

In our degrees, we are taught to practice charity. Charity actually has two meanings. The first is brotherly love and the second is giving our time or money to a good cause.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's we were asked to donate to our Lodge to pay off the mortgage on our then new temple building. We were also asked to donate to our Grand Lodge Masonic Homes for older Masons, their widows and their orphaned children. In 1978, 382 members contributed \$4,035.00 to the GL Masonic Homes, which averaged \$4.28 for each member, based on our membership of 942. This figured out to 41% of the members actually making contributions. In today's dollars that \$4,035 would be \$20,000. The \$4.28 would be \$21.00.

A week ago, I got a letter from our Grand Lodge asking for a donation that I could specify go to either the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund and/or the Working Tools Program.

The Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund raises critical funds that allows the Masonic Homes and outreach to care for brethren, their wives and widows in need.

The Working Tools Program helps remove barriers and creates partnerships that will make careers in fields like automotive, construction, medical, and engineering more accessible to students who may not prefer a traditional four-year college experience. This program helps high school students who choose to pursue opportunities in Career and Technical Education fields.

If for some reason you did not get this letter from our GL, you can still send your check to:  
California Masonic Foundation  
1111 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108-9863

Please note on your check which fund you desire to help and mention that you are with Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge No. 366.

Starting in September of 1979, Group discussions were being held in the Card Room for all three degrees. On September 13, a discussion was conducted concerning the First Degree. On October 4, a discussion group was held on the Second Degree and on November 29, the Third Degree. All new Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons were encouraged to attend.

As a result of negotiations between Jake Cannon and Congressman "Chip" Pashayan, Las Palmas Lodge got a new flag in September, 1979 which flew over the White House in Washington, D.C.

The first member of Las Palmas Lodge to be presented with the Hiram Award was Brother Paul Shelly. Bro Paul had been our organist for many years. He was also the organist for Fresno Lodge and occasionally played the organ for Masonic Funerals. By the time I got to know Bro Shelly, he was a retired school teacher.

