



Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge No. 366, F. & A. M.



The Las Palmian

Legacy Chapter No. 555 Order of Easter Star
Sharon Temple No. 92 Daughters of the Nile

Heart of the Valley Assembly No. 217 International Order of Rainbow for Girls

Volume XXIII Issue 3

March 2019

Greetings from the East



What an Honor it was to have the Worshipful Master and other officers from "Fresno Lodge" in attendance for our first "Initiations" of **2019**. **Mark Stroup, Junior Warden** here at LPP did something *never before seen by any Mason in attendance*... I wish I could tell You how Incredibly Amazing it was, but I am unfortunately "*sworn to secrecy*." **Worshipful Clint Shelton of Fresno Masonic Lodge** said it was the "*Finest first degree he had ever seen*."

To simply perform a *good* first degree in **Jan/Feb** with *new officers* in *new stations* is quite a feat. To be surrounded by this much "**Talent**" this early in the season, says **2019** if off to a *fantastic start!* Who needs "football" when we have the "**Oldest Fraternity on Earth**" and *great Friends and Family* and even **Food** to boot?

We do enjoy giving away those **16 bicycles** (+ backpacks & even tablets) a year to kids with **perfect attendance** right here at local schools. We enjoy supporting our **Scottish Rite Language Center** here in **downtown Fresno** helping kids with speech and learning impediments for **free** for **decades!** The "**Shiners' Hospital**" helped with **dozens of surgeries** for the **Lady of my Life** allowing her to walk and not simply be bound to a wheel chair for the rest of her life. Helping those in **NEED**. Making a **DIFFERENCE!**

Being a part of something this **BIG**, helping **SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE** right HERE in **OUR Community**, **is why we are all here!** It takes *many dedicated hands* with their unique talents to make all this happen. Thank You to **ALL** the **Past Masters** and **Youngest Masons** for their "*Dedication and Commitment*" as well as their "*Amazing Talents and Gifts*" they share. They fill our Hearts with **Pride and Accomplishment** **as we learn Service to others while bettering ourselves!**

Thank You to the **Lovely Ladies** in our Lives! We certainly enjoy our **WIDOWS CLUB** and the **JOY** they bring! Thank You to **IORG "Heart of the Valley" Rainbow Girls** and the amazing individuals that make up that Organization! Being surrounded by **THIS MUCH TALENT...** and I missed thanking so many... Thank **YOU ALL** for letting me be a part of such a **BIG ORGANIZATION** that does **SO MUCH** for **SO MANY!** It is simply, My **HONOUR** to be a small part of something **THIS BIG!**

Fraternally;

Richard Sherrod PM
Worshipful Master



Greetings from the West:

I would like to start by congratulating our newest Entered Apprentice Masons brother Rian S. Bowman and brother William Woolman. On becoming a Mason, you have become part of a brotherhood of men committed to family, personal growth, and providing care for others in need. We all look forward to seeing you both progress in your Masonic journey.

In my own experience Masonry has made me not only a better man, but a better supervisor, a better professional, a more devoted person. I further pray a better father and husband to my beautiful family. I can't explain the gratification I feel towards our institution. I would like to also mention our brother Daniel Valdez is progressing well in his labors, toward learning the standard form or long form of his Entered Apprentice proficiency.

Likewise, I hope my brothers and those new Masons in our Lodge will also find something uplifting and inspiring in their travels through Masonry. In doing this, we will discover the deeper meaning behind the words and how we can apply those teachings in our daily lives. I can't help feeling thankful for all the new relationships and friendships I've made over the years, due to having Masonry in my life. I encourage every brother to continue to build and shape our Lodges future.

May the blessing of heaven rest upon us and all our loved ones.

Sincerely,

Senior Warden
Joshua Harmon



From the South:

Hello Fraters,

I hope all enjoyed their Valentine's Day with loved ones.

We had an amazing turnout at our 1st degree on January 31st, we were even visited by Worshipful Clint Shelton and other brothers of Fresno Lodge 247. The degree was followed by a stimulating presentation by Worshipful Richard Sherrod beckoning us to ask ourselves what the working tools symbolize for us individually - and what practical use we were putting them to.

February was a quiet month at lodge but things are picking up. Our minds and bodies are coming out of Winter - the great book of Nature shows us that Winter is the time for rest, inactivity, reflection and introspection. Watch as our minds and bodies leave this period of stasis and enter Spring where all of nature becomes fruitful, fertile, and productive.

For our officers and those of you who have an analytical perspective about our mystic ceremonies, reflect on your position in the lodge room and you may come to interesting realizations.

Ask yourself the following questions:

-Which direction am I seated?

-Am I seated on the lodge floor or is my seat situated above some steps?

-Why are there steps in the cardinal directions of the lodge room? How many steps in each direction? What do these steps allude to?

-How do I feel emotionally while I sit here - what energies do I represent?

-Is my position and duty in the lodge room more ACTIVE/masculine or more PASSIVE/feminine?

-Except for the JW and Chaplain, each officer has its counterpart or opposite force that is situated horizontally, vertically, or diagonally from each other. Which officer is your counterpart and how do your duties and functions differ during the degrees?

I recall during installation that my JW position had something to do with teaching brothers so let's hope this suffices. Contact me with your insights about the above questions - I'd love to have this discussion!

Fraternally,

Mark C. Stroup
Junior Warden

From the Archives:



When I took my degrees in 1967 and 1968, as well as when I was a line officer starting in 1973, we had so many brothers learning their proficiencies that their coaches had to attend special meetings with our District Inspector. Then, before a brother could give his proficiency in open Lodge, there would be a run through with all of the other brothers giving their proficiencies (in that degree). You had to be able to give a satisfactory proficiency to the head candidate's coach before you were allowed to give it in open Lodge.

The candidate's proficiency is a series of questions by a coach and answers by the candidate. It has to be given in open Lodge. Up to 5 brothers can give their proficiency at the same time. If there is more than one candidate giving proficiency, all of the candidates are seated in chairs and the first question is asked the candidate on the end and the second question is asked of the candidate next to him and so forth. After the last candidate answers, the first candidate is asked the next question. In order for this to work efficiently, there needs to be a rehearsal. All goes well in open Lodge unless one of the candidates is absent. Then the question you expect to get as a candidate is given to another candidate and there can be lots of confusion.

Several years ago, our Grand Lodge adopted "short form" proficiency for the first and second degree. While it was intended to make it easier on candidates, it deprives the candidate from spending time with a coach who can impart Masonic knowledge. Since there is no short form for the Master Mason's proficiency, and all elected officers of a lodge must have passed the Master Mason proficiency, it makes it very hard to learn the Master Mason proficiency and may even stop an otherwise qualified person from becoming a senior officer of a Lodge. It has been many years since I have witnessed more than one candidate give his standard form proficiency at the same time. I have not given up hope; perhaps I will witness this sometime this year.



We have many brothers who need your support, be it their wives or family members, a call, a note or stop by just to remind them we are there for them in their time of need.

**LAS PALMAS-PONDEROSA
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**March
2019**

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A REQUEST TO THE FAMILY OF THE ADDRESSEE
Please notify the Lodge if our Brother is hospitalized, in a
Nursing home, change of Address or incapacitated.

From the Desk of the Secretary ,

Hello all,

If you are having any kind of a problem with anything pertaining to lodge
please do not hesitate to call and I will try and help with the problem.

I hope to see all of you soon. If you have coaching concerns, we can help.

Bryan Kincade PM, Secretary

Feb. Calendar

March 7, 2019	2nd degree practice 6:00 PM
March 14, 2019	LP MBA Meeting 6:00 PM
March 21, 2019	6:00 Appetizers, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 meeting
March 28, 2019	2nd degree 7:00 PM



We are accepting credit cards
payments using the Square System

PayPal at www.lpp366.org
2019 Dues: \$120.00
PayPal Dues: \$124.00
Credit Card: \$124.50