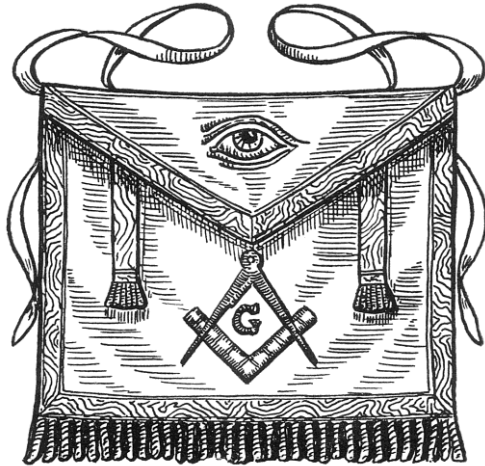




WELCOME LODGE NO. 255



F. & A. M. **Trestleboard** **April 2014**

647 W. Bush St.
Lemoore, Ca 93245
(559) 924-5032



From the East *Worshipful Joselito Sanchez*



Brethren,

We have had a very good month. The Worshipful Pete Cunningham PM, Inspector of the 616 Masonic District, visited us on our stated meeting. We have been very busy on the mountains and in the quarries of our speculative craft. Since installation in the middle of January we have already conferred 1 first degree, 3 second degrees, and 3 third degrees.

As we enter the month of April, our Masonic year is in full motion. The only thing that could make it even better is to get you, my brother down to the lodge on a Thursday night to support these new brothers as they begin their lifelong journey as freemasons. I want to encourage each and every one to check the length of your cable tows.

April will find us celebrating the annual tradition of "Past Masters Night" on the 17th. This is always such a special night and I strongly encourage all our brothers to join us as we raise Brother Rainer Aronce to the degree of Master Mason.

With the utmost sorrow, I'm sad to report the passing of Worshipful Brother Bob Johnson, Past Master of Welcome Lodge #255. He passed away on the 22nd of February. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family. May your Father's soul rest in peace.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each of our committee members and our officers for their service and their dedication to the lodge's progress. I know you are the one's that are making this happen. You are the one's that deserve our thanks for a job well done. Please keep up the good work for it is deeply appreciated.

Congratulation to Brother Allen Overby on being raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. No School of Instruction this month. 'HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE'.

Fraternally your,
Joselito Sanchez, PM
Master of the Lodge

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry (also called “Masonry”) is the world's first and largest fraternity, based on the belief that each man can make a difference in the world. Freemasonry enhances and strengthens the character of the individual man by providing opportunities for fellowship, charity, and education.



From the West

Brother Daniel Bautista

Greetings to all Brethren of Welcome Lodge #255.

For this year's Hiram Award, I would like to Congratulate WB Pat Cerdenola. As we know, WB Pat has been a member of our lodge for a number of years. As this year recipient, I would like to recognize the numerous efforts and commitments that he provided, not just to our Lodge but also to the other Lodges as well. His dedication and loyalty to Freemasonry has earned him this award.

In addition, I would like to share the wonderful news about WB Ray Diaz's family donating \$1,000 towards the Lodge landscaping needs. On behalf of Welcome Lodge #255, we would like to send our appreciation towards the late WB Ray Diaz's Family for generously providing the donation.

Lastly, as a friendly reminder, please do not drink & drive this upcoming EASTER and stay SAFE!

On the Level,
Brother Daniel Bautista

From the South

Brother Jack Cloud



Brethren,

I would like to take a minute to let everyone know that we once again have a functional website. That site can be found at URL: www.welcomelodge255.weebly.com. I invite you to visit the site. On it you will find several helpful tools. The Lodge calendar, which has become the sole planning tool for the lodge. You'll find a Refreshments Menu, so you can see what's on the table for dinner. There's a Discussion page, to make comments or ask questions. I ask each of you to log on and take the Lodge Satisfaction Survey. This is the tool that we will use to assess the state of the lodge. This survey takes 15 minutes to complete but it's a very valuable tool in determining what's needed. We ask that you be honest in your assessment so that we can chart the right course for our lodge.

We NEED Volunteers! YOU have a great opportunity to affect another life, and make yourself feel pretty good also.

- 1) We need facilitators, people that can assist in providing educational presentations.
- 2) We need folks who are available during school hours to assist with school functions such as reading to the children or volunteering to assist in the classroom. Our retired Brothers are perfect for this.
- 3) Finally, We're looking to start an Outreach program. A list of volunteers, who are willing to assist our Widows and Elderly with household task, maintenance, or just a friendly visit from time to time to see how they are doing.

These are all part of a quality Lodge program and we should act on them quickly. It's a wonderful feeling to do for others and help out our Brothers or their Widows. It's part of our obligation. A lodge cannot be successful without a team effort. Please consider taking the time to volunteer a small amount of time for this effort.

By the Plumb,
Brother Jack Cloud



Masonic History

THE REGIUS POEM: The oldest document referring to ancient Freemasonry is the Regius Poem, or Halliwell Manuscript. James O. Halliwell discovered an ancient manuscript in the archives of the British Museum in 1838. Scientists have concluded from the type of parchment, language and lettering that this document was written in approximately 1390 A.D. The poem consists of 794 lines of Old English verse and covers several subjects, most directly applicable to Freemasonry. While this manuscript was probably written in the 14th century, it refers to a period of Masonic history in England in the late 10th century. It relates to the legend of York and is the basis for the prominence the city of York has occupied in Masonic lore since the first millennium. Regulations for the government of the craft are included in the poem, as are fifteen articles and fifteen points dealing with ethical, moral and spiritual responsibilities of the ancient craftsmen. These are as applicable to us today as they were 1000 years ago.

THE YORK LEGEND: Athelstan, the grandson of Alfred the Great, ruled England from 924 to 940 A.D.. He completed the subjection of the minor kingdoms in England, begun by his grandfather, and has been hailed as the first king of all England. The Regius Poem and other ancient legends relate that Athelstan was a great patron of Masonry, and that he constructed many abbeys, monasteries, castles and fortresses. He studied Geometry and imported learned men in these arts. To preserve order in the work and correct transgressors, the king issued a Charter to the Masons to hold yearly assembly at York. He is also reputed to have made many Masons. The lessons proceed to relate that Athelstan appointed his brother Edwin, as Grand Master and the first Grand Lodge was held at York in 926. The accounts state that the Constitutions of English Masonry were there established and were based upon a number of old documents written in Greek, Latin and other languages.

Aside from the direct implications of this legend, it is interesting to note that the King and Prince were patrons of Masonry and as such were probably speculative, rather than operative members of the craft. The fact that this concept prevailed as early as 1390 A.D., and possibly earlier, makes it easier to account for the fact that so many members of high rank joined the craft in the 17th and 18th centuries.

By Richard Mullard, PM



LONDON BRIDGE

Built originally of wood, the London Bridge was the only bridge over the Thames river and was eventually destroyed in 1176. It was decided then to rebuild it in stone. The people made up a song about it; “London Bridge is Falling Down” where two of the principle lines in the verse are; “Dance over my lady lea” and “My fair lady”.

After completion of the new stone bridge in 1209, it lasted for 623 years, but was again demolished in 1832, not because of any fault in the structure, but because the stone pillars supporting the bridge were built to close together to allow the larger ships of the nineteenth century to pass beneath.

Who was the ‘fair lady’, the ‘lady lea’ over whom the people danced? She was a young virgin who had been sacrificed by being walled up in the bridge by the Masons who had built it, to appease God’s wrath and induce Him to preserve the bridge from destruction.

Just one of the many lies, people have spread and believed about the Masons for more than 800 years.

April Birthdays!!!

The Lodge celebrates these Brethren and we wish you a very special day, Happy Birthday!

April 03 – Benigno Rufo
April 04 – Bryan Sawyer
April 06 – Napoleon Aspiras
April 07 – James Bell
April 08 – Joe Reel
April 11 – Tyrell Thomas
April 12 – Jeffrey Canonoy
April 12 – Noel Satumbaga
April 13 – Herminio Valdeabella
April 15 – Frank Dale
April 16 – Wallace Nelson
April 16 – John Wages
April 18 – Rodande Albaniel
April 22 – Edgar Buyao
April 24 – Dave Domantay
April 27 – Sadiri Lopez
April 29 – Felino Baltazar



Welcome Lodge Calendar of Events

APRIL 2014

(Be sure to refer to Calendar in the website for updated events.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LMTA Meeting 6:30 PM	2	3 WL255 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting 7:30 PM	4	5
6	7 Jobs Daughter Bethel #288 7 PM	8 Lucerne Lake Chapter 13 7 PM	9	10 WL255 Special Meeting TBD Dinner 6:15 PM Open 7 PM	11	12
13	14 DeMolay International 7 PM	15	16	17 ^{3rd Degree} Past Master's Night Bro. Aronce Dinner 6:15 PM Open 7 PM	18	19
20	21 Jobs Daughter Bethel #288 7 PM	22 Lucerne Lake Chapter 13 7 PM	23	24 ^{3rd Degree} Bro. Shaun Crosby Dinner 6:15 PM Open 7 PM	25	26
27	28 DeMolay International 7 PM	29 LMTA Meeting 6:30 PM	30			

“On the Level”

Guide to a successful Masonic Information Program

First and Largest

- Masonry is world’s first and largest fraternal organization
- 350 lodges and 70,000 members in California
- 2 million Masons in U.S. and 5 million worldwide

Core Values

- Ethics
- Tolerance
- Personal growth
- Philanthropy
- Family
- Individual freedom

Body of Knowledge and System Ethics

- 350 years of critical thinking
- Vast collection of writings on ethics, leadership, civil society
- 75,000 volumes in Masonic library, Philadelphia

What Do Masons DO?

Statewide Masonic philanthropic programs.

- Educator training to guide at-risk students
- Scholarships
- Kids ID program
- Children’s residential home
- Shrine Hospitals
- Scottish Rite Language Disorder Centers
- Care for aging Masons and wives or widows

How it all Began?

- Highly skilled stonemasons in Middle Ages formed guilds called lodges.
- 1717 Organized as fraternal group in London First governing body called “Grand Lodge”
- 1733 First American Grand Lodge opened in Boston
- 1849 Gold Rush brought Masonry to California
- 1850 Grand Lodge of California established

How Fraternity Operates?

- Lodge is both unit of Masons and building where meet
- Grand Lodge is governing body of individual lodges
- Each state in U.S. has a Grand Lodge
- Grand Lodge of California is in San Francisco

Other Masonic Organizations.

- Scottish Rite
- York Rite
- Shrine
- Research Lodges
- Eastern Star, largest coed fraternal society in world
- DeMolay International, Rainbow for Girls, and Job’s Daughters

Common Answers to Questions about Masonry.

- Not a secret
- Not a religion
- Politics and religion not discussed
- Aprons worn as symbolic connection to stonemasons
- G stands for geometry
- Women not members because we’re a fraternity

Rewards of becoming a Mason.

- Personal growth
- Friendship
- Participation in community service and philanthropy
- Belonging to organization committed to making a difference

Masonic information programs work. When planned and executed well, they can become the lifeblood of the lodge because being “on the level” with guests builds membership.

For more information visit www.freemasons.org Masonic Information under Membership Development.

From the Junior Warden concerning the Education Program:

During the March Stated Meeting, the brethren voted unanimously to implement the new training program directed at making coaches more knowledgeable, informing the public of who we are and what we do, furthering the knowledge of our Master Mason brethren, and insuring that the candidates we invite to the lodge are good and true men, who want to be part of something bigger.

By that, I'm referring to the part of the candidates training program in which we require a minimum of 3 months from the time a candidate knocks until we allow them to submit an application. This does several things. It gives the candidate time to decide if Masonry is right and if this lodge is a good fit for him. It allows the Brothers to get to know the candidate before actually recommending them.

Most important of all, it's believed that those candidates that feel it's worth waiting for, will be the Mason that is there for the lodge, and supports it with regular attendance and with a volunteering hand. My plan is to have this program fully functional by June. Like all programs, adjustments will need to be made as we progress and we will do that. Other lodges have seen success with programs such as this and I have a good feeling that it will be beneficial to us all, the Lodge and the Candidate.

This month will contain nothing of mind altering content for the education section of our Trestle Board. In the months to come, we want to start a series of articles about the Purpose of Freemasonry and from where it came. Its origins are rich in mythical stories and illustrious history.

If you have particular questions regarding this topic, please email us at welcomelodgeno255@gmail.com and let us know what you would be interested in seeing.

MASONIC CANDIDATES COACHING PROGRAM: The Masonic Coach is key to the members Masonic Growth and Retention and should be well versed in all three degrees, Masonic history, etiquette, and the modern day purpose of the fraternity. This program will equip the coach with knowledge to better prepare candidates as tomorrow's leaders.

CANDIDATE TRAINING PROGRAM: The Candidates for our Fraternity should be prepared to face the challenges of the fraternity today. Our goals as Masons should be to initiate, pass and raise only the most qualified individuals so that they may someday fill seats of Masonic leadership and continue to mold our great fraternity into a modern and viable institution. This program institute a 2-3 month waiting period in which candidates will visit and work alongside brethren in the lodge. It affords both the candidate and brethren time to get to know each other. Additionally, more strenuous requirements are required of the candidate between degrees to insure that they fully understand the work before moving to the next degree.

MASONIC INFORMATION PROGRAM: It's important that we reach out to our community and explain who we are as Freemasons, what we stand for, and what we do for our neighbors. This makes us known to our neighbors and has the added benefit of attracting more men from within the community, providing stability within the lodge when our military brethren are called away on duty or must leave our community and affiliate elsewhere. This is not to detract from our military brothers who are one of our most valuable assets, but should be seen as a healthy balance of civilian to military to better diversify the lodge.

MASONIC TRAINING PROGRAM: Master Masons should keep themselves abreast of changes within the fraternity, and continue to educate themselves in the history and principles of Masonry. We owe it to the brethren to educate them in the different degrees, their symbolism significance, Masonic history, and of their roles within the fraternity.

In fine, it is our responsibility as the leadership of Welcome Lodge to ensure that our current as well as future Brethren are equipped with the knowledge and knowhow to take on tomorrow's responsibilities and to keep our lodge active within the community. This training program should lead us in the right direction as we start to better prepare our membership to tackle the needs of the fraternity in the Lemoore area.

WELCOME LODGE NO. 255, F.&A.M.
647 W. Bush St.
LEMOORE, CA 93245
RETURN TO SENDER REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
LEMOORE, CA 93245

A REQUEST TO THE FAMILY OF THE ADDRESSEE

Please notify the Lodge if our Brother is hospitalized, in a nursing home, incapacitated in any way or if he passed away. Thank you in advance.

Officers for the year 2014

Worshipful Master	Joey Sanchez, PM
Senior Warden	Danny Bautista
Junior Warden	Jack Cloud
Treasurer	Steven Roberts, PM
Secretary	Mark Jeffries
Asst. Secretary	Nick Lawson
Chaplain	Liviem Espiritu
Senior Deacon	Joel Castillo
Junior Deacon	Danny Britton
Marshall	James Withycomb
Senior Steward	Daniel Guevara
Junior Steward	Roskin Metra
Tiler	Stephen Healy
Officer's Coach	Gemino Barrera, PM
Candidate's Coach	Patrocinio Cerdenola, PM
	Jack Cloud
	Norm Stewart
	James Withycomb
	Peter Cunningham, PM

616th Masonic Dist. Insp.

