



Trestleboard

May 2024



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Freemasonry is founded on the immutable laws of Truth and Justice and its grand object is to promote the happiness of the human race.

-George Washington-

Birthday Celebrants

Eduardo Bolos – May 6

Robert Francis Santos – May 6

Lawrence Bowen – May 9

Cyrus Botones – May 11

Hector Quioc – May 11

Arnel Bisnar – May 14

Omar Escalante – May 17

Jeffrey Tortona – May 17

Tommi Kitchens – May 18

Douglas Scott – May 19

Patrocinio Cerdenola, PM – May 21

Leoniel Tristan Guevarra – May 23

Elmer Anies – May 25

Sean O'Connor – May 25

Rolando Bautista – May 26

Mack Maloney – May 30

Anniversaries

	Date Raised	Years of Service
Mack Maloney	5/6/1964	60
Audie Musngi	5/8/2008	16
Carlito Zialcita	5/8/1997	22
Aurelio Remigio	5/11/2000	24
Renato Cueto	5/21/1998	21
Walter Adams	5/23/2009	15
Eduardo Bolos	5/23/2019	5
Elmer Anies	5/25/1995	29
Christian Datu	5/25/2019	5
Norman Stewart	5/26/1994	30
Jason Noralez	5/27/2010	14
Napoleon Aspiras	5/28/2009	13
Edwin Kaczynski, PM	5/28/2015	9
Jimmy Nave	5/28/1998	26
Albert Mangalindan	5/29/1997	27
Omar Escalante	5/30/2013	11

From the Grand East...

Greetings Brethren,

I hope this message finds you well. Last year, our annual #ImAMason social media campaign went global, with posts coming in from as far away as England and Kuala Lumpur. In total, the hashtag reached more than 6 million people worldwide.

That was 3x the reach of the previous year's campaign—and 3x the impact! This year, we're bringing it back, with hopes of reaching even more people.

That's why, from May 1–14, I'm asking Masons to post a simple message to Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok with the hashtag #ImAMason explaining why Masonry is such an important part of your life. This can be a written post, a video message, or a selfie. It's entirely up to you. Just make sure you include the phrase #ImAMason so we can see and share it!

I also ask that you share and forward this message with other Masons in your network, including from other jurisdictions. Getting the word out about Freemasonry and what it



means to real-life members is an important part of carrying this tradition into the future. Our research shows that a vast majority of new members joined the fraternity because someone close to them was already a member. By showing the people around us what Freemasonry means to us, we can help a curious prospect take the first step to knock on the door.

For any questions about the campaign, please send an email to communications@freemason.org. I appreciate your help on this effort and look forward to reading all your posts and the many reasons that led you to say: #ImAMason.

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California F&AM

G. Sean Metroka

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "G. Sean Metroka".

From the East...

I hope this message finds you and your families in good health and great spirits!

It's already May, and it seems the months are flying by us! First, let me again congratulate our youngest Entered Apprentices - Brother Jeff Siagon who was initiated on 25 April.



Also, if any brother has any ideas for fundraising, any improvement ideas and fellowships ideas, please share them. I would love for us to get together and plan something and make it happen!

By this month, we should be making preparations for the incoming masonic year identifying and approaching members for the 2025 open elected and appointed positions. Similar actions need to be taken for all and any vacancies in the Audit, Membership Retention, and any other committees. The incoming Master should be working on his year's calendar, budget, and installing team. Additionally, financials and audits (if not completed yet) are due this month to include our taxes. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to ensure that we, as a Lodge, are set for the ensuing masonic year, and your support is greatly needed.

For the past two summers our Grand Lodge has run social media campaigns to encourage members to tell the world that [#ImAMason](#). This month, they are bringing it back—with the hopes of starting a

Worldwide trend! So, from May 1–14, we’re asking California Masons to post a message explaining why their membership is so important to them on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok (follow our new channel @CaliforniaMasons) with the hashtag #ImAMason. (It’s important you use the hashtag so we can see and share it!) This can be a simple written message, a photo, and a selfie— whatever you like! Either way, by talking about Freemasonry and our membership with the people around us, we can inspire the next generation of would-be Masons to take that first step and knock on the door.

For your planning purposes, our schedule looks like this:

- May 2nd – Stated Meeting, 730PM
- May 21st – School of Instruction (SOI) at Sanger Lodge
- June 6th– Stated Meeting, 730PM
- June 26th – School of Instruction (SOI) at Selma Lodge

In closing, allow me to share you this:

On the principle of Brotherly Love,

“...Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion and causes true friendship to exist among those who might have otherwise remained at a perpetual distance.”

Thank you, stay safe, take care of each other and see you all in the Lodge! Upon the Square...

Fraternally yours,

Lourey Bartolome

Worshipful Master

From the West...

Greetings from the West,

The month of April flew by unnoticed. From our monthly stated meeting to couple degree conferrals now we are in May. With that said, please allow me to commend Brother Junior Warden and the crew behind every delicious dinner prepared at our stated meeting dinner along with the refreshments of every degree conferral. I again congratulate Brother Jeffrey Siagan of Welcome Lodge No. 255 and Brother Ross Natoli of Hanford Lodge No. 279 on being initiated as our newly obligated Entered Apprentice Brothers. I look forward to your future endeavors as you go through the degrees of masonry. Lastly, a job well done to the officers and brethren that made our degree conferrals a success.



For this month, we hope to see everyone again at our monthly stated meeting dinner and indulge in another sumptuous meal prepared by our Brother Junior Warden and brethren, thank you in advance! Degree conferrals are to be determined as the candidate qualified in their proficiencies and will ensure to send out invites once scheduled.

Here's this month's masonic education.

What is "the point within the circle"?

That point within that circle alludes to our abilities to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds towards all mankind.

The point represents an individual person. The circle represents the boundary line of that person's passions. A man should stay within this circle. Whenever one gets too close to the edge or might even go beyond it, then he is no longer centered and straying from his purpose. He is letting his passions control him.

The two upright lines represent the two saints John. Masonic Lodges in North America are also referred to as St Johns lodges, and these two saints are representing their core values. John the Baptist represents leniency and compassion, while John the Evangelist stands for strictness and severity. They remind the mason never to be too lenient or too strict, but instead to lead a moderate and centered life...

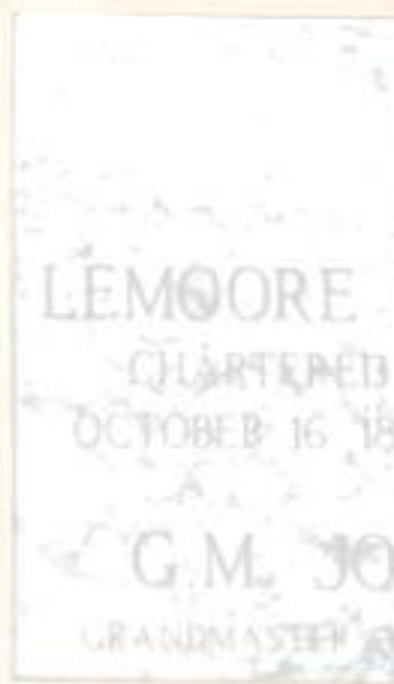
As always, we greatly appreciate everyone's dedication and continued support to our lodge.

Thank you and have a great Masonic day!

On the level,

Bro. Roskin Metra

Senior Warden



From the South...



Greetings, Brethren! Our April Stated Meeting dinner was a resplendent affair, celebrating the rich flavors of Japanese cuisine. The evening was filled with delightful dishes such as miso soup, chicken karaage, shrimp tempura, pork tonkatsu, sushi bake, and various sushi, all contributing to the beautiful atmosphere and great conversations. Seeing our Masonic family come together over such a diverse and delicious spread is heartening.

Continuing with our initiative to engage our families in the life of the Lodge, we are thrilled to invite you, your families, and friends to join us for the May Stated Meeting dinner. Please mark your calendars for May 2, 2024, at 6:30 PM. This month, we'll explore Mexican cuisine's vibrant and flavorful world. It promises to be another fantastic opportunity for fellowship and learning more about Freemasonry in a warm, familial setting.

The success of our monthly dinners is greatly attributed to the hard work and dedication of our kitchen crew. Their contributions ensure that every gathering is both enjoyable and memorable. Special thanks this month go to WM Lou Bartolome & Family, WB Pete Bautista & Family, Roskin Metra & Family, Arman Santos & Family, Roger Galamgam & Family, Dustin Cooper & Family, Pot Aspiras & Family, Tommy Nix & Family, Mark Topacio, Ericson Abuan, and Jeff Siagan. We also extend our gratitude to all the Brothers and Sisters who played a role in the success of our April dinner.

Further, I want to warmly congratulate our newly obligated Entered Apprentice Mason, Brother Jeff Siagan. His initiation into our

Brotherhood marks a key step in his Masonic journey, and we all look forward to supporting him in his growth and contributions to the Lodge.

Your thoughts and suggestions are crucial for continually improving our Lodge experiences. If you have ideas on how we can enhance our family's Lodge experience, please do not hesitate to contact me at (408) 759-1902.

Once again, I extend my sincerest thanks to each of you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Your active participation makes Welcome Lodge No. 255 a vibrant and supportive community. Together, let's make 2024 a year to remember with engaging events and meaningful interactions.

We look forward to seeing you and your loved ones on May 2nd for a delightful Mexican-themed dinner!

Fraternal regards,

Bro. Jonathan Cruz

Junior Warden



LEMORE
CHARTERED
OCTOBER 16 18
G.M. 30
GRANDMASTER

The Secretary's Corner



The pictures above showcase just a glimpse of the April 2024 Stated and Special Meetings. As always, we are thankful to the Kitchen Crew for their dedication and support, providing us and our families with a delicious meal.

We would like to extend our warm congratulations to our newly obligated Entered Apprentice Brothers Jeffrey Siagan of Welcome Lodge No. 255 and Ross Natoli of Hanford Lodge No. 279.

We had the distinct privilege of welcoming a distinguished visitor, the Most Worshipful Victor Ortiz, Past Grand Master of Masons in the

Grand Lodge of Japan, during the initiation ceremony of brothers Siagan and Natoli. It is an honor to have MW Victor Ortiz among us, as he is not only a Past Grand Master of Masons in Japan but also the older brother of Brother Ding Ortiz, a member in good standing of Welcome Lodge No. 255. The presence of MW Victor Ortiz added a special significance to the occasion, emphasizing the strong fraternal connections within our Masonic community.

I recently had the privilege of visiting Edinburgh Lodge No. 1 and it was an awesome experience. If you ever find yourself in Scotland, I highly recommend paying them a visit. With that said, I would like to express my gratitude to Worshipful Brother Pete Bautista for diligently serving as your Lodge Secretary in my absence.

Lastly, I would like to introduce our prospects, Mr. Steven Martsching and Mr. Christopher Leonel CruzRoman. They both confirmed their attendance in our May 2024 Stated Meeting Dinner.

Fraternally,

Bro. TJ Miranda

Lodge Secretary

Grand Lodge of California

(The Leader)

Once More, With Feeling! Let's Tell the World: #ImAMason

For the past two summers, we've run social media campaigns to encourage members to tell the world that #ImAMason. This month, we're bringing it back—with the hopes of starting a worldwide trend!

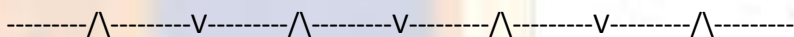
Last summer, #ImAMason posts reached more than 6 million people—helping us spread the word about Freemasonry and promoting positive public awareness.

So, from May 1–14, we're asking California Masons to post a message explaining why their membership is so important to them on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok (follow our new channel @CaliforniaMasons) with the hashtag #ImAMason. (It's important you use the hashtag so we can see and share it!) This can be a simple written message, a photo, and a selfie—whatever you like! Either way, by talking about Freemasonry and our membership with the people around us, we can inspire the next generation of would-be Masons to take that first step and knock on the door.

In fact, we know from studies that **91 percent** of current members first learned about Masonry through a family member, friend, or coworker. Despite that, a whopping 63 percent of members don't openly discuss Freemasonry with those around them—often out of an erroneous belief that they're not allowed to, or that they have to wait until they're asked directly. **That isn't true!**

As Masons, we are able—and indeed encouraged—to talk about Freemasonry and what we get out of it with the people around us. That’s what the **#ImAMason** campaign is all about. Don’t know what to say? **DOWNLOAD OUR NEW BOOKLET**, titled *Opening the Door*, for some helpful and simple answers to common questions about Freemasonry. Or check out our brand-new webpage, **WHAT IS FREEMASONRY**, meant to give newcomers a basic sense of things. These are a starting point to help members discuss the fraternity in general and how it works. But the best explanations will come from real members discussing the real things they get out of it.

We can’t wait to see what you post!



May Officers' Checklist - Stay on track of lodge business and prepare for important deadlines. Here’s your May checklist.

Executive Committee

- If you haven’t already, register for the final 2024 Master and Wardens Leadership retreat in Palm Springs.

Senior Warden, along with Executive Committee

- If you haven’t already, register for the final 2024 Master and Wardens Leadership retreat in Palm Springs.
- Identify and approach members for 2025 open elected and appointed officer positions
- Identify and approach members for the 2025 Audit, Membership
 - Retention, and any other committees.

- Set calendar for 2025 and identify event leaders.
- Continue preparing 2025 budget.
- Set installation date and approach installing officer, master of ceremonies, and chaplain
- Review all candidates' progress toward advancement.

Junior Warden

- If you haven't already, register for the final 2024 Master and Wardens Leadership retreat in Palm Springs.
- Continue tracking 100 percent officer giving to the Annual Fund, with officers setting an example through gifts that represent their capability as well as their commitment to our charitable programs.

Secretary

- Send list of members with late dues to the Retention Committee.
- Send any suspension notices via certified mail.
- Provide necessary information so Charity Committee can consider remissions.
- Begin reviewing roster for accuracy in preparation for the end of the Grand Lodge membership year, June 30.

Treasurer

- **Important: By May 15**, submit IRS form 990 and FTB form 199 (unless your lodge has previously agreed to have Grand Lodge prepare and file these forms). Please contact financial services at (415) 292-9170 for any questions.
- Lodges not using Intacct should submit their annual financial statements to Grand Lodge by May 15.

Hall Association

- **Important: By May 15**, submit IRS form 990 and FTB form 199.
- **Important: By May 15**, submit form 200 to Grand Lodge. In iMember 2.0, download form 200 from the Hall Resources section of the Resources tile, and then upload the completed form to the lodge vault or submit to:
memberservices@freemason.org
financialservices@freemason.org
- Pay insurance premium.

Questions? Contact Member Services

at memberservices@freemason.org or (415) 776-7000.



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- Senior communities in Covina and Union City
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- Transitions short-term care for neurological and post-surgical rehabilitation (Union City)
- The Masonic Center for Youth and Families in San Francisco and Covina—with telehealth services now available everywhere
- **NEW!** Shared housing for seniors in Covina

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