and substituting therefor the words "Board of General Purposes".

- That **Rule 329** be amended by deleting the words "Grand Secretary" and substituting therefor the words "Chief Executive Officer".

- That **Rule 341** be amended by deleting sub paragraph h) and substituting therefor the following sub paragraph:-

h) the Chief Executive Officer of Freemasons Victoria.

- That **Rule 344** be amended by inserting after the words "the President of the Board of General Purposes" "the words" and the Chief Executive Officer".

- That **Rule 358** be amended by inserting after the words "Grand Secretary" the words "and/or the Chief Executive Officer"

That the note to the Schedules be amended by deleting the words "the Office of the Grand Secretary" where twice occurring and substituting therefor the words "Freemasons Victoria"

The changes to Rule 310 will enable the Board of General Purposes to increase the number of members elected through the Board Selection Panel, from six to eight, noting that neither the Grand Secretary or Chief Executive will be members of the Board. The Grand Secretary will be the Secretary to the Board but will have no voting rights. The Chief Executive will attend Board meetings at the invitation of the President but will have no voting rights.

As the result of this amendment, there is a need to also amend Rules 312 (b) to increase the number of elected members, retiring at any one time, from three to four and 312 (c) to replace the Grand Master's responsibility to provide nominations for replacement members to the Board. That responsibility will now rest with the Board itself.

The change to Rule 329 reflects the Chief Executive's responsibility to maintain and be responsible for the maintenance of proper records.

Rule 341 will be amended to remove reference to the now defunct Board of Benevolence and recognise that the Chief Executive cannot be a member of the Complaints Committee or Complaints Review Committee.

Rule 344, which relates to the Grand Secretary's responsibility to promptly supply documentation associated with complaints to the President of the Board and the Chairman of the relevant Complaints Committee. The amendment to this Rule simply requires the Grand Secretary to also promptly deliver that information to the Chief Executive.

The amendment to Rule 358 will mean that both the Grand Secretary and the Chief Executive share responsibility to act on behalf of the Board of General Purposes in corresponding with Grand Lodge, warranted Lodges, affiliated brethren and sister Grand Lodges, with whom we are in amity.

RWBro. Richard L. Elkington
President of the Board of General Purposes

Message from Jane Sydenham-Clarke
Chief Executive



Dear Members

I was inspired by our Grand Chaplain David Bloom's oration in regard to our capacity for Compassion at the recent Reconsecration of the Lodge at St Mark. Thank you David for allowing its [sharing](#).

Freemasons in the News

29 November 2016 [Geelong Advertiser](#) A great piece further to the Board's meeting in Geelong.

[Engage 133](#) stories this week include:

The Mornington Lodge Hosts Fundraiser for the local community; Lowan Lodge supporting the Nhill RSL for the Vietnam Veterans Long Ride Home and the Freemasons Cycling Club Ride for Headspace 2017. Also included is the article on the Stawell Freemason recognised at the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards 2016 and the Mitchell River Lodge Pathway Ceremony at Bairnsdale.

Jane Sydenham-Clarke
Chief Executive