



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 10

October 2019

Greetings from the East



Hello October and cool weather! We are so glad to see you. I hope everyone is well and had a great summer. I hope that the officer's have been studying their new advanced position's and are ready for qualification. I am certain you will all do a fine job.

Work at the lodge has slowed down considerably, we need to get back in the swing of things and start doing degree's again. We gave out 3 petition's at the last stated meeting dinner, so hopefully we will be getting new members. Maybe by doing so it will spark others to get motivated.

There was a really good turnout for the September stated meeting dinner. Good food and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. We want to thank Guillermo Moreno and his family for preparing such a good meal. Everyone enjoyed it . This month the meal will be pasta and we will have all of the regular appetizers.

Our Secretary is setting up a monthly breakfast and is looking for help to prepare the food. If you are handy in the kitchen please consider helping. I understand that this was quite a deal back in the day and hopefully it will become one again. It will be held one Sunday a month and will always be on the same Sunday every month, which one hasn't been decided yet. More details will follow.

It will be good to get back to a regular schedule at lodge and get back to business and seeing everyone again. I invite all of you to attend and see what your lodge is up to.

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

Fraternally,

Joshua Harmon

Worshipful Master



From the West,

This summer has been a slow one for us here at Las Palmas, as we move into fall I again urge all our Candidate Coaches to meet your Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft students and nudge them close to completion of their goal in becoming Master Masons.

This month is our Grand Lodge Annual Communication in San Francisco. Many pieces of new legislation have been submitted by our brothers from across the state that will soon be considered. And as we prepare to cast your lodges vote we encourage all of you to share your respective input and opinions on these several issues.

We hope to have more events and social activities for all of us to attend in the coming months, until then have a wonderful start to our fall season, a safe and happy Halloween, and hope to see you all at lodge soon.

Fraternally,
Andrew A. Miller
Senior Warden

Stated Meeting Dinner





From the South:

As gradually as the sun rises in the east is as gradually that we warm back up to our labors in lodge. I'm sure that we will start working advanced stations soon so if you're planning to move up the line to your next officer position, please have your part memorized/and or prepare to get qualified.

Memorizing ritual for advancing to the next degree is an elephant in the room. While we understand that all bros have different demands from work, family, etc. and must work at their own pace, we would hope that everyone has devoted (at least) some small portion of their leisure time towards this work. Consistency is key. If you're working on memorizing once every 3 or 4 days then you're being consistently inconsistent and you may be doing unnecessarily more work in the long run with this routine. Ask yourself how much free time you have. Then ask yourself what percentage of this time is dedicated to this work.

I hope brothers have made use of our Lodge app for smart phones. It's a great way to keep in touch with bros in-between meetings, find out about upcoming lodge events, see Worshipful Josh Harmon's awesome pics of other lodges and architecture while he is at work, plugs about happenings at other lodges, etc.

Fraternally and Sincerely from the South,
Mark C. Stroup
Junior Warden

Problems with Life Memberships

Both Las Palmas and Clovis Lodges have had Life Memberships available to their members who desired to purchase them. Ponderosa Lodge never had Life Memberships. The price and terms are defined in the California Masonic Code. (presently 21 x the current dues) When Clovis Lodge consolidated with Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge, the two Life Membership funds were merged. Currently we have a total of 64 living Life Members.

Even though the Trustees manage the investment of this money, the money in the Life Membership fund is not owned by our Lodge, but is owned by our Grand Lodge and they have determined that no matter how good, or bad, the investment has been for the year, we are limited to withdrawing, as earnings, 4% of the average amount in the fund for the prior three years.

The formula creates many problems for our Lodge. If a member purchases a Life membership at the beginning of the year, the Lodge does not get any dues from that member for the first year, then 1.33% of the amount paid for that life membership (\$35.51) for the second year and 2.66% (\$71.02) for the third year and then 4% (\$120.00) for the fourth year. During all that time the Lodge must pay the Grand Lodge assessment which for 2020 will be \$50.75 per member. Traditionally, the Grand Lodge assessment increases by about 3% per year so the loss to the Lodge is even greater in future years.

For 2019, if the 64 Life members had actually paid dues, they would have paid a total of \$7,680. For the current year, our Life Membership fund generated for us only \$4,463.84 or a net loss of \$3,216.16 if actual dues had been paid. Of this \$4,463.84, \$3120.00 was paid by the Lodge as the Grand Lodge Assessment. When a Life member passes away, the money he paid for his Life Membership is kept in the invested fund, but remember that Life member probably paid \$1,000 or less for his Life Membership compared to the 2019 sum of \$2520.00.

Our Lodge has had a net loss of members for many years due to deaths, suspensions for non-payment of dues and requests for demits. This has not been offset by new members. The life of Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge is in the ability of the Trustees to earn sufficient funds from Lodge investments to augment what is paid in dues so that our bills and temple can be kept alive.

If you are a Life Member of Scottish Rite or York Rite, you got a letter from them asking that you send in a check for the amount of their Grand Lodge assessment as your Life Membership did not generate sufficient funds. I understand that these requests have not been that successful.

At this time, your Lodge Trustees have determined an important change that must be made. We must amend this Standing Resolution so that no new Life Memberships can be purchased. As a Lodge Trustee, I made this motion in writing at the September Stated Meeting and now I am informing the membership in writing of this motion. The Lodge will vote on this motion at its October 17th Stated Meeting. Existing Life Members will keep their Life Membership and not be affected.

If any of you have questions about this, please call me on my cell phone (559) 779-7798 so that we can discuss it.

Richard Frey PM, Trustee

From the Archives:



We lost a Past Master

In 1989 Dr. Lee French was our Master. I recently received word that Brother French passed away on August 18th in Prescott Valley, Arizona.



Dr. French was the only Medical Doctor to ever become Master of Las Palmas, or Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge. After graduating from the University of South Dakota he graduated from Temple University Medical School in 1960. After his residency at Kern County General Hospital, he was in the Air Force serving in Freising, Germany.

In 1967 he started a practice of Family Medicine in Fresno. In 1982 he closed his practice and started an internship in internal medicine at UC San Francisco/Valley Medical Center. In 1984 he re-opened his practice in Fresno as an internist.

Brother French petitioned Las Palmas Lodge and was initiated in June of 1978 and raised a Master Mason in November of that year.

After serving as our Master in 1989, brother French moved to Arizona and joined a Lodge there. After several years, he started suffering from Alzheimer's and as a result got suspended from the Arizona Lodge for non-payment of dues. Even though he had a Life Membership in Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge, we were required to suspend him due to the fact that he had been suspended from a Masonic Lodge in Arizona. Bro Jim Clark tried to get the Arizona Lodge to reinstate him and then grant him a demit so he could be reinstated in Las Palmas-Ponderosa, but this never came to fruition. Not being a Mason in good standing at the time of his death denied him the right to a Masonic funeral.



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.

David Clark - Knee

**LAS PALMAS-PONDEROSA
LODGE NO. 366 F & A M**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



October
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,

Finally the weather is changing, and cool evenings are returning. The lodge has been quiet and we need degrees. If you are a entered apprentice or a fellow craft, you need to get working on your degrees. Also it is almost time to send out dues notices for 2020 and that means if you haven't paid 2019 yet, you're going to owe for 2 years. Check your dues card make sure you are current.

Hope to see you all soon,

Bryan Kincade PM, Secretary

August Calendar

October 3, 2019	Degree or practice
October 10, 2019	Management Board 6:00 PM
October 17, 2019	6:00 Appetizers, 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 meeting
October 24, 2019	Degree or practice
October 31, 2019	Happy Halloween!



Credit card payments:

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