

In my December Trestleboard message, I talked about our Lodge finances. I noted that out of our \$120 per member yearly dues, \$47 of this sum goes to our Grand Lodge leaving our Lodge with a net dues income of about \$25,000 per year. When we add in the earnings from our Life Membership fund, this brings our total Lodge yearly net income to \$30,000.

I also pointed out that there is no way that Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge can operate on only \$30,000 per year. Even if our beautiful Lodge building has no major repairs, Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge would still need a minimum of \$50,000 per year to stay alive. Unfortunately, our Las Palmas Masonic Center is now almost 60 years old and major repairs come about more frequently than before. Currently, we are looking at \$5,000 to repair or replace the drains in our kitchen. Our Air conditioning system is antiquated and the cost to replace it with an adequate system will be over \$100,000.

I am writing this column so that you know how much it costs to keep Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge afloat. I also want you to realize that **the life of Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge** will not be measured by maintaining a corps of officers and active members; it **is how long our money will last**. I have been a Trustee since 2001 and during this 16 years I have not seen anyone bequeath any money to our Lodge. When I read a hundred years of the minutes of Las Palmas Lodge starting in 1906 I saw many instances where members bequeathed money to Las Palmas Lodge. If you as a member, or a widow of a member, enjoy and get pleasure from attending functions at our Lodge, perhaps now is the time for you to think of the future of our Lodge.

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