



TRESTLE BOARD

Natoma Lodge #64

August
2009



FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East—

July was as busy as it was hot in Folsom! Our Natoma Ritual team did, in fact, bring the State championship back to Folsom after 'loaning' it out last year. We are the first Lodge to have multiple championships since the competition began a few years ago—we are the team to beat next year! Congratulations to team leaders Bill "Bubba" Miklos, PM, and Henry Smith for their leadership and to the team who performed nearly perfect ritual—Great Job! The entire team has been given the honor of attending this year's Annual Communication (October) where the Grand Master will personally congratulate the entire team—that will be an experience to remember!

Our officers were busy preparing for next year's line with some new faces. Although the officer line may be set for next year, there are still plenty of opportunities available—if you are interested please see Sr. Warden Mike Titus. We are all hard at work in preparation of the high ritual standard we have set.

At the August Stated dinner we will have the pleasure of listening to a presentation from Mary Jane Hodges from the Acacia Creek Masonic Homes, who will tell us about Acacia Creek as well as some new developments in the project. This presentation promises to be worth attending and one you won't want to miss it, so make sure you RSVP Scott Leventon and enjoy this presentation.

Looking ahead to September, we will have our annual Constitutional Observation, which never fails to inspire us and leave us with a feeling of pride in being Americans as well as Masons! With all that has happened this past year we all take solace in knowing that this is still the greatest nation in the world!

There have been some hard times for many people this year, and we

are all just trying to stay ahead of the economy and at the same time try to help our neighbors as much as possible. The Acacia Creek project in Covina has suffered a major setback recently; the new construction, which had been postponed in January, has ceased operations and the project has been dissolved. The Acacia Creek Board of Directors has not taken this approach lightly and without forethought and research. Many Senior living institutions are under severe stress in part due to the simultaneous deterioration in the housing market, the stock market and the debt market, which has resulted in a negative impact on the senior housing industry. There has been a pronounced decline in the number of lending institutions willing to back such projects (*Financing and Debt restructuring Solutions for the Senior Living Industry Financial Crisis*, 4/21/09, <http://www.cainbrothers.com/research>). The project at Union City, however, is still moving forward and should be ready to welcome new residents in January, 2010. Those who had invested in the Covina Campus will be assisted in any way possible, including the option of moving into the Union City facility. We will continue to monitor this situation and will continue to support our Brothers and Widows.

In addition to the hardships experienced in the Covina Home project, we are experiencing hardships in our Lodges with our own members—a recent survey had been sent out to Lodge leaders asking how many members they were aware of who were in the process of or already had lost their jobs or homes. An alarmingly high rate of misfortune had been reported, and as a result the *Masonic Family Resource Center* is addressing how best to aid and assist families that have been or are being negatively impacted by recent economic shortcomings. These times are calling for a new approach and we are all looking for a means to address these issues. I will have more information on this at the Stated meeting as well as in the ensuing months.

The economic hardship this year has also affected our future—our youth groups are suffering as well as some of our youth-oriented programs. It has been decided that there will not be any Masonic presence at the *California State Fair*—the Child I.D. booths, which annually serve thousands of kids, will not be at the State Fair this year due to a shortfall in funding and an increase in cost to occupy the booths. This is very unfortunate. We are also experiencing many of our youth orders nationally decreasing in size and number, and as a result there are many local groups dying off. Our youth are in harm's way, and the long-term prognosis is not good. Society is teaching us all that we can make bad decisions and get bailed out by the taxpayer—there is little incentive to do charitable work for our communities. If our youth groups are in decline and we are losing opportunities to visit with our neighbors at places like the State Fair (where they will see who we are and what we do), we are in trouble! We all need to continue to support and nurture the events and organizational health of our youth groups as well as the functions that we have devoted to serving our youth. By continuing with this philosophy we can show our young people that there is honor in serving others and that we all should be held accountable for our decisions instead of there being a *bail out* for everything. I am not passing judgment on our political system, I am just making a statement; this is how the future will be if we allow the next generations to be taught that responsibility can be avoided. We all have to remain vigilant and continue to support our youth by supporting our youth groups and by maintaining a presence in the community—especially when the next generations are impacted.

Travel well, and as you carry your own burdens as well as those of your neighbor, know that you are being counted on by those not yet on the path to righteousness!

S

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IN MEMORIAM

EARL R. CAMPBELL, PM

Born—Feb 6, 1922
 Initiated—Feb 11, 1955
 Passed —April 15, 1955
 Raised—July 16, 1955
 Entered into Rest July 25, 2009

*Supreme Grand Master,
 Into thy hands we
 commend the soul
 of our dearly
 departed brother.*



FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

A few months back I wrote about the building of a team, how we were doing so by our participation in the Grand Lodge sponsored ritual competition, and how team building through camaraderie was our aim. Many team members also continually said, "Win or lose it doesn't matter -- we compete to better ourselves". These pronouncements, like my writings a few months back, while true, ignore the fact that the Natoma 64 Ritual team -- consisting of officers and Past Masters -- is highly focused, competitive, and relentless in the pursuit of excellence. As proof, if you had not heard, for the second time in five years, through hard work and steely eyed determination, the mantle of State Ritual Champions again presides at our Lodge. We do believe, and have experienced, that these competitive events build a stronger corps of Lodge leaders and officers, but don't be fooled by the passive statements that it's all in fun. We're in it to win baby, and we did! Congratulations to all the team members!

Grand Lodge instituted the competition five years ago and Natoma 64 has won two of those five years. With great success come great expectations. Naturally, we will defend our champi-

onship next year, and will do so with the same hard work and steely eyed determination...aiming to have fun, build a better leadership team, but also to win! The ritual subject for next year's competition is planned as full form proficiency of each degree, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We therefore require no less than six brothers for the 2010 competition, three examiners, and three candidates. Like this year, we hope to have a back-up for each position, to assure fielding a full team despite any scheduling conflicts that may arise; therefore, twelve team members will be the optimum and our goal. This competition is not for the officers only; it is open to all lodge members. I hope this ritual category inspires some of our members raised before short form proficiency became acceptable to come forth and show us how it was done when they received their degrees. To hone our work to championship level will take many hours. We need to get started now and I am asking members to join next year's team immediately.

I have often wondered how often each member reads the *Monitor*. Early in the third section of the 1st and 3rd Degree lecture, unless you have been fortunate enough to hear a full lecture, you are told that the lessons excluded from the lecture are contained in the *Monitor* and it has been adopted by the fraternity as a text book, and with which it is hoped that you will soon make yourself familiar. I

hope you all have done so, but suggest reading them again may be enjoyable and provide further enlightenment. Therefore, we will regularly provide portions of the *Monitor*, our Masonic text book, in the Trestleboard. It is my hope that you read, and thoughtfully consider the symbolic messages and lessons of our text book. When I do, I am inspired and enriched as I consider the messages, how artfully they are presented, and especially how these Masonic lessons, from our text book, have enriched American Society for many generations past -- and God willing for many future generations. Our Fraternity is blessed with rich traditions and lessons; I hope making them more accessible will benefit your Masonic experience.

On July 23rd, we passed Brother Gardner to the Fellowcraft Degree. Congratulations Brother Gardner, we look forward to your continued progress. To the members that attended the second degree ceremony, thank you. Supporting our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts as they travel their Masonic path is integral to brotherly love. By attending degree meetings you enhance not only your fraternal experience, but all of ours. We look forward to seeing you all whenever you can make it!

Yours in Brotherhood and On the Level,

Mike



FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren and Ladies,

As we enter the middle of summer I can't help but reflect on what has been not only a busy but fun year as Jr. Warden. It makes me look forward to next year serving as Sr. Warden. The officers have been working hard to learn the work for next year's stations, we have had a couple practices for next year already and I can tell you it looks really different over in the West.

As June started our ritual team traveled to Union City to compete for the state championship. We left feeling pretty confident that we did well and it was not going to be easy to beat us. One of the

judges said we set the bar pretty high. We also learned that the Southern Californian lodges were not going to compete until the last Saturday in June. The team received an email that we won the competition once again that's two times in the last two years. The team will receive our award during Grand Lodge proceedings. What I got out of it was a sense of closeness to one another, cheering each other on. The backups did not need to travel to Union City but they did. As I read through my emails from our team everyone was saying how proud and honored they were to be a part of the team, it was a real wonderful feeling to be a part of it a second

time.

Remember to RSVP dinner reservations no later than the First Monday before stated dinner. Admission for dinner is \$12 a plate, if you are bringing a guest or potential member please provide the names all party members this will make taking RSVP's easier and will not cause me to contact you for their names.

Travel well,

The other Scott



IT'S MONITORIAL ... 1ST DEGREE

THE LAMBSKIN APRON

It is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. More ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any distinction that can be conferred on you, at this or any future period, by king, prince, potentate, or any other person, and which it is hoped that you will wear with pleasure to yourself and honor to the Fraternity.

THE TWENTY – FOUR INCH GAUGE

is an instrument made use of by operative Masons to measure and lay out their work. But we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of dividing our time. It, being divided into twenty for equal parts, is emblematic of the twenty-four hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three parts, whereby we find a part for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother; a part for our usual vocation; and a part for refreshment and repose.



LET'S EAT

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

RSVP and the meal is only \$12.00, If you forgot, Please Come Anyway...
but at the door the cost is \$14.00 Per Meal.

What's Cookin'?

Soup/Salad—Caesar Salad

**Main Dish - Chicken Penne Pasta Alfredo, Medley of vegetables,
Olive & Scallion and Focsani Bread.**

Dessert - Carrot cake

CONGRATULATIONS!!

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES			
Gene Thompson	1-Aug	James Maitland	19-Aug	Aldridge, Robert	25-Aug-54
Kenneth Taylor	1-Aug	Richard Williams	21-Aug	Barbu, Scott	22-Aug-04
Glenn Sawyer	1-Aug	Clarence Shew	22-Aug	Killius, Wayne PM	30-Aug-86
Aubrey Winn Jr.	3-Aug	Joseph Isaac Sr.	23-Aug	Logsdan, Seth	21-Aug-08
Allen Waldrop	3-Aug	Dan Pomplun	23-Aug	Paterson, James	16-Aug-01
Edward Robles	6-Aug	Dennis Fitts	23-Aug	Rogers, Dale	19-Aug-68
James H. Conley	7-Aug	Jeff Goodwin	24-Aug	Shew, Clarence	31-Aug-55
Howard Day	10-Aug	Frank Rice	26-Aug	Spiegel, Samual	30-Aug-07
Wade D. Critz	10-Aug	James B. Puttnam	26-Aug	Stevens, Teddy PM	19-Aug-81
Edwin Greenhalgh	11-Aug	Herb Anderson	26-Aug	Stromstad, Ronald	6-Aug-03
J. G. Bittner	12-Aug	John H. Thorne	27-Aug	Tibbens, Peter T.	20-Aug-86
Joseph Bellacera	15-Aug	Greg Barnekoff	28-Aug		
Henry Monagan	17-Aug				



I'D LOVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR SR DEACON...

Greetings Brethren:

We are into the home stretch for the rest of the year. What a busy year this one has been for me personally and in the lodge. New obligations with work and family, one new granddaughter and another on the way, learning obligations and ritual (will I ever get it down?), new assignments at work, Shrine Club. Gosh, time sometimes doesn't move, until you're under the gun, then it moves too fast.

As I enthusiastically anticipate the upcoming year, I realize how little I know of Masonic ritual and the mysteries of Freemasonry. In my spare time, I enjoy reading to further learn about the light, and what keeps coming back is this is my journey that I can take as long and as far as I wish to. It's a personal journey that I have an opportunity contribute as much as I wish. Two things keep coming forward in my mind: if it's not good for Masonry, it's not good for me; and if I want to continue to improve in Masonry and improve myself, I've got the best teachers, you my brothers.

In searching for adjectives to describe next year, I've ruled out boring, dull, languid; I look forward to my next year(s) to be filled with good council, positive guidance and exciting as I absorb much more of my Masonic education. And I know that each and every brother and wife will deny being knowledgeable, but I hope each and every one of you will share with me and teach me more about being a better Mason, husband and citizen, and I sincerely look forward to that collective wisdom you have to share.

Travel Well,
- Dan

[Dan Leonard, Sr. Deacon Extraordinaire! — Keep an eye on him, he's an up and comer! Ed.]



Our latest 50 Year award recipients - Golden Veterans Pin Presentation to Hollis Beckett (not pictured), Herman Graham & James Minton

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ??

TEMPLARS...PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN?

**Please join us at the Scottish Rite Center for
The NCRL Stated Meeting
On September 15, 2009 at 6 PM**

**The stated meeting will be followed by dinner
and a special paper presentation.**

All Master Masons are welcome!

**Dinner \$15; You may use Paypal. Reservations are suggested.
Contact Bill Miklos, Master (billmiklos@sbcglobal.net)
Or John Cooper, Secretary (johnlilburnfreemason@gmail.com)**



"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 three; but the greatest of these is charity."



Return Service Requested



DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DRESS</u>	<u>INVITEES</u>
08/03	7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
08/06	6:30pm	Dinner	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Public
08/06	8pm	Stated Meeting	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
08/07	8pm	American River	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
08/08	8am	Shrine Club	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Shriners & Wives
08/11	7:30pm	Amaranth	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Amaranth Memb.
08/12	7pm	Hall Association	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Masonic Adults
08/17	7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
08/24	7:30pm	York Rite Bodies	Sutter Creek	Bus. Formal	York Rite Masons