

MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE #289

Trestle Board



TRESTLEBOARD

MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE #289



AUGUST 6024 A.L.

VOL.1 ISSUE 8



"Freemasonry is an institution that promotes moral and upright living. It promotes harmony, brotherhood, certainly relief, and truth. All of these things are needed in our society for us to live free and peacefully. And I think if more people understood that Freemasonry focuses on these virtues and can be applied to the betterment of people who are not members, they will come to us."

— **Grand Master Sean Metroka**

If you want to share articles, photos, and suggestions, please contact:

Trestleboard Editor

Bro Sherman Hernaez

mvl289trestleboard@gmail.com

Lodge Website:

<https://lodge289.freemason.org>

Menifee Valley Masonic Lodge

27221 McCall Blvd.

PO Box 312

Sun City, CA 92586

LODGE PAGES

From the East	1
From the West	2
Insights from a PM	3

HIGHLIGHTS

Calendar	4
Brethren's Corner	5
Masonic Education	6
Honorable Mentions, FEs and EAs	7
Committees	8
Announcements	9
Activities	10-11
Featured Article	12
Officers	13



WISDOM



FROM THE EAST



JERRY DONATHAN, PM

Worshipful Master

Hello Brethren,

Well, here it is August already, which means we're over the midway hump in the Masonic Year. This month our Officers will be working on Advance Stations and preparing to move up to the next Chair. Brethren we have a fantastic line of Officers preparing for their next challenge, so let's support them all we can!

Fraternally,
WM Jerry Donathan

STRENGTH



FROM THE EST



ADELBERT "AL" CAGUNGAO

Senior Warden

Hello Brethren,

For Freemasons, charity refers to the act of providing aid, support, and relief to those in need, as well as promoting the general welfare of society. Charity is one of the core values of Freemasonry, along with brotherly and truth.

Freemasons believe that charity should be practiced not only through financial donations but also through acts of kindness, volunteering, and community service. They strive to make a positive impact on their communities and the world at large.

In Freemasonry, charity is often referred to as the "third leg of the Masonry tripod," with the other two legs being brother love and truth. This emphasizes the importance of charity in achieving a balanced and harmonious life.

To us Freemasons, charity is a fundamental principle and a cornerstone of our Fraternity. It encompasses: Relief, Brotherly Love, Selfless Giving, Community Service, Alleviating Suffering, Promoting Education, Fostering Hope.

In Masonic terms, charity is not just about giving; it is about living a life of service, compassion, and kindness. It is a moral obligation to help those in need and to make a positive difference in the world.

Fraternally,
Bro Adelbert Cagungao, Sr Warden

INSIGHTS

FROM A

PAST MASTER



HAROLD WHITFORD

*Past Master - Perris #411 1987, 1994,
2004, 2005, MVL #289 2011*

My report this month comes from Destiny Lodge #856 and the California Masonic Home at Covina...

First; Most Worshipful G. Sean Metroka ,Grand Master of Masons was in SoCal for the 'Breakfast w/ the Grand Master of California' at the Hilton Hotel at LAX. Billed as the 'Largest gathering of Master Masons in California' (other than Grand Lodge Communcation), we members of #856 and residents of Covina MH were bussed to the event and enjoyed the company of about 500 Master Masons on Sunday morning. I was able to re-connect and enjoy small talk with 2 ranking officers who have visited our Lodge over the years (Past Grand Lecturer Jack Rose and our own AGL Vic Ropac). If I see Vic again, I'll ask if he can attend our Installation on December 14th.

Secondly; on Saturday July 20th (the day before the breakfast) we presented the Hiram Award to Brother Duane Joslin our Tiler, and who made the presentation? Most Worshipful Metroka! Do you think Bro. Duane was 'over the moon' ? I'm not sure he has taken it off yet.

I'm wrapping up my message for now and hope that you, my Brothers, are getting a feeling of how great The Masonic Homes (and MOS) are. When I see the names of PGM's and other dignitaries who have lived here, I realize that we really do 'meet, act, and live on the Level...

Looking forward to the Installation,
WB Harold Whitford, PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & BIRTHDAYS



Aug 1
Stated Meeting

Aug 10
MVL 289 Beehive
Beautification and
Breakfast (BBB) Day

NOTE: THE LODGE IS DARK AFTER MVL BBB DAY

BIRTHDAYS

Samuel Sanchez
Vernon Claire Campbell
Howard Harvey Walmsley III
Bennie Ernest Conatser
William Leonard Dexter
Perry David Frankin King IV
Clark Lovan Bacon
Timothy Findlay
Lloyd Ronald Prater
Frank William Roberts

RAISED

Member	Date
Jose Ricardo Shepard	08/10/2017 (7 yrs)
Ignacio Guadalupe Salazar	08/24/2023 (1 yr)
Vernon Claire Campbell	08/28/1963 (61 yrs)

BROTHER'S CORNER

PYTHAGOREAN THEOREM

by *Bro Christian Bustilleon*



Greetings Brethren,

We are closer to the end of this year and I hope that everyone is having a great year of learning so far. In this Brothers corner, we will highlight our ancient friend and brother, the great Pythagoras as well as his famous theorem, the Pythagorean Theorem.

Our lecture tells us that our brother Pythagoras did extensive and was initiated into various priesthoods as well as raised to the degree of Master Mason. His journey and experience tells us of the importance of knowledge, wisdom, and learning.

The exclamation “Eureka!” (meaning “I have found it!”) is famously attributed to Pythagoras upon his discovery of the theorem. The passage captures the joy and excitement associated with this breakthrough, showcasing the passion for knowledge that Freemasonry values.

The theorem serves as a symbol of the importance of arts and sciences in Freemasonry. It encourages Masons to be “general lovers” of knowledge, emphasizing the pursuit of intellectual and spiritual growth.

Stay hungry for knowledge Brethren! Everyday is a learning day.

To any Brothers who would like to share stories or narratives, please send an email to the Trestleboard Editor.

MASONIC EDUCATION



by Bro Bruce Flowers

I AM PROUD TO BE A MASON

by Seymour Atlas

I shall never forget my first thought as I made my initial entrance into the Masonic Lodge that conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on me, and followed with the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees. I was immediately made to feel that I was surrounded by Brothers. I felt there were no strangers present. This was one big family that seemed to have adopted me, and I, in turn, was elated to adopt them as my family.

My horizon of Masonry expanded, and my pride and joy were bubbling and effervescent. I couldn't wait to be able to confer the Degrees on others as there was so much that I wanted to explain and elaborate about each Degree.

I was offered this opportunity and immediately began to study and memorize many parts, and over the years I became very active, holding office, lecturing, and taking an active part in every phase of Masonry where my talents and abilities could be used. One aspect of Masonry that has made a great impression on me was the ability of all Brothers, regardless of religion, to ask me why did I need Masonry as a Rabbi, because my profession was one of integrity, kindness, honesty, and all the attributes expounded in Masonry. It was difficult for many to grasp my need for this addition and supplement to religion. I worked with men of different religions, as well as of the Hebrew faith, and they were all impressed when I would say that Masonry is not a religion, but to be a Mason we had to believe in God, and if this was the only aspect of our religion and we had no other formal religion, yet we adhered to all the moral teachings of Masonry; this too would have put us in the category of men of integrity. However, Masonry is not a substitute for religion, nor is it a religion.

My experience has shown that Masons are, for the most part, deeply religious men. I am proud to be a Mason and a part of an organization that is devoted to helping, without question or embarrassment, widows, orphans, and those in need.

I am proud to be a Mason and to be a part of a Fraternity dedicated to the upholding of the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to be a Mason who believes in the freedom of mankind and the sanctity of human life.

I am proud to be a Mason who believes in the dignity of God's children and opposes hatred and bigotry, and stands for truth, justice, kindness, integrity, and righteousness for all.

I am proud to be a Mason and shall always be happy to number myself among those who uphold those cardinal principles and moral standards of life that are so needed if our organization is to continue on the high level that has been its character from its inception. May God grant it continued strength to go, to grow, and to glow so that I and all Masons can exclaim: *"I am proud to be a Mason!"*

PAST MASTERS

(living)

HIRAM AWARDS

(living)

GOLDEN VET

(living)

NAME	YEAR
<i>WB Michael Christian Smith</i>	1975, 1998
<i>WB Delbert Dewey Queen, Jr.</i>	1980
<i>WB Harold Whitford</i>	1987, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2011
<i>WB John Paul St. Clair</i>	1991
<i>WB Vernon Claire Campbell</i>	1996
<i>WB James Wesley Gilmore II</i>	2002
<i>WB Paul Arthur Mac Quiddy</i>	2015
<i>WB Monte Gale Euler</i>	2017, 2020
<i>WB Charles Markel</i>	2018
<i>WM Jerry Donathan</i>	2012, 2013, 2022, 2023

NAME	YEAR
<i>WB Harold Whitford, PM</i>	1992
<i>WB Vernon Claire Campbell, PM</i>	2002
<i>Thomas King Hafeli</i>	2004
<i>WB Allan F. Bowman, PM</i>	2012
<i>WM Jerry Donathan, PM</i>	2014
<i>WB Paul Arthur Mac Quiddy, PM</i>	2016
<i>Harold Lewis "Bud" Smith</i>	2019
<i>WB Charles Markel, PM</i>	2022
<i>WB Thomas Dowden, PM</i>	2023

NAME	YEAR
<i>Monte R. Wells</i>	2007
<i>WB John Paul St. Clair, PM</i>	2023
<i>WB Michael Christian Smith, PM</i>	2021
<i>Clark Lovan Bacon</i>	2020
<i>Harold "Bud" Smith</i>	2002
<i>Frank William Roberts</i>	2010
<i>George C. Lyon, Jr.</i>	2011
<i>David Ralph Barnett</i>	2011
<i>Lloyd Ronald Prater</i>	2018
<i>Edward Johnson Sibhy</i>	2018
<i>Norman Lawrence Chaffin</i>	2018
<i>Jene Truman Carlisle</i>	2018
<i>WB John Royal Laird, PM</i>	2006
<i>John Wilbur Jackson</i>	2018
<i>Jimmie Frank Jackson</i>	2005
<i>Eli Harrigan</i>	1999
<i>Richard French Goward</i>	2001
<i>Yale Benson Eisenstein</i>	2010
<i>Joseph Daniel Donaldson</i>	2016
<i>William Leonard Dexter</i>	2016
<i>WB Vernon Claire Campbell, PM</i>	2017
<i>WB Allan F. Bowman, PM</i>	2018

NAME	INITIATED	COACH
<i>Jeffrey M. Brayton</i>	09/19/2019	
<i>Rodney L. Gray</i>	03/18/2002	
<i>Jonathan C. Ojeda</i>	01/30/2020	
<i>Roland Ortiz</i>	02/16/2023	
<i>Juan Vera</i>	01/19/2012	
<i>Howard Harvey Walmsley III</i>	03/23/2023	
<i>Lucio Collado</i>	03/21/2024	<i>Bro Samuel Sanchez</i>
<i>Abel Arteaga</i>	03/28/2024	<i>Bro Merck Cornel</i>

NAME	PASSED	COACH
<i>Thiago Moreira</i>	06/27/2024	<i>Bro Sherman Hernaez</i>

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Master: WM Jerry Donathan, PM
Senior Warden: Bro Al Cagungao
Junior Warden: Bro Sammy Gillo
Treasurer: Bro Bruce Flowers
Secretary: Bro Benigno Del Barrio
Asst. Secretary: Bro Jerico Alvarez

HALL ASSOCIATION

President:
Vice President: Bro Devynn Hicks
Secretary: Bro. Sherman Hernaez
Treasurer: WB Chuck Markel, PM
Building Manager: Bro Jose Shepard
Member: Bro Jerico Alvarez
Member: Bro Merck Cornel
Member: WB Harold Whitford, PM
Ex Officio: WM Jerry Donathan, PM
Ex Officio: Bro Al Cagungao, SW

CHARITY & RELIEF

Chairman: WM Jerry Donathan, PM
Co-Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Members:
WB Harold Whitford, PM
Bro Sammy Gillo
Bro Sherman Hernaez
Bro Sam Sanchez
Bro Merck Cornel
Bro Primo Reguyal
Bro Wilson Bohol
Bro Sal Salarda
Bro Dale Bartolo
Bro Dean Malibiran

BUDGET

Chairman: WM Jerry Donathan, PM
Co-Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Members:
Bro Bruce Flowers
Bro Benigno Del Barrio
WB Chuck Markel, PM

SICKNESS, DISTRESS, WIDOWS & ELDER SUPPORT

Chairman: WB Harold Whitford, PM
Co-Chairman: WB Chuck Markel, PM
Members:
Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Bro Bruce Flowers
WB Allan Bowman, PM

HIRAM AWARD

WM Jerry Donathan, PM
Bro Al Cagungao, SW
WB Harold Whitford, PM
WB Chuck Markel, PM

FUNERAL

Chairman: WB Harold Whitford, PM
Co-Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Members:
Bro Sal Salarda, Chaplain
Bro Benigno Del Barrio
Bro Jerico Alvarez
Bro Samuel Sanchez

TRESTLEBOARD & WEBSITE

Editor: Bro Sherman Hernaez
Editor: WM Jerry Donathan, PM

REFRESHMENTS

Chairman: Bro Sammy Gillo
Members:
Bro Primo Reguyal
Bro Wilson Bohol
ALL EA's, FC's, and New MM's
ALL Prospects and Candidates

OFFICERS & CANDIDATE COACHING

Officers' Coach: WB Chuck Markel, PM
Head Candidate Coach: Bro Sherman Hernaez
Asst. Head Candidate Coach: Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Member Cand. Coaches:
Bro Sam Sanchez (EA/FC)
Bro Merck Cornel (EA/FC)

DEGREE & SUPPORT

Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Co-Chairman: WB Harold Whitford, PM
Co-Chairman: WB Chuck Markel, PM
Members:
Bro Samuel Sanchez
Bro Merck Cornel
Bro Sherman Hernaez
Bro Jose Shepard
Bro Sal Salarda
ALL OFFICERS

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Bro Benigno Del Barrio
Bro Jerico Alvarez
Bro Bruce Flowers

COMMUNICATION/ FACEBOOK

Bro Benigno Del Barrio
Bro Jerico Alvarez
Bro Al Cagungao, SW

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/PROSPECTING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW
Prospect Managers:
Bro Jerico Alvarez
Bro Sal Salarda
Bro Sherman Hernaez
Bro Samuel Sanchez
Bro Merck Cornel

FINANCE

Chairman: WM Jerry Donathan, PM
Co-Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW

AUDIT

Chairman: Bro Sal Salarda
Co-Chairman: WB Harold Whitford, PM
Members:
Bro Samuel Sanchez
Bro Merck Cornel

ASSIGNMENTS

Fraternal Support Ambassadors: WB Allan Bowman and Bro Jerico Alvarez
Masonic Education/History: Bro Bruce Flowers
Lodge Photographer: Bro Bud Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFICERS OF THE LODGE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THEIR MONTHLY
*** STATED MEETING ***

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 01, 2024

SOCIALS STARTS @ 5:00 PM / DINNER IS SERVED @ 6:00 PM / GAVEL DROPS @ 7:00 PM
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CRYSTAL BANQUET HALL
OFFICER'S AND MEMBERS ATTIRE: HAWAIIAN, BLACK PANTS, & BLACK SHOES
VISITORS: BUSINESS CASUAL OR HAWAIIAN, BLACK PANTS, & BLACK SHOES

Bring \$10 cash donation to the Junior Warden's Fund

Address: 27221 McCall Blvd, MENIFEE CA 92585

"Peace and Harmony Prevail to all Masons"

MONTHLY UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 1, THURSDAY STATED MEETING

AUGUST 10, SATURDAY MVL BEEHIVE BEAUTIFICATION & BREAKFAST (BBB) DAY

*** The Lodge is Dark after MVL BBB Day*



MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE 289 ACTIVITIES

JULY STATED MEETING



MVL BRETHERN AT THE DISTRICT CHARITY GOLF



DISTRICT OSI HOSTED BY MVL



FEATURE ARTICLE

WHAT LODGES CAN DO TO HANDLE INCOMING PROSPECTS

from: https://freemason.org/the_leader/august-2022-the-welcome-brigade/

As more prospects are routed from online inquiries to local lodges, it's important that those lodges have processes in place to welcome and receive them. Here, Green and members of the Grand Lodge Leadership Committee offer advice on ways to handle a larger flow of prospective members—and ways successfully integrate them. (For more, see the [October 2021 issue of the Leader](#).)

Getting Buy-in

- Sit down as a lodge and discuss the downsides to losing out on prospects. What does it mean for your lodge? Gaining fewer new Masons is the easiest answer. But more broadly, think about how people walking away from a lodge affects their view of Freemasonry as a whole—and what they'd likely tell their own friends about the fraternity. “A lost prospect might hurt one lodge a bit, but it hurts Masonry as a whole a lot more,” says Carlos Diez, a member of the Grand Lodge's Leadership Committee and a member of [Solomon's Staircase No. 357](#).
- As a lodge, make sure you've already established or start up a welcoming committee that has roles, policies, and procedures for dealing with new prospects. Some members might not be excited about the committee or even see the need to provide a more welcoming environment. That's OK, according to Diez. “Just get the guys who are enthused about it, and if not everyone is excited, that's fine—just get a core group to start.”

How to Respond to Membership Inquiries

- At its most basic, the welcoming committee should be an answer to these four questions: What do you do when someone leaves a voicemail, an email, a social media message, or walks into the lodge to ask about membership? That's the what. From there, you can figure out the who and how.
- Assigning a point person and a backup to each task will ensure prospects don't fall through the cracks. And you'll know that someone is frequently checking each of those channels, with one person ultimately responsible for making sure prospects' questions are being answered.
- Don't limit the committee to longer-tenured members. New members are often the most enthusiastic about the lodge, and it can be a great way to keep them engaged.

Interacting with Prospects

- The first thing to do when you respond to a message is to answer any questions and be a resource. At the end of a conversation or message, invite them to the next lodge event.
- Direct prospects to reputable resources like the Grand Lodge website, which includes lots of basic information about Freemasonry.
- Match prospects with members who have similar interests. For instance, when one prospect walked into Diez's lodge and told him he was a mechanic, Diez invited a fellow member who works as a machinist to chat with him. “That immediately put the guy at ease and showed him we were just like everyone else.”
- Don't be too quick to offer an application. Let the prospective member get to know the lodge first. Some lodges wait as much as six months. Just don't let a prospect wither on the vine. As long as they're being communicated with and not ignored, they'll stick around to learn more.

2024 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Wor. Jerry Donathan, PM

Senior Warden

Bro Adelbert Cagungao

Junior Warden

Bro Sammy Gillo

Treasurer

Bro Bruce Flowers

Secretary

Bro Benigno Del Barrio

Assistant Secretary

Bro Jerico Alvarez

Chaplain

Bro Salvador Salarda

Senior Deacon

Bro Sherman Hernaez

Junior Deacon

Bro Samuel Sanchez

Marshal

Bro Emeric Cornel

Senior Steward

Bro Primo Reguyal

Junior Steward

Bro Wilson Bohol

Tyler

Bro Adelbert Bartolo

Organist

Bro Dean Malibiran

Officer's Coach

Wor. Chuck Markel, PM

Candidate's Coach

Wor. Harold Whitford, PM

826th District Inspector

Wor. Rick Opina, PM

826th District Inspector at Large

Wor. Carl Black, PM

CONCORDANT BODIES



Job's Daughters Bethal No. 165

Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays, 7:00pm

Carrie Ghent, Bethel Guardian,

951-271-2054

Bro. Tom Hafeli

951-526-9300

Annual Trestleboard Sponsorships and business card ads help defray the annual cost of printing and mailing the Trestleboard to those Brothers, widows, and friends of the Lodge who are not adept at electronic publications. If you can afford to sponsor, please see your Lodge Secretary. Business card ads are limited by the CMC to brother Mason's only.