



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 XXVI Issue 4

April 2022

Greetings from the East



I would like to take this opportunity to explain my whereabouts. When I accepted the Master's position it was with the understanding that I was going to have to work down south for a part of the time. Well part of the time as a lot of us know, means until we tell you different. So far, they haven't said anything different.

I want to congratulate Bro. Benny Contreras on getting his second degree. Great job!

I will be back as soon as I am able to do so. I miss all of you and I can't wait to see you again.

I am hoping to see more brothers in Lodge in the near future.

Fraternally,
Mark Stroup
Worshipful Master



From the West,

Thanks to all those who turned out for our latest Fellowcraft degree conferral, for several of officers this was there the first time serving in their respective positions and did an excellent job.

These past couple years of unfortunate isolation have made many of us (myself included) a bit rusty at times, but we seem to be doing a good job oiling the squeaky parts.

And at our last stated meeting we were pleased to start seeing applications come back in with a bit more regularity so hopefully degree nights won't be such a seldom occurrence in the months to come.

As all lodges and Masonic bodies continue to get back in the swing of things, please take time to remind a friend and brother we haven't seen in a while to come to lodge. Ninety percent of masonry becomes a habit, unfortunately many of us were forced to find new habits to keep our minds occupied, so let's not forget those we got out of the habit of seeing often and join us at lodge.

Fraternally,
Andrew Miller PM Senior Warden



From the South:

Welcome to Spring! We started off this spring with a second degree and will hope to be putting on a third soon. If you weren't there to see it, you missed a great degree as our Brother Senior Deacon delivered his lines **and** the charge phenomenally.

I would like to invite you to attend our next stated meeting and to come a little early to enjoy a great dinner and social time with your brothers. As with all things, these dinners take work. Please let me know if you are able to help with the cooking and/or clean-up in these activities.

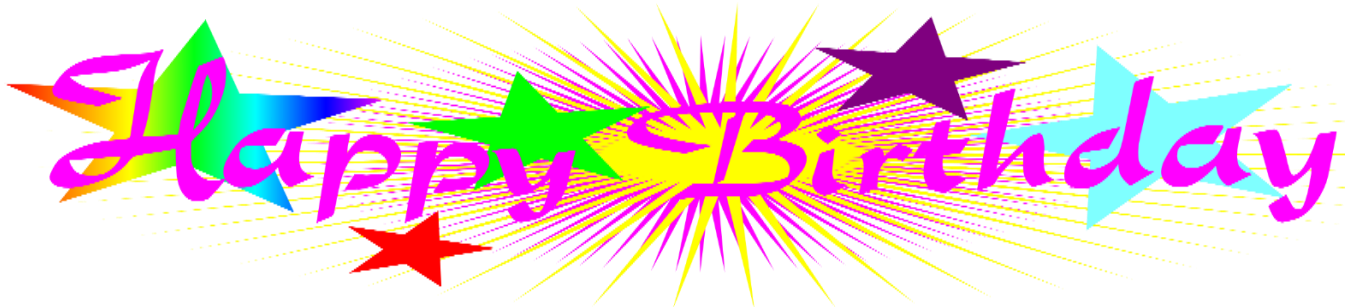
As the weather warms (but not too much I hope) I would love to see the Lodge put on multiple family friendly and fraternal events. With restrictions lifted, I hope to see you and your families join us in our activities and continue and/or become involved with your lodge again.

Fraternally yours,

Jeremy Kern, Junior Warden

April Birthday's

Robert	Sloan		1
Joshua	Harmon	PM	2
Matthew	Ford		2
Timothy	Taylor		2
Michael	Bowman	II	3
Daniel	Koontz		5
Richard	Iknoian		6
Charles	Bersani	PM	7
Howard	Pickle		7
Chad	Schmidt		8
Jeffrey	Banks		8
Scott	Fichtner	PM	8
Kenneth	Crum	Jr.	9
Clifford	Henderson		10
Robert	Scott		11
Fred	Lindeman	Sr.	12
Newell	Dodd		12
Steve	La Ferrera		14
Shawn	Erwin		18
James	Keeton		19
Herbert	Johnston		22
Earl	Jennings		23
Edward	Brown		23
Ervin	Kinchen	Jr.	23
Harry	Dyck	Jr.	23
David	Helwig		25
Mark	Stroup		26
Kurt	Martin		27
Thomas	Crossland		27
Shane	Burkhart		28
Gary	Jacobsen		29
Troy	Johnson	Jr.	29
Walter	Hibbard	D.D.S.	29
Glynn	Polacek		30





From the Archives:

The impact of Covid 19 on Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge and Masonry

A couple of weeks ago I had the honor of being the installing officer for the 2022 officers of our Lodge. While I was standing in the East performing my duties, I started to think what it was like when I attended my first Installation of Officers at Las Palmas Lodge. This would have been in early 1968. At that time every chair in the Lodge was filled and folding chairs were placed between the Jr. Warden's pedestal and the altar for overflow. It was a formal event and everybody wore suits and other finery. Masters from Lodges in the area were present as well as the heads of concordant bodies.

While the attendance at our annual Installation of Officers has greatly declined over the 50+ years, what I saw this year was very disturbing. There were one or two Entered Apprentice's present and the rest of us were participants in the installation. Five of our officers who were to be installed were absent. I know one was sick with Covid. Part of the absence of guests was the fact that this was a "closed installation" which meant that only Masons could attend.

I remember attending Lodge in early 2020 and when Josh Harmon wanted to shake my hand, I extended my elbow to bump. We both laughed at the idea of bumping elbows. We all knew that there were a lot of people getting sick from this virus, but we had no idea that would close down our Lodge for over a year and a half. Shortly thereafter, the senior officers would have a monthly conference call on our phones where we were only authorized to pay bills. Later that year we started to have skype Stated Meetings that could not accomplish much more but more brothers could participate. We could not receive applications for membership and obviously could not vote on any applicants for degrees. While we did get some interest in men applying for degrees, there was nothing we could do for them.

We have all heard the expression "If you don't use it, you will lose it." That is what was happening to Masonry all over the state and country. By not having candidates for degrees we lost some good men who would be good Brothers. We also got out of the habit of attending our Lodge on Thursday nights. This would not only be for degrees, but for our Stated Meeting and our Dinner with our Dates. Even today, I have to remind myself that Thursday evening is for attending Lodge, not watching TV.

We eventually opened back up and on July 29, 2021, and passed Brother Daniel Valdez to the degree of Fellowcraft. Just under 25 Brethren, including officers, were present for this 2nd degree. On September 2nd we initiated Gary William Frey. Besides the officers, only three sideliners were present for this 1st degree. On November 11, Benny Michael Contreras was initiated with a total of 25 officers and members present. On March 24, 2022, Brother Benny was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft with 20 officers and sideliners present. Four of those sideliners were visiting brothers from other Lodges.

In the 40+ years since I was Master, I have come to the conclusion that the most important job of a Blue Lodge is to initiate, pass and raise good men in Masonry. Why would any good man want to join an organization in which there is little to no partition by its members? Without participation from our members, we will soon go from "not using it **to loosing it.**"

Those of you who are candidates, you need to get with your coach on a regular basis. Many coaches will coach you over the telephone due to Covid issues. If you have a problem with your coach, contact our Lodge Secretary and he will help you out. If you are an Entered Apprentice, you should attend all of our Stated Meetings as this is now a privilege which was not available when I took my degrees. All candidates should attend the degrees which they can.

From the Archives: con't.

We are very fortunate to have some current officers that are doing a great job with our ritual. Normally we only have one candidate for a degree on any given night. When I took my degrees most nights had 4 or 5 candidates for the first and second degrees. We learned the candidates lecture quickly as we got with our coaches several times a week.

As for our Master Mason members, our Lodge degree meetings give you a chance to converse with other brethren at the free refreshment meal which starts at 6:30. The degrees start at 7:30 and are normally over around 9:00 pm. Much better than the 10:30 to 11:00 when I took my degrees. There are plenty of seats in our Lodge room so if you are concerned with Covid, you can easily comply with the 6 foot distance. Mask wearing is optional. I always wear my mask due to my daughter being on chemo.

If you need a ride to Lodge, contact the Lodge Secretary to see if he can arrange a ride for you. Dress is now casual, not like the suit, white shirt and tie when I took my degrees. Broaden your horizon, make new friends and reacquaint yourself with the lessons of Masonry. Don't worry, you, like I, can miss one or two nights of Jeopardy each month.

Don't let Covid put Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge on its casualty list!

I hope to see you in Lodge soon and frequently.

Welcome April!

welcome
April♥



Life Members,

Please consider donating your per capita to the lodge. Per capita has risen to \$55.00 per person and is very taxing on the Lodge's budget.

Thank you for your consideration.



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



April
2022

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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,

April is that month that shows us how well the weather service is at predicting weather. Normally, they have about a 50 / 50 chance of getting it right. Lodge is starting to get back to normal, and we can't wait to see you in Lodge with us. Maybe this will be the month that you can make time and attend. The dinners have been exceptional and we need your vote of approval. If you wish to volunteer for the cooking crew, please see Jeremy Kern JW and I am sure he will be glad to speak with you.

Hope to see you all soon,

Bryan Kincade PM, Secretary

April Calendar

4-7	Degree Practice	7:00 pm
4-14	Degree Practice	7:00 pm
4-21	Stated meeting	6:30 Dinner 7:30 pm
4-28	Degree Practice	7:30 pm



Credit card payments:

[PayPal at \[www.lpp366.org\]\(http://www.lpp366.org\)](https://www.paypal.com)

2021 Dues: \$131.00

PayPal Dues: \$135.25

Credit Card: \$135.25