

This last Thursday night we held our first Past Master's night in over 7 years. While I was making preparations for this event, I was asked by one of our officers what exactly was Past Master's Night.

At first, I was surprised that someone in our Lodge did not know what it was. Then I realized that many of our current active members were not Masons, or in particular, Master Masons back in September of 2018 when we had our last PM's Night. Several of these new Masons gave me the impression that they thought Past Master's Night was just an occasion for all of the Past Masters of Las Palmas-Ponderosa to get together for a great dinner and socialize.

While the great dinner and socializing were partially correct, I had to inform them that these old-time Past Masters also put on a 3rd degree for a lucky candidate. At our PM night last week, we had a total of 30 Master Masons in attendance with half of them being our Past Masters. There would have been more PM's, but several called in sick the day of the even and several others had job conflicts or were on vacation.

We used to say that the PM's would show the young officers how to put on a 3rd degree. Since it had been so long since our prior PM night, we held 3 schools of instruction to refresh the memory of our PM's. When all was said and done, I think our PM's did a very commendable job.

During my year as Master, we held our PM night on November 6, 1980. We started off with a delicious beef stroganoff dinner (prepared by Mary Perch) and a 78th birthday cake for George Holstein (Master in 1949). 22 past masters were present and following Las Palmas tradition, were introduced by Bro. Bobby C. Bingham our Junior Past Master. During a short intermission, Bro. Vernon Walker sang a solo, "O lord, Our God". Sam Pavlovich gave the lecture and Hambleton Leas delivered the charge. Bro Pavlovich would go on to be our Grand Master in 1990 and Bro. Ham Lease gave the 3rd degree charge at PM night for several decades. As Master I got to sit with the sideliners and enjoy a 3rd degree.

Our candidate in 1980 was Matt Pasqua who, incidentally, is a neighbor of our current Jr. PM, Bill Lyons.