

## **GRAND LODGE OF IDAHO, A.F. & A.M.**

### **FORM OF BALLOTING**

The order, "Balloting," having been reached in the regular course of business the W.M. says, "Brother Senior Deacon., you will prepare the ballot." The S.D. places all white balls and black cubes in the proper compartment of the ballot box, being certain there is a sufficient supply of each to meet demands. (Note: it is better to use black cubes instead of black balls, to avoid possible error by members whose eyesight is not keen.)

The S.D. presents the ballot box to the J.W. (goes via north side of the altar), the S.W. and the W.M. in regular order, each of whom makes the proper inspection to satisfy himself the ballot is properly prepared. After inspection the W.M. makes the following announcement: "Brethren, we are now about to ballot on the petition of \_\_\_\_\_ for the Degrees of Masonry. (Or, "We are now about to ballot on the petition of Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for membership in the Lodge by affiliation.") The report of the committee is favorable. (Or, "unfavorable," as the case may be.) Remember that white balls elect, and the black cubes reject. Be careful of your ballot and vote for the good of Freemasonry." He then casts his ballot. The W.M. and Wardens shall salute on voting.

The S.D. then presents the ballot box to the S.W. and then the J.W. at their respective stations for their ballot. He should then place it on the left side of the altar and resume his place. As soon as the S.D. returns to his place, the brethren, starting with the Secretary in the southeast corner of the Lodge, shall proceed to vote, regardless of rank, approaching the altar from the west. All members shall salute on voting. As soon as all members on the south side of the Lodge have voted, then the Treasurer if present, otherwise the S.D., shall proceed to vote, followed by all members on the north side, regardless of rank. The Tyler is called to the altar by order of the W.M. (provided of course that he is a member of the Lodge) informed of the name of the candidate and nature of the report of the committee. He then casts his ballot and retires. In balloting all members present who are entitled to vote must vote unless excused by unanimous consent.

The W.M. then inquires: "Have all members voted who are entitled to vote?" and pauses for a moment for reply. There being no response, the W.M. says: "All having voted, I declare the ballot closed." (Sounds gavel.) "Brother Senior Deacon, you will take charge of the ballot." The S.D. presents the ballot box to the J.W. and S.W. for inspection and proceeds to the station of the W.M.

On his arrival the W.M. says: "Brother Junior Warden, how is the ballot in the south?" The J.W. (salutes) replies: "Fair (or cloudy) in the south, Worshipful Master." The W.M. then says: "Brother Senior Warden, how is the ballot in the west?" The S.W. (salutes) replies: "Clear (or dark) in the west, Worshipful Master." The W.M. then inspects the ballot and if no black cubes appear says: "And bright, my brethren, in the east. I therefore declare \_\_\_\_\_ duly elected to receive the Degrees of Masonry in this Lodge." In announcing the result of the ballot, the reports of the three principal officers shall in all cases be "fair," "clear," and "bright," or "cloudy", "dark", and "black," as the case may be, except in the case of one black cube. Then the report from each officer shall be "doubtful." A second ballot shall then be called, and if one black cube still appears, the results shall then be reported as though more than one black cube had been cast. The second trial of the ballot shall in all cases be final, and if one black cube again appears the Master shall say: "And black, my brethren, in the east. I therefore declare the petition of for the Degrees of Masonry in this Lodge to be duly rejected." The W.M. shall make this same announcement if more than one black cube appears on the first ballot, and no other ballot may be taken.

In case the petition is for affiliation the W.M. says: "And bright, my brethren in the east. I therefore declare Brother \_\_\_\_\_ to be duly elected to membership in this Lodge by affiliation." or, "And black, my brethren, in the east. I therefore declare the petition of Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for membership in this Lodge by affiliation to be duly rejected."

In case of balloting on a petition for reinstatement the same method shall be used as for Petition for Degrees, except that three black cubes shall be necessary for rejection. (If less than three black cubes appear in the ballot box the J.W. and S.W. shall report "Fair" and "Clear" respectively, and if three appear they shall report "Doubtful," and a second ballot shall be taken.)

The result of the ballot cannot be set aside after it has been declared by the Master, even though a mistake has been made in the declaration, unless corrected by him at the same communication. All balloting on petitions shall be done at stated communications. (See By-Laws Article XX)

Adopted by Grand Lodge, September 22, 1948.