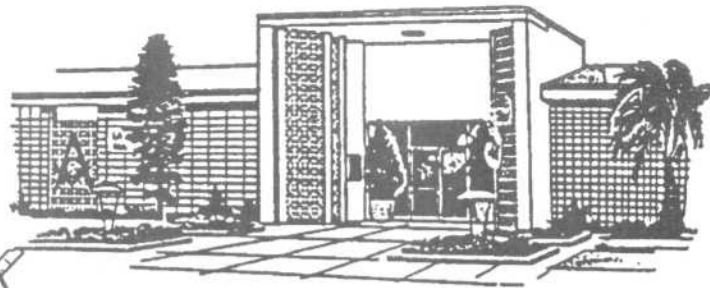


The Las Palmian

of Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge
#366, F&AM

2992 East Clinton Avenue • Fresno, California 93703

(209) 268-2303



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From the East

At our June stated meeting we discussed the possibility of creating a lodge directory. A suggestion was made that we combine all five lodges in the 293rd District and make one large directory. Please let the Secretary know if your address and or phone number have been changed or if you wish not to be included in this directory. If we do not hear from you by September 1, we will assume you would like to participate in this directory and that all the information is correct. Only you can make these corrections.

I would like to congratulate Mike Carrigan, our newly installed Master Mason. Brother Carrigan and his family were able to attend our June stated meeting at which time he received his Las Palmas pin and Master Mason pin. Warren Carr gave a brief talk on the responsibilities of the Lodge to the Sojourners.

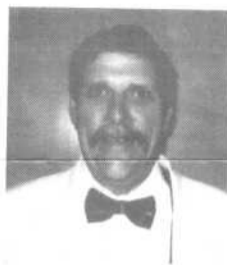
We had 179 brothers, family members and friends at our June stated meeting dinner. I would like to thank all those that helped to make this wonderful meal possible, especially Mary Perch for her unending energy and dedication for making it all happen.

I would also like to congratulate Raymond "Bud" Baird on receiving his 50 year pin in the presence of his lodge brothers, family and friends.

The lodge will be dark July and August. We will be holding our stated meetings and dinners as usual. There will also be no Schools of Instruction during the next two months while the officers prepare to move up in their respective chairs. September will be business as usual and we will have our Past Masters Night on September 10th. Past Master Ralph Medeiros will be contacting all the past masters in the next two months.

We will be going to our usual casual wear mode for our July and August stated meetings and dinners, as well as any other summer meetings. Have a great summer!

Fraternally Yours
John Steven Bjorge
Master



French Masonry Thrives Without Compromise

(From the North Carolina Mason)

My Brethren: The following appeared in a recent exchange on the Internet discussion group hosted by Philalethes, the Masonic research organization.

At my grand lodge (France), we are doubling our membership every dozen years or so, and have never simplified nor reduced the ritual to cater to candidates. Actually, it's unchanged since we removed "Long Live the King!" more than a century ago. We've kept our old obligations and penalties, and if some outsider wants to misinterpret them, it's his problem. Masonic education is at an extremely high level which, I'm afraid, could hardly be imagined elsewhere. Becoming a Mason is a challenge and a sought-after achievement, worth quite a few sacrifices. Our main problem is building enough lodge rooms. Our current ones are filled every day of the week by meeting lodges.

We have done for nearly three centuries the opposite of what is currently attempted in the USA, and we've done it with great success. Here is the recipe of the Grand Lodge of France where, it should be added, attendance in lodge is about 70% of members at every meeting.

First, there is the basic philosophy. We do not think that Masonry is a service club, in competition with other service clubs, but much, much more. Selection is very strict, and becoming a Mason is considered a challenge and an achievement for which many applicants will wait months or years and make quite a few sacrifices. Dues are, on the average, \$350 yearly. About a third to half of applicants are refused.

We consider that Masonry is the means to make good men better. All the other purposes, developments, and results are simple consequences of this main goal. To this end it is obvious that only men whom we consider capable of improving themselves are admitted. We are not interested in numbers but in quality.

Unlike the USA where, since the Morgan affair, lodges meet in the third degree, our lodges open and do most of their business (except passings and raisings) in the Entered Apprentice degree. This allows Entered Apprentices to attend lodge from day one. It eliminates any need to hurriedly pass and raise them so they don't disappear before they may attend Lodge.

Our obligations include the promise to regularly attend meetings, with rare exceptions (illness, travel, professional, or family obligations), and then a written excuse (or one phoned to the lodge Master) is required.

Insofar as ritual is concerned, we do not think there is any need to modify it to suit the changing winds of modernity or political correctness (which is only a minor issue here). Those who do not like our penal clauses, rituals, proficiency, Masonic education, customs, or traditions don't have to become Masons.

JULY CALENDAR

16th - Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

We never have mass initiations or "zoom" degrees, where no one really gets initiated, or degrees performed by professional teams. We make of all initiations, passings, and raisings personal, warm experiences of fraternity and brotherly love, performed by the officers of the lodge. We allow no more than five candidates per ceremony as required by Anderson's constitutions, so that the new members never forget the experience and its meaning.

We try to make each meeting interesting by having, every time, a lodge member (or a visitor) present an original, interesting paper or lecture on a Masonic-related subject, followed by a disciplined discussion of the subject, led and moderated by the Master.

You might be surprised to hear that our proficiency is short and simple, only covering the signs, words, grips, steps, and a number of questions and answers very similar to yours. Masonic education, although it doesn't imply any rote learning, more than compensates for this.

We spend a minimum of one year between degrees so that EAs and FCs have the time to get the required education, consisting of a thorough grounding in ritual, Anderson's constitutions, the history of Freemasonry and of the Grand Lodge of France, the history and characteristics of the operative tradition and of other Masonic bodies and rites, the symbolism of their degree, knowledge of the common fallacies about Masonry and the arguments of anti-Masons, and general philosophy. The Junior Warden and Senior Warden respectively take responsibility for the education of the Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts. Older members of the lodge educate the Master Masons.

The preparation of three original papers on imposed Masonic subjects and the presentation - and defense - of one of them in lodge (like a thesis in a university) is the precondition for being admitted to the Fellow Craft, and then the Master Mason, degree.

I will admit that all this sounds difficult. Surprisingly, it's not. It's elating and inspiring. It makes attending lodge a sought-for pleasure. We have had sick Brothers demand to be brought in on a stretcher so they wouldn't miss a particularly interesting paper or lecture. It seems to attract and motivate rather than repel candidates. It really makes good men better.

By Michael L. Segall

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NOTICE

The 2nd notice for DUES has been mailed out. Yet there are 30 of our brothers who have not paid their dues. I know, you are tired of reading about unpaid dues. Well, I do not enjoy writing about unpaid dues. All you have to do to make everyone happy is, PAY YOUR DUES. If you are unable to pay your dues, PLEASE LET SOMEONE KNOW.

Marvin E. Wallace, Secretary

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES in 1998

Bro. Robert Carl Jennings, Affiliated from San Clement #671

E.A. Armen George Keledjian, New Initiate

E.A. Rodney Allen Spenhoff, New Initiate

Bro. Carl Presto Evans of Ponderosa Lodge #700

Bro. Jack Hagop Peloian, Affiliated from Aeries #383

Bro. Gerald Hach Peloian, Affiliated from Aeries #383

Bro. James Hagop Peloian, Affiliated from Aeries #383

E.A. Ham Hamajjian, New Initiate

Bro. Clifford Michael Cardigan, New Initiate

Bro. Robert Charles Button, Affiliated from LAP #366

Bro. Eli N. Caffeine, Affiliated from Elisnore #289

Bro. Harold Morrelli, Affiliated From Aeries #383

THANKS FOR THE HELP

A BIG HAND TO MARY PERCH for the shish-kabob dinner on the 18th of June. There were 175 dinners served Thursday night. I would like to thank the following Brothers, Sisters and friends who answered my call to help Mary prepare the dinners. Mike Reynolds, Frank Maul, James C. Clark, Leo Bopp, Harry Dunlavy, Gerald Cory, Ethel Day, Barbara Reynolds, Betty Marine, Heather Shaw, Ruth Avakian, Verba Clinger, Wanda Goodrich, Eleanor Miksh, Randy and Pam Forester, George and Marian Posson, Hilda Johnson, Ralph Saroyan, Mike Centurion, Kay Cloud, Marty Sorge, Sam and Barbara Linares. Thank each and every one of you for answering the call for help. Help will be needed for the dinner on July 16. Please call Mary and schedule the hours you are able and want to help with the dinner. The hands of many make a large choir small. Thank You.

Marvin E. Wallace, Secretary

OFFICERS FOR 1998

Worshipful Master	JOHN S. BJORGE.....	431-3820	Junior Steward	TOM HANSEN	252-1154
Senior Warden	TED SORGE	275-9734	Treasurer	CHRIS U. PATROPULOS	298-7181
Junior Warden	BILL FREEMAN	297-4968	Secretary	MARVIN WALLACE	439-9111
Senior Deacon	CURTIS C. JACK	299-3699	Chaplain	BILL M. ENNIS SR, P.M.	439-0746
Junior Deacon	CARI. H. WILCKEN, P.M.	432-2550	Marshal	ROBERT L. MOORE, P.M.	485-3543
Senior Steward	JAMES CLARK	233-3507	Tiler	SAM LINARES	224-5164

Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge #366 F&AM

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