MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE #289

# Orestle Butti

# MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE #289 RESTLEBORD

JUNE 6024 A.L.

VOL.1 ISSUE 6



"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

Menifee Valley Masonic Lodge 27221 McCall Blvd. PO Box 312 Sun City, CA 92586

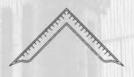
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#### JERRY DONATHAN, PM

Worshipful Master

Hello Brethren,

My goodness, it's already July and we have accomplished so much. Have a Happy 4th of July and let's finish the year with a Bang!!

Fraternally, WM Jerry Donathan







#### ADELBERT "AL" CAGUNGAO

Senior Warden

We are already halfway through the 2024 Masonic year, and it makes us proud to reflect on what we have accomplished as a band of brothers at Menifee Valley Lodge #289. As one of our Past Masters and advisors, Worshipful Brother Harold Whitford, always reminds me, "We do not strive to survive; we strive to thrive." Words cannot express our gratitude for his unconditional and unwavering support to the members and officers of MVL #289. We may be saddened by his relocation to the Masonic Homes in Covina, but we are happy to see that he is now in a place where he can continue to enjoy his daily activities. We will schedule another visit to his place in the near future to enjoy a more meaningful fellowship.

As the Senior Warden of Menifee Valley Lodge #289, I am humbled by the support and love the brethren bestow upon the lodge. Hence, my topic for the July trestle board is "Humility."

Humility is one of the moral principles emphasized in Freemasonry. It is considered an indispensable quality for Masons to develop, as it allows them to approach their spiritual and personal growth with an adaptable and open mind. Humility in Freemasonry involves recognizing one's limitations, being modest about one's achievements, and being eager to learn from others. It also involves being aware of one's place within the larger context of the fraternity and the world and being mindful of the importance of teamwork and collaboration. Freemasons are motivated to practice humility through various means, such as:

- a) Recognizing the value of others' contributions
- b) Being willing to listen and learn from others
- c) Avoiding arrogance and aggrandizement
- d) Embracing challenges and setbacks as opportunities for growth
- e) Honing gratitude and appreciation for the blessings they have obtained
- f) Embracing the principles of equality and brotherly love

As a result of this practice, Freemasons aim to become better individuals, more effective brothers, and more compassionate members of society. By emphasizing the goodness in our lives, gratitude serves as a reminder of our interdependence and the support we receive from others.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Worshipful Master Jerry for leading the beehive, to WB Chuck for mentoring the officers, to the officers of the lodge for their continuous performance and support, to all the members for the help you provide, and lastly to the candidates for being patient with us. This awareness, in turn, nurtures humility as we come to recognize that our achievements and well-being are not solely the result of our own efforts but of the entire beehive of Menifee Valley Lodge 289.

Fraternally,

# INSIGHTS FROM A AST MASTER



#### HAROLD WHITFORD

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

I bring news about the El Bekal Shrine located near the Honda Center, (formerly the Duck Pond) in Anaheim. We bought and re-furbished the building in 1988 and it served us well for all those years. Allan (Scotty) Bowman and I were probably 2 of the first MM who joined El Bekal followed by Bro. Jose Shepard a couple of years ago. We enjoyed going into some of the special events that were held there (even tho' it was a tough drive) but that will come to an end within the next 4 years. That whole area (very large area) will be turned into the Honda Entertainment Center with lots of Venues like Theaters, Dining, Stage plays, more Sport centers etc. All in preparation for the 2028 Olympics..

These plans will include our building which we will be paid about \$9 million for (NICE). The down side of this story is that Shrine is not purchasing inventory; hats, shirts, jackets or FLAGS. I picked up 3 but that was all they had.

That means Brothers; we will have to buy flags if we want to continue the "Take away flag program." That was fun but we still give the Bible, Apron, and 3 and 1/2 Degree...

Maintain the Faith, More now than ever.

WB Harold Whitford, PM



### CALENDAR

OF
EVENTS &
BIRTHDAYS



July 4

Independence Day (Lodge is Dark)

July 18

2nd Degree Practice

July 11

Next Stated Meeting & Dinner

July 25

2nd Degree Conferral Bro. Abel Arteaga

July 17 OSI (MVL)

**BIRTHDAYS** 

David Ralph Barnett
Wilson O. Bohol
Norman Lawrence Chaffin
Douglas Gordon Cumming
Thomas Dowden
Devynn Nelson Hicks
Ronald Dewey Price

RAISED

Member
Elbert Barber
Eduardo Fontanilla Jr.
Sherman Hernaez
Newton Pasaol Isaac
Ricardo Arejola Nacario

**Date**07/17/1995 (29 yrs)
07/26/2018 (6 yrs)
07/14/2022 (2 yrs)
07/19/2022 (2 yrs)
07/08/1999 (25 yrs)

# BROTHER'S CORNER



#### THE ANCHOR AND ARK

by Bro Christian Bustilleon

Greetings Brethren,

I hope everyone is good, safe, and in great spirits. This month, I want to share another awesome class of emblems - *The Anchor and Ark*.

The Anchor and Ark are powerful symbols that speak to the human spirit's enduring quest for hope and salvation.

Just as a ship's anchor provides stability amidst turbulent waters, the anchor symbolizes a steadfast faith that remains grounded even in the face of life's storms. It represents a well-spent life characterized by unwavering principles and values. The ark, on the other hand, evokes the biblical narrative of Noah, who found refuge and protection from the flood.

Similarly, this symbol signifies the promise of safe passage through trials and tribulations, offering solace and hope for a brighter future where peace and tranquility reign. Together, the Anchor and Ark serve as beacons of resilience, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, there is always the possibility of finding shelter and reaching a safe harbor.



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

#### ABE LINCOLN'S AXE

by Jim Tresner

Todd E. Creason, 33°

The story is told of a historian, recording folk history in Illinois in the 1970's. Several people in the countryside had told him of a farm family which possessed the axe Abraham Lincoln had used when splitting logs for a living as a young man. The historian finally found the farm, and found the farmer in the yard splitting wood for the living room fireplace. He asked him about the story.

"Yes," said the farmer, "it's true. Abe Lincoln lived around here as a young man, and he worked for awhile splitting wood for my great-great-grandfather. Happened he'd bought a new axe from a peddler the day before Abe Lincoln came to work here, and he gave it to Lincoln to use. We've kept it ever since."

"That's a real historical treasure," said the historian. "It really ought to be in a museum. Would you mind going into the house and bringing it out so I could see it?" "Oh we know it's important," said the farmer. "I take it to the school from time to time and tell the kids about it and Lincoln. Seems to sorta make him real for them. But I don't have to go into the house, I've got it here."

He handed the horrified historian the axe he had been using. "You mean you're still USING it?!" "Sure thing. An axe is meant to be used."

The historian looked it over carefully. "I must say your family has certainly taken good care of it." "Sure, we know we're protecting history. Why we've replaced the handle twice and the head once."

In many ways, Masonry is like Abe Lincoln;s axe. All of us tend to assume that Masonry has always been the way it was when we joined. And we become fiercely protective of it in that form. But, in fact, we've done more than replace the handle twice and the head once.

For example, the Eulogy to Mother was added to the stairway lecture in Oklahoma sometime between 1924 and 1930. Almost no other state uses it.

When Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory merged to form the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, major changes in the ritual (both esoteric and exoteric) were made for at least 6 years as the two rituals were combined.

When Brothers George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Paul Revere (and the other Masons of their era and for decades to come) joined the Fraternity, they did not demonstrate proficiency by memorizing categorical lectures. Instead, the same evening they received a degree they sat around a table with the other Brethren of the Lodge. The Brethren asked each other questions and answered them for the instruction of the new Brother. They asked him questions, and helped him with the answers. The discussion continued until they were confident that he understood the lessons of the Degree. They then taught him the signs and tokens, and he was proficient. In many cases, he took the next Degree the next night. The system of demonstrating proficiency by memorizing categorical lectures is less than about twice as old as the average Mason in Oklahoma--not too long a span in the 1,000-year history of the Fraternity.

#### Masonic Education cont.

The custom of allowing 28 days to pass between Degrees came about for no other reason than the fact that most lodges only met every 28 days, on the nights of the full moon. There was no mystery behind that. Very few horses come equipped with head- lights, and only on nights of a full moon could people see well enough to leave their homes in the country and come into town for a meeting safely. The names of the 3 ruffians have changed at least 3 times since the Master Mason Degree was created around 1727. More importantly, the nature and purpose of the Fraternity has changed radically over time. It certainly is no longer a protective trade association, nor a political force amounting almost to a political party, but it has been those over its long history. So yes, Masonry changes. It changes fairly

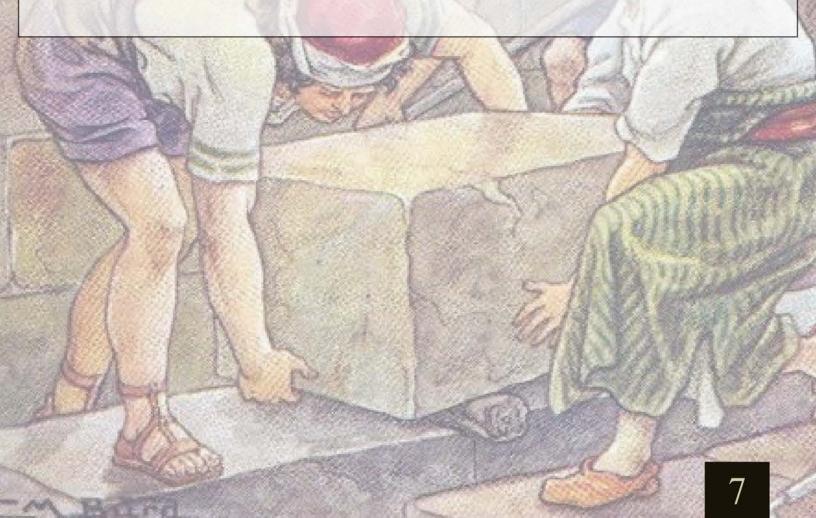
frequently and sometimes dramatically. Far from being a bastion of conservative resistance to change, through most of its history it has been a major change agent--fostering revolutions in political life (the American revolution, for example) and social life. It created the tax-supported public school system. It created homes for the elderly and orphanages, and then worked for the sort of social legislation to make those wide-spread. It sought economic development for states and communities. Until the late 1940's and 50's, it was one of the most potent forces for change in America.

And Masonry is like Abe Lincoln's axe in another way. For, although the handle and head had been replaced, that axe was still the one used by Abe Lincoln in truth if not in fact. The farmer used it to teach. He told children about it and about Abe Lincoln. He helped make the past real to them, so that they could learn the great values of honesty and hard work which Lincoln typified.

It's the same with Masonry. In spite of the many changes which have already happened and the changes which are bound to happen in the future--for Masonry, like any living thing, must change and grow or die-it is still the same. It's essence--the lessons it teaches, the difference it makes in the lives of men, that great moment of transformation which is the goal of Masonry, when a man becomes something new and better than he was when became in the door as a candidate--that essence cannot and will not be lost, as long as Brothers meet in the true Masonic spirit, to work and learn and study and improve themselves and the world.

That's Masonry. And like Abe Lincoln's axe, it was meant to be used, not to rust away in a museum case. That use keeps it bright and sharp and Masonic, no matter how often the handle and head need to be replaced.

The Oklahoma Mason April-May, 1995



#### PAST MASTERS

#### HIRAM AWARDS

#### GOLDEN VET

(living)

(living)

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

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

NAME	INITIATED	COACH
Jeffrey M. Brayton	09/19/2019	
Rodney L. Gray	03/18/2002	
Jonathan C. Ojeda	01/30/2020	
Roland Ortiz	02/16/2023	
Juan Vera	01/19/2012	7777
Howard Harvey Walmsley III	03/23/2023	
Lucio Collado	03/21/2024	Bro Samuel Sanchez
Abel Arteaga	03/28/2024	Bro Merck Cornel

PASSED	COACH
06/27/2024	Bro Sherman Hernaez

	14/2
NAME	YEAR
Monte R. Wells	2007
WB John Paul	2023
St. Clair, PM  WB Michael	2021
Christian Smith,	
PM Clark Lovan	2020
Bacon	
Harold "Bud" Smith	2002
Frank William	2010
Roberts	
George C. Lyon, Jr.	2011
David Ralph	2011
Barnett  Lloyd Ronald	2018
Prater Prater	2010
Edward Johnson Sibhy	2018
Norman	2018
Lawrence Chaffin	
Jene Truman	2018
Carlisle	2010
WB John Royal Laird, PM	2006
John Wilbur Jackson	2018
Jimmie Frank Jackson	2005
Eli Harrigan	1999
Richard French Goward	2001
Yale Benson Eisenstein	2010
Joseph Daniel Donaldson	2016
William Leonard	2016
Dexter WB Vernon	2017
Claire Campbell,	
WB Allan F. Bowman, PM	2018

# 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: Bro Sammy Gillo Vice President: Bro Devynn Hicks Secretary: Bro Jerico Alvarez Treasurer: WB Chuck Markel, PM Building Manager: Bro Jose Shepard Member: Bro Sherman Hernaez 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

#### BUDGET

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

#### SICKNESS, DISTRESS, WIDOWS & ELDER **SUPPORT**

Chairman: WB Harold Whitford, PM Co-Chairman: WB Chuck Markel, PM 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

Bro Dale Bartolo

Bro Dean Malibiran

#### **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: WB Harold Whitford, PM Asst. Head Candidate Coach: Bro Al Cagungao, SW Member Cand. Coaches: Bro Sam Sanchez (EA) Bro Sherman Hernaez (EA) Bro Merck Cornel (FC) Bro Sal Salarda (FC) Bro Sammy Gillo (MM) Bro Benigno Del Barrio (MM)

#### **DEGREE & SUPPORT**

Chairman: Bro Al Cagungao, SW Co-Chairman: WB Harold Whitford, PM Co-Chairman: WB Chuck Markel, PM Bro Sammy Gillo 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, JULY 11, 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

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

**4:30 pm** - Gate will be opened. FCs, EAs, and Petitioners are to help prepare dinner and refreshments in the kitchen.

**5:00 pm** - Welcoming Committee is available for any questions. The Application Form is available upon request from the Lodge Secretary.

5:30 pm - Announcements from Worshipful Master, Senior, and Junior Wardens.

6:00 pm - Prayers and Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. Dinner follows.

7:00 pm – Stated Meeting Commences in the Lodge Room. (Masons Only)

7:30 pm - Petitioners are to assist in cleaning up the kitchen and dining hall.

Address: 27221 McCall Blvd, MENIFEE CA 92585 "Peace and Harmony Prevail to all Masons"

#### **MONTHLY UPCOMING EVENTS**

July 4, Thursday \*HOLIDAY (Lodge is Dark)\*

July 11, Thursday STATED MEETING

July 17, Wednesday Officers' School Of Instructions (MVL)

July 18, Thursday 2nd Degree Rehearsal

July 25, Thursday 2nd Degree Conferral (Bro Abel Arteaga)

#### \*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 1 of our By Laws, "In any month when the regular meeting date shall fall on legal holidays, the Stated Meeting shall be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM."

#### Menifee Valley Lodge 289

# ACTIVITIES



























VISITED OUR BRETHREN AT THE COVINA MASONIC HOME















#### Bro. Paul Feliciano

3RD DEGREE CONFERRAL





































#### Bro. Thiago Moreira

2ND DEGREE CONFERRAL



























# FEATURE ARTICLE

#### LODGE SUCCESSION: GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT GUY

from: https://freemason.org/the\_leader/july-2024/#content1

Summer is here! Kids are on vacation, the days are longer, and everyone is planning their trips to the beach or mountains to escape the heat. Even though December seems like a distant future, you'd be surprised how quickly summer fades into fall and fall disappears into winter. It can be easy to put off today what can be done tomorrow. But lodges should fight that impulse, according to Carlos Diez, past master of Solomon's Staircase No. 357 and inspector for District 905. Even though it's only July, it's not too early to start thinking about next year's slate of officers. That's right, it's succession planning season.

We've all seen it before, Diez says: The end of the year comes around and lodges scramble to find replacements for their officer chairs. The result, too often, is a shuffling of existing officers with the master staying on yet another year or a past master stepping back in to fill the void. "It has a ripple effect," Diez says. "Guys get burned out, from the top where guys are in the same position, all the way down to the new members, who begin to feel a sense of stagnation in the lodge." It's enough of a problem that the Grand Lodge has a committee that's responsible for training officers in succession planning: the Leadership Development Committee. As the current chair of the committee, Diez sees firsthand how lodges struggle to plan for the future—which at its core is all about renewing officers' roles with fresh faces—by implementing a few easy-to-do strategies.

According to Diez, one of the challenges of succession planning is knowledge. "We've found that there's a lack of understanding among the membership in what each officer's position is responsible for," he says. People often fear what they don't know or, at the very least, become less likely to volunteer to do something if they don't fully understand the implications of getting involved. The good news is that this is easy to fix. Have officers be more transparent about what they do, not just as it relates to ritual work, but also in the functioning of the lodge. "Lodges could also think about creating a lodge manual in which all the typical duties of each officer position are clearly laid out," he suggests. "That way, new members or interested members can review the manual at their own pace and get comfortable with the idea of jumping into the line."

Perhaps a bigger challenge to establishing a well-planned line of succession is one that's trickier to address, since it boils down to an all-too-familiar problem: lack of engagement among members. "Finding someone interested in following the path to the East is easier when you have an engaged membership," Diez says. The more members who are actively participating in lodge activities, the more potential officers to choose from. But it's more than just about butts in seats. It's about finding people who are passionate about the fraternity. "That's why I often counsel lodge officers to ask members who appear to be disengaged to think about what drove them to the fraternity in the first place," Diez says. Rediscovering that core passion is the first step toward re-engaging members.

On the other side of that coin, it's also about learning to identify officer potential in new members. For instance, Diez tells a story about a time when he was master of Solomon's Staircase and found that two new initiates were really strong at memory work. "I took advantage of their interest and their abilities by introducing them to some of the work of a steward," Diez says. "That piqued their interest and primed the pump, so to speak." By introducing capable members to the officer line in a slow and gradual way, lodges can build interest among members in joining later on.

At the end of the day, though, succession planning is as much art as science. "Each lodge has its own unique circumstances," Diez says, "so there's not a one-size-fits-all solution." But exposing new members to the duties of officer positions and keeping them engaged is a good place to start.

# 2024 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Treasurer

Secretary

**Assistant Secretary** 

Chaplain

**Senior Deacon** 

**Junior Deacon** 

Marshal

**Senior Steward** 

**Junior Steward** 

**Tyler** 

**Organist** 

Officer's Coach

Candidate's Coach

826th District Inspector

826th District Inspector at Large

Wor. Jerry Donathan, PM

Bro Adelbert Cagungao

Bro Sammy Gillo

Bro Bruce Flowers

Bro Benigno Del Barrio

Bro Jerico Alvarez

Bro Salvador Salarda

Bro Sherman Hernaez

Bro Samuel Sanchez

Bro Emeric Cornel

Bro Primo Reguyal

Bro Wilson Bohol

Bro Adelbert Bartolo

Bro Dean Malibiran

Wor. Chuck Markel, PM

Wor. Harold Whitford, PM

Wor. Rick Opina, PM

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.