



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 XXVIII Issue 9

September 2020

## Greetings from the East



To my friends and brothers' greetings and salutations from Las Palmas-Ponderosa lodge. September is upon us and our children are short of going back to school. California school districts are bracing for continued online schooling this fall, with many districts in various states having to ditch in-person classroom learning plans.

Despite greater uncertainty with cases of Covid-19 now increasing in California, and teachers and administrators are also preparing for more changes that could come at any point, depending on the course of the pandemic in the coming weeks and months. Distance learning has been unsuccessful for many students in the rapid pivot to distance learning last spring, and now state education officials are looking into ways to help districts make remote learning more effective this fall.

With two teenagers of my own, I believe in-person face-to-face instruction is the best thing for our students, but I know it's very important to limit the community spread of COVID-19. We all share the goal of getting kids back into the classroom as soon as it's safe, likewise for the Lodge and other social activities. It remains unclear with the current state of COVID-19, when the Lodge will be permitted to conduct regular business and functions.

Please continue to look out for those in need. May we continue social distancing measures in the interests of keeping everyone healthy and safe. I look forward to seeing everyone in Lodge or perhaps via Zoom in the near future.

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

Fraternally,  
Joshua Harmon  
Worshipful Master



From the West,

I hope all have been well. We are all in this restrictive and scary situation together, and this situation affects everyone differently. The virus situation has caused disruptions and extra stress in our families, workplaces, as well as the existential anxiety of wondering if we're going to be okay each time we leave our home.

Prayer is something that often goes unnoticed due to its simplicity. Prayer is often referred to as a spiritual or religious practice. We know that prayer is not only spiritual, but creates very real changes to our brain. Just look at someone's brain under an MRI scan during prayer and see how the activity has significantly changed versus someone's brain that is undergoing stress or fear. Please be safe everyone and I look forward to seeing you all back at lodge once this is over.

Fraternally,  
Mark Stroup  
Senior Warden



From the South:

Greetings Brethren,

Under normal conditions in the coming month of September we would come back from our light summer recess and return to our standard schedule of meetings and degrees, of course as you may have noticed by now things aren't quite so ordinary.

Time does march on however even if it is marching a bit wobbly these days. The Fall is a time when we typically begin to contemplate the coming year and what that will look like. What officer positions may be vacant and what officers may be ready for advancement.

I can't tell you exactly what this process may look like this year with any degree of certainty, but in one form or another it will happen.

So I encourage our officers, those of you in lower chairs especially, to stay on top of your ritual and prepare for possible advancement or at least simple re-activation. The all too stark reality is none of us, not even the Grand Master truly knows when we will be able to come back to being as fully operational an organization as we were this time last year, but let's not get caught with our ritualalistic pants down when that happens.

Please all continue to stay safe and well,

Fraternally,  
Andrew Miller PM  
Junior Warden

## September Birthday's

Frederick Richburg II	2
Stephen Harrlson PM	3
Rufus Price	4
Donald Kauffman	5
Peter Wilson	6
David Doll	6
Steven Clifton	8
James Carney	8
Gary Garant	9
Thomas Young PM	12
Sonny Mehrtash	12
Richard Tarango	15
Bruce Symmonds PM	17
Craig Constance	17
Devin O'Connell	20
Kurtis Docken	21
Robert Thomason Jr.	22
Kasra Monazzami	22
Paul Locker	24
Ara Karkazian	24
Charles Oliver	25
Bruce Morrow	25
Melvin Welch	27
William Kidd	27
Thomas Musto Jr.	28
David Orrantia	28
Gary Lewis PM	30
James Meeks	30
Gerard Gulgulian	30



## From the Archives:



Masonic Lodges all over the country have a similar problem with many of their Entered Apprentices. A high percentage of them never learn their work and therefore never go any further in their degrees of Masonry. Several years ago, our Grand Lodge tried to solve this problem by reducing the amount of work that a Candidate had to learn and recite in open Lodge. What used to take 10 to 15 minutes now takes less than 5. Of course, the "long form" is still preferable and is mandatory for the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. The "short form" also means that an Entered Apprentice spends less time with his coach to learn firsthand the workings of Masonry and his Lodge.

The California Masonic Code, Section 2670 (Forfeiture of Fees and Contributions), used to state that "a candidate must present himself qualified for the second and third degrees within a period of three years from the date of his initiation." This statute went into effect October 1973. Candidates after October 1973 have three years; candidates before this time had five years. Exceptions could be made for valid reasons and a couple of more months could be granted by our Grand Master.

At the time Section 2670 was operational, dues did not start until a candidate was raised a Master Mason. Several years ago this changed and dues now are collected from the date of initiation forward and there is no time limit to get your second and third degree.

At this time Las Palmas-Ponderosa has 25 Entered Apprentice Masons who have not advanced. Yes, some are recent initiates and with the Covid-19 problems they have not been coached or Lodge has not been open to give the proficiency, but most have been on our rolls for years and years. Our longest Entered Apprentice got his first degree in 1986—that is 34 years ago. If they pay their dues, they can still be coached if they wish. If they do not pay their dues for 2 years, we have to go through the prescribed process to suspend them for non-payment of dues. At this time, out of the 25 Entered Apprentice Masons in our Lodge, 17 are behind in their dues. Of course, several will pay their dues late, but many of these should be suspended; however, we have a COVID-19 problem. Since we cannot have Stated Meetings, we can't vote on suspending them. It also means that Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge will have to pay the Grand Lodge assessment on these 17 Entered Apprentices, which at about \$50 each is \$850. Has the "short form proficiency" helped the candidates or the Lodge? It doesn't look like it to me.



*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  
LODGE NO. 366 F & A M**

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



September  
2020

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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,

I hope this finds you all well. I sometimes feel as if we will never get back to Lodge. The HVAC project hit a little snag and is now once again on the road to be complete. I hope The HVAC God's smile down on us and give us some air conditioning and looking forward some heat. Please stay safe and keep marching forward, we will meet again.

Hope to see you all soon,

Bryan Kincade PM, Secretary

September Calendar

All meetings are canceled until further notice.



Credit card payments:

PayPal at [www.lpp366.org](http://www.lpp366.org)  
2020 Dues: \$130.00  
PayPal Dues: \$134.25  
Credit Card: \$134.25