



TRESTLE BOARD

Natoma Lodge #64

January
2009



FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East—

I want to thank everyone who attended the annual Installation of Officers last month—your 2009 Officer Corps appreciates the vote of confidence and we look forward to serving in the months ahead.

2009 promises to be an eventful and rewarding year. At Natoma Lodge, as well as the global economy, we are facing some interesting and challenging months ahead. As such, we need to be careful and pro-active in addressing the many issues before us. I am confident that we will make it through 2009 in the best condition possible, while at the same time maintain our way of life at the Lodge as well as in the quality of programs we offer our communities. I would like to offer the Worshipful Geoff Risse my sincere gratitude for an outstanding 2008 as well as his guidance, mentorship and personal friendship—I hope to emulate the job that he has done!

2009 is a new year like those before it, and there is a new leadership corps like those before it. As such, I, along with my fellow Officers and Committeemen will be calling on those in the membership who have the talent and experience to assist us with the programs and events that will make 2009 successful. We, your 2009 Officers and committeemen, do not have all of the answers, but from within the membership there is the experience, knowledge and guidance to make every program and event work to the best of its poten-

tial. We will be calling on you for support and guidance, and if we don't, I charge you to come to us.

January is going to be an active month for the Lodge—the 2009 Budget and Calendar of events will be presented, as well as the committees for our various programs and events (both new and returning). I can never emphasize how important just one voice is—especially if it is the voice of reason or experience. As the new Master I need to hear from everyone. If circumstances prevent you from attending the Stated meeting, please communicate to myself or the Officer Corps information or advice that will benefit our Lodge. The Trestleboard is an excellent source of information, and I ask that everyone make yourself available to it each month. Our electronic Calendar and Website is yet another excellent way to monitor what we are doing, when we are doing it and who is doing what.

Again, my Officers/ Committeemen and I thank you in advance for an anticipated wonderful and productive 2009, and we all look forward to seeing as many Brothers and their families as possible in the months ahead. In order for the decision-making process to benefit the majority, we need as many Brothers as possible to avail themselves to the process. By regularly attending the Stated meeting as well as reading the Trestleboard can we all be on the same page.

Travel well, but keep within hailing distance!

S

FROM THE WEST



I recently read an article, by Stephan Defoe, a Masonic author and Blogger, which caused me to consider a weakness of Masonry in general and our Lodge in particular. Brother Defoe pointed out that we have a catchy marketing slogan – “Masonry makes good men better,” however, Brother Defoe asks the question, to the initiate who joins seeking to become a better man, do our actions prove that we are builders of better men. Let's examine this somewhat rhetorical question, by doing so, I suggest, we will realize an opportunity to improve Natoma Lodge No. 64.

First I will proudly acknowledge that Masonry does make good men better and our Lodge is likely among the leaders in this regard, but we are far from where we need to be. Who among us can argue that the exemplification of our three degrees will cause a thoughtful man to consider his life – past, present, and future – and through this reflection “build” himself into a more reverent, gentlemanly, selfless man. Unfortunately, too often this proactive making of a better man ends with the exemplification of the third degree. It goes something like this: Congratulations Brother, you are a Master Mason and now welcome to attend our Stated Meetings held the first Thursday of every month, see you there.” Our new Mason attends his first Stated Meeting, and coming off the high of his third degree, he naturally looks forward to more enlightenment. He may even sit in the north

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QUOTES:
<p>Leaders establish the vision for the future and set the strategy for getting there; they cause change. They motivate and inspire others to go in the right direction and they, along with everyone else, sacrifice to get there.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—John Kotter</p> <p>Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Margaret Meade</p> <p>Never tell people <u>how</u> to do things. Tell them <u>what</u> to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Gen. George S. Patton</p>



From the West Continued...

east corner, remembering this is the spot for those seeking further light from the Worshipful Master. What he hears is old business, new business, and a vote to pay our bills. Is this the goal of Freemasonry? Where is the continued enlightenment and knowledge that is the foundation of freedom and historical ambition of our fraternity? How is this Masonic activity "making this good man better?"

We are a vibrant Lodge; we have significant programs and events that we traditionally complete each year. Without question, a new Mason who seeks fellowship as well as involvement in the community and charitable events will find it in Natoma No. 64, and he will by these activities be made a better man, but we can offer more, we can more actively meet the challenge of the slogan, "Masonry Makes Good Men Better."

Grand Lodge created a program, Masonic Formation, to guide Lodges in the lifetime development of Masons. Although Masonic Formation naturally lends itself to educating initiates and candidates, it also emphasizes the continued Masonic enlightenment of Master Masons. We have modestly implemented this program at Natoma No. 64. This past year

we held a seminar for candidate's coaches, began improvements on the Lodge Library, and received regular Masonic enlightenment during our Stated Meetings. While we are to be congratulated, we can do better. Worshipful Barbu and I have plans to expand Masonic Formation in our Lodge. We look forward to your participation and support.

Freemasonry's history relative to other fraternal organizations is without comparison. The measure of its impact on the world and humanity is clearly documented to the early 18th century, and is theorized with authority well beyond. Freemasonry is founded on principles of expanding the knowledge of men for their benefit and the enrichment of mankind. Within our own Lodge we have many learned members whose interest in history, Masonry and other liberal arts and sciences is beyond the norm. We have many members with great personal histories that have been there and done that. Masonic Formation is about organizing and sharing this wealth of experience and knowledge, while also seeking more, all for the benefit of "Building Better Men."

Recently, a renewed interest in Freemasonry is increasing the number of good men seeking Masonic membership, many of them younger men intrigued by our heritage, inspired by our tenets, and seeking an organization

relevant to their lives. To meet this challenge, Freemasonry must be true to its tenets and dedicated to its espoused beliefs, through actions. I look forward to your support with this endeavor and ask you to consider that brotherly love may best be expressed by your actions and commitment to our goal of "Masonry Making Good Men Better."

Yours in Brotherhood and On the Level,

Mike



HAPPY NEW YEAR! LET'S EAT

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RSVP YOUR STATED MEETING DINNER RESERVATIONS TO THE JUNIOR WARDEN SCOTT LEVENTON AT scott_leventon@sbcglobal.net

If You Forget To RSVP, Please Come Anyway...But You Will Be Charged The Full \$15.00 Cost Per Meal.



FROM THE SOUTH

Greetings Brethren and Ladies,

I want to first thank the brethren for electing me to serve this wonderful lodge as Jr. Warden, it is a true honor. December 2008 was as always a busy month, at our holiday party we collected 339 canned goods that will help out many families. Santa showed up and gave some goodies to all the kids. Not to mention the dinner was great and a good time was

had by all.

We also honored a truly great man the Worshipful Earl Campbell, PM. After Brother Eric Wells, PM shared some information with us about Brother Earl's Masonic journey and some of his accomplishments, Brother Earl shared some stories of his life and journeys. If you did not make it to this event then you really missed out.

is the first Thursday of January which would normally be our first stated meeting of the year. We will instead meet on January 8, 2008 which is the following Thursday. Also, I was asked if anyone had a coffee maker they would like to donate to the lodge.

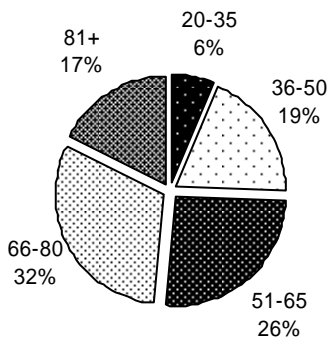
Travel well,



Two more things, New Years Day Scott

DID YOU KNOW...

Membership by Age



Today the average age of a Natoma Lodge master mason is 63 years old. The average age of our candidates is 42. Not too many years ago the average age hovered around 70 and membership was dropping rapidly. Overall in California today the average ages are 64 and 37.5 respectively. We did more degrees in 2007 than any year since 1986 and it continues to increase. At least 108 of our lodges have raised 5 or more men this past year and that is a great upward trend!

Additionally, the Grand Lodge overall loss of membership has declined to the point that if trends continue we will break-even in two years for the first time in over 10 years.

M.O.S. MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES

Would you know who to call if you or one of our members or widows needed help identifying and gaining access to no or low cost government programs for seniors?

MOS has extended their services to help answer those questions. They provide information and referral to government senior services available in each county in California e.g. nutrition programs (e.g. Meals on Wheels), in-home services, minor repair services, legal services, transportation services.

Their goal is to provide our fraternal family members access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their homes or in retirement facilities in their own communities.

For more information, contact MOS at: (888) 466-3642 or intake@mhcus.org



EARL CAMPBELL, PM



A Grateful Past Master says "Thanks"...

On Sunday, December 14, a special event was held, "Coffee with Earl Campbell PM," which allowed the Brethren and ladies of the Lodge, Shrine and Eastern Star to celebrate the recent good news of Earl's health and fight against cancer. This event was enjoyed by all in attendance especially Worshipful Brother Earl, who requested his sincere gratitude be expressed to the Lodge and especially all who attended.

BIRTHDAYS

Walker B. Robinett	1-Jan
Dennis E. Parham	3-Jan
Harlie R. Linley	3-Jan
Rudy P. Orpilla	4-Jan
Woodrow Bagwell	6-Jan
Walton Skinner Sr.	8-Jan
Ted McCade	13-Jan
Ben Milbrandt Jr.	14-Jan
Robert H. Stewart	15-Jan
Bryon Schrum	15-Jan
Rodney L. Hagan	21-Jan

Leon R. Ford	21-Jan
Kyle Crangle	25-Jan
Melvin R. Warren	25-Jan
Herman D. Graham	29-Jan

ANNIVERSARIES

Barnekoff, David	19-Jan-2006
Barnekoff, Gregory	5-Jan-2006
Bergen, Joseph PM	26-Jan-1966
Brown, Christian	31-Jan-2008
Center, Jerry L.	25-Jan-1962
Clark, Leslie G.	8-Jan-1992

Kelly, William L.	12-Jan-1966
Lapilusa, Joseph	10-Jan-2008
Loughridge, James	25-Jan-1957
Miklos, William PM	26-Jan-2001
Milam, Raymond	26-Jan-1972
More, James	17-Jan-1973
Nickens, Thomas	1-Jan-1982
Norwood, Tallmadge	11-Jan-1968
Vagg, Gerald	18-Jan-1963
Vagg, William Jr.	11-Jan-1957
Warner, Robert	10-Jan-1952
Warren, Robert	17-Jan-2008



CORN, WINE AND OIL

We learn in the Fellow Craft Degree that a Mason's wages are paid in corn, wine and oil. They were the most important products of the Middle East. They constituted the wealth of the people and were esteemed as the supports of life and the means of refreshment.

Corn is the symbol of nourishment, knowledge, sacrifice, prosperity and resurrection. In the Biblical sense, corn referred to kernels of any grain, wheat particularly. As early man attempted to symbolize abstract thought with commonly known items, corn or wheat became associated with spiritual and intellectual nourishment as well as physical. It also became a symbol of resurrection, because, if stored properly during the winter months, it will produce when planted in the spring.

Wine is used as an element of Masonic consecration as a symbol of the inward refreshment of a good conscience and reminds us of the eternal refreshments which the good are to receive in the future life for the faithful performance of duty in the present. Among the ancients, blood was endowed with great sanctity and considered synonymous with life. Probably because of its color and nutritional value, wine became the symbol for blood and hence of life itself. So wine restores the body and the jaded energies of the soul.

In Biblical times, oil was made from olives. It was used as a cosmetic, a medicine, as fuel for lighting, and an ingredient for food. All of these uses became associated with a symbolic significance of pleasure, gladness and joy.

Together, corn, wine and oil symbolically represent the wages or rewards of a good life. When a man has attained a perfection of personal spirit and thought and concern for his fellow creatures is he entitled to those spiritual wages of the corn or nourishment, the wine of refreshment in body and soul and the oil of joy in work well performed.



"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, ... and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing..."

Does this sound familiar? It should, as it is a part of our Masonic rituals! You don't have to wait for the annual giving requests,

You may go to www.freemason.org and create a giving plan to our Masonic foundation today!!

"...And now abideth faith, hope, & charity, these



January 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Patriotism is easy to understand in America. It means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country. Calvin Coolidge</p>						
4	5 Rainbow 7:00PM	6	7	8 Stated Meeting 8:00 Dinner 6:30	9	10 Folsom Shrine Club 8:00AM
11	12 Rainbow Board Mtg 6:15 PM	13 Amaranth 7:30PM	14 Hall Association 7:00 PM	15	16	17
18	19 Rainbow 7:00PM Martin Luther King Jr Day	20. Inauguration 	21	22	23	24
25	26 York Rite 7:00PM Sutter Creek	27	28	29	30	31





Return Service Requested

We're on the Web:
www.calodges.org/no64

DATES TO REMEMBER

01/05 7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
01/08 6:30pm	Dinner	Natoma Lodge	Festive	Public
01/08 8pm	Stated Meeting	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
01/09 8pm	American River	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
01/10 8am	Shrine Club	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Shriners & Wives
01/13 7:30pm	Amaranth	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Amaranth Memb.
01/14 7pm	Hall Association	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Masonic Adults
01/19 7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
01/26 7:30pm	York Rite Bodies	Sutter Creek	Bus. Formal	York Rite Masons
01/30 7pm	Amaranth	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Amaranth Memb.