

Last month my question was: "We started with only 15 members in January, 1905, how many members do you think we had when we received our Charter in October of 1905?"

From the original meeting, while Under Dispensation, until Chartered on October 12, 1905, Las Palmas Lodge admitted 36 Master Masons by affiliation (in addition to the 15 Charter Members). They Raised 9 men, and had 4 Fellowcrafts waiting to be Raised and 1 Entered Apprentice waiting to be passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Within 10 months of its start, Las Palmas Lodge went from 15 Charter Members to a total of 60 dues paying members. Dr. Angus B. Cowan, a noted physician in Central California, was the first petitioner for degrees.

To join a Masonic Lodge and maintain membership costs money in the form of application fees and dues. At the original meeting of our Charter members, the yearly dues were set at \$6 per year. In today's dollars that would be equal to \$145. It is amazing how close that is to our current yearly dues of \$105.00.

In 1916 the application fee was \$75.00 plus six months dues in advance. In today's dollars the application fee would be \$1,643.24. In 1931 the application fee was \$100 plus 6 months dues paid in advance. In Today's dollars that \$105.00 equals \$1,470.00. In the middle of the great depression, Grand Lodge sent out a letter requesting that no Lodge reduce its application fees. Today our application fee is only \$230.00. What a bargain Masonry is today.

The question for next month is how many dues paying members did Las Palmas Lodge have in December of 1916 and in December of 1928?

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