



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 XXVII Issue 8

August 2023

Greetings from the East



Hello all,

Masonic humor:

A Mason is on a Business Trip. One day he comes to a small village, somewhere in the north of England. Our brother is curious to know whether there is a Masonic Lodge or not, so he takes a walk through the village and after some time he finds a path called "Mason's Road".

Thinking that the path might lead to the Masonic Temple, he follows it. At the end of the pathway he sees a building, which looks somewhat rotten and seems to have been out of use for quite a while. Our brother tries to open the door and, surprisingly, it is not locked. He goes inside and finds dust and spider webs everywhere.

In front a door there sits a skeleton, wearing an apron, a collar and holding a sword in its hand. "O my God", thinks our brother and enters the Lodge room. In puzzlement, he sees skeletons with collars and aprons everywhere. The W.M., the Wardens, the Organist, Deacons - all skeletons. He looks around and goes to the seats of the Secretary and Treasurer. Under the hand of the Treasurer, he finds a small piece of paper, a little note, which he seems to have passed to the Secretary. So, our brother picks up the note, blows away the dust and reads: "If nobody prompts the W.M., we will sit here forever!"

I hope to see you all soon,

Fraternally,

Ryan Marrett

Worshipful Master



From the West,

Hello Brethren and greetings from the West.

I hope that the temperatures are being nice to you. We waited a long time for Summer and it finally got here with a vengeance.

Degrees are coming in and the lodge officers have been very busy performing their parts. We are starting to look like the Masonic Lodges of old. It would be nice to see more sideliners at the degrees, it makes the officers seem to perform better when there are more people. If you have ever had an inclination to become an officer of the lodge, now is a good time to jump in.

Continue having a great summer and watch for the heat. As for me, I will stay hydrated when I am on the golf course.

I will see you in Lodge!

Fraternally,
Chuck Bersani PM
Senior Warden



From the South:

Greetings Brethren,

In physics there is a part called Thermodynamics, the second law of which deals with entropy, a measurement of disorder in a system. Everything follows this law be it an engine, backyard pool or a person and our subsequent priorities.

Unless work (energy) is being put in the system it will tend to a disordered state over time. Only when work is put in are we ever able to gain anything out of the work, whatever that work may be. Masonry is what we put into it, and from my personal experience I get way more out than I put in.

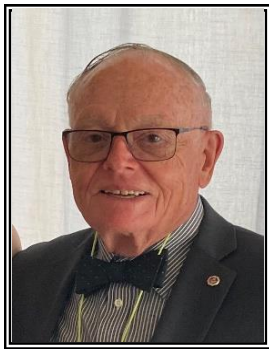
Joshua Barkley
Junior Warden

August Birthday's

Charles	Vaughn		1
Brian	Richburg		2
Jack	Mattox		3
Tony	Delumen		4
Richard	Sherrod	PM	4
Linley	Cole		5
Albert	Blumer		6
Leonard	Gottner	PM	7
Dick	Manoogian		7
Benny	Contreras		8
Andrew	Miller	PM	8
Robert	Preston		10
James	Keeton	PM	11
Jeffrey	Woods		11
Henry	Alcantara		12
Casey	Milburn		14
Howard	Ford		15
James	Holley		16
Gary	Frey		17
James	Wilson II	PM	18
Richard	Avila		19
Walter	Kron		21
Wayne	Newquist		23
Milton	Snavely		24
Jack	Afonin		26
Thomas	Dean		26
Derek	Olsen		26
Bernard	Hollenbeck		28
Rodney	Horton		30
Rian	Bowman		31

"The good men who come to our meetings invest life's most valuable asset: their time. We must welcome all of them, especially our new members, and we must speak to them as brothers. Every member, not just officers, should see this as a duty. Our members pay attention. It matters."





From the Archives:

It truly bothers me when I have to use this article as an obituary. Not because they are hard to write, but because it means that we have lost a brother.

As many of you know, we recently lost Brother Mike Reynolds. I first met Mike when we were students at Fresno City College around 1962. I then went to Fresno State College and lost contact with Mike. It wasn't until late in 1967 when I was initiated at Las Palmas that I got reacquainted with him and also met his brother John. At that time they were also taking their degrees. While we never had any degrees on the same night, back then all of us attended all of the meetings at Lodge that we were entitled to attend.

Around the first of April of 1968, I got a phone call from then Master, Len Gottner, that John and Mike could not be raised on April 11th as it was Maundy Thursday and their father, Bob, would be active in the Maundy Thursday services at Scottish Rite. I had no conflicts so I jumped ahead of John and Mike and got my 3rd degree on that night. Three weeks later, both John and Mike received their 3rd degrees in Las Palmas. Since there were two third degrees, Lodge had to open around 4:00 pm and there were barely enough members present to confer the first of the two degrees. WM Len Gottner asked me to be the Chaplain for the first of the degrees and while I was nervous, I was very pleased to partake. For the second candidate, most of our Past Masters helped confer the degree as Bob Reynolds was a Past Master (1959).

Through all of the years that I have been a member of Las Palmas, Brother Mike took an active part in the degrees and in later years he helped in the kitchen. He and his wife attended almost every Stated Meet dinner.

When I was in the officer's line back in the 1970's, I once got a phone call from Mike asking if I wanted a ride to Lodge that night. I said "sure" and when I walked out of my house wearing my Tux, there to my surprise was Mike in his classic Rolls Royce. He had recently bought it for use in his wedding photography business. What a thrill for me to ride to and from Lodge in such a vehicle.

In June of 1992, Mike's 18 year old daughter, Kimber, was standing on the sidewalk in front of a restaurant called The Daily Planet which was part of the Tower Theater Building. Kimber was shot and killed by two career criminals (repeat offenders) who were high on heroin when they tried to steal her purse. Several days after Kimber's shooting, the shooter was shot and killed by police while trying to be arrested. The other killer avoided a life sentence by pleading to a robbery charge as he did not fire the fatal shot.

Mike soon gathered members of law enforcement and launched his proposal of a "Three Strikes and You're Out" law which mandated tougher sentences for repeat offenders in California. After much

work, on March 7, 1994, Governor Wilson signed into law AB 971 which is referred to as the Three Strikes and You're Out criminal sentencing measure. During 1994, eleven other states and our Federal Government adopted versions of Three Strikes and You're Out. In 1995 ten more states also adopted it. Today, there are 29 states with this law.

Because of Mike's hard work and dedication to his daughter, Kimber, there are many repeat offenders serving mandatory sentences of 25 years to Life in our California prisons. In the first four years after Mike's Three Strikes law went into effect, California experienced its all-time largest crime reduction which nearly doubled the declines seen across the rest of the nation. The number of homicides was cut in half, giving the state its lowest murder rate since 1970.

In 1998, Brother Mike was declared Mason of the Year by our Grand Lodge. In 2019, Brother Mike was awarded the Grand Master's Lifetime Achievement Award.

If you were watching the news on channel 24, you heard that Mike was 97 years old. Of course this was incorrect. Mike had only had 19 real birthdays. I always made it a point every 4 years to call him and wish him a Happy Birthday.

Mike's family has asked me to be the Funeral Master for his funeral to be held on August 5th at the Saroyan Auditorium. I am truly honored with this request. How could I have ever imagined in my wildest dreams that when I first met Mike that over 65 years later Mike would have accomplished what he had done and that I would have the honor of doing his funeral.

Now that you are with your Kimber, may you both rest in eternal peace.

Happy August!



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.

*John Prichard
The Reynolds Family*

**LAS PALMAS-PONDEROSA
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August
2023

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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,

Congratulations to Brother's Dave Thomas and Freddie Alcorta on becoming Entered Apprentice Masons. May your journeys be rewarding.

The officers are going to try and take a few weeks off in August, everyone needs a break.

Enjoy your summer!

See you in lodge.

Bryan Kincade PM, Secretary

August Calendar

8-3	1 st degree	6:30 PM Dinner
8-10	Dark	7:30 PM
8-17	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM
8-24	Dark	7:30 PM
8-31	Dark	7:30 PM



Credit card payments

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2023 Dues: \$140.00

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