



TRESTLE BOARD

Natoma Lodge #64

September
2009



FROM THE EAST

Greetings
from the East—

Welcome and congratulations to our newest Mason, Brother John J. Frizzell, who was initiated in August. Please take a moment to welcome him into our fold!

In August we had the opportunity to hear from Mary Jane Hodges from the Acacia Creek Masonic Homes project—it was educational and a great presentation. The state of our residence homes are in flux, but we will manage to continue to care for those who need our continued support.

September is our annual Constitutional observation, which always promises to be entertaining as well as inspiring. Don't miss our presentation at the Stated dinner this September as well as the Stated meeting immediately following, where we will be discussing our upcoming Grand Lodge proposed legislation—a summary is presented below.

The United States Constitution is an amazing document—many of the framers of this document were Masons. Written in the 18th century, it applies today and is intended to be relative to future generations. The preamble of the Constitution defines *Why* the Constitution is necessary, the first three *Articles* define the three branches of Government (the Legislative, which is the Congress and Senate, the Executive, which is the President and so forth, and the Judiciary, or the court system), the fourth *Article* concerns the States, the fifth and sev-

enth *Articles* concerns the Constitution and its modification and ratification, and finally, the sixth *Article* concerns the United States itself. Of the twenty-seven *Amendments* of the Constitution, one is no longer applicable, and the first ten are generally referred to as the *Bill of Rights*. On 25 May, 1787, in Philadelphia, the Constitutional Convention opened in order to establish the parameters of the Government of this nation. Of the forty signers of the Constitution, nine were known Masons, thirteen were thought to be Masons and six more later became Masons. This month we honor the Constitution and its legacy, as well as those courageous Americans (and Masons) who set forth the framework of this great nation!

Looking forward to October, your Master, Wardens and a Past Master representative will each cast a vote on the pending legislation at Grand Lodge during the 160th Annual Communication in San Francisco. This is our opportunity to allow change or stand for tradition—it is every member's obligation to speak their conscience to those who are attending. At the September Stated meeting I will summarize the legislation so everyone will have an opportunity to let those of us attending the Annual Communication know how they feel about the issues being presented. I will also invite any comments for discussion on these issues—as time allows. If we do not have ample time to discuss all of the issues, I invite your comments after the meeting.

The 2008 carry-over legislation is as follows:

Grand Master Hopper's Recommenda-

tion #04 to discontinue the practice of 'hazing' prior to and as part of Masonic ritual, which has become both illegal as well as un-Masonic; *Resolution #08-08* relates to the distribution of life membership funds—this does not apply to Natoma Lodge, but it will still be voted on by your representatives; *Resolution #08-09* involves increasing the fee paid by the applicant to the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

The proposed 2009 legislation is as follows:

Resolution #09-01 recommends the creation of the *Hiram's Pillar Award* for the Loved ones of *Hiram Award* recipients; *Resolution 09-02* simplifies Lodge financial reporting to Grand Lodge; *Resolution 09-03* seeks to increase the number of members serving on the *Grand Lodge Committee on Investments*; *Resolution #09-04* seeks to require a Lodge's *Member Retention Committee* to interview a member before they are suspended for non-payment of dues; *Resolution #09-05* seeks to allow the return of unused dues to the family of a Brother who has passed or to a Brother who has discontinued membership—without the consent of the Lodge; *Resolution #09-06* seeks to acknowledge Past Masters in research Lodges by inviting them to seats in the East at the opening of Research Lodges; *Resolution #09-07* seeks to allow a Brother to serve as Secretary in more than one Lodge concurrently; *Resolution #09-08* seeks to entitle a Secretary and Inspector the opportunity to vote at Annual Communications; *Resolutions #s 09-09 and 09-10* seek to expand fund-raising activities/ opportunities by Masonic Organizations/ Shrine Centers.

2009 OFFICERS

HALL ASSOCIATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Master	
Scott Barbu	(916) 967-8336
(Tamara)	sbarbu@edd.ca.gov
Senior Warden	
Michael Titus	(916) 726-5272
(Kim)	michaeltitus02@gmail.com
Junior Warden	
Scott Leventon	(916) 386-2966
	scott_leventon@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	
James Grey	(916) 967-5171
(Vera)	jameshgrey@yahoo.com
Secretary	
Robert Johnson	(916) 488-5730
(Laura)	bojohnso@sbcglobal.net
Asst Secretary	
Wes Mindermann	(916) 365-3772
(Rosita)	dumpengr@aol.com
Chaplain	
Henry Smith Jr	(916) 989-6606
(Pamela)	p_h_smith@yahoo.com
Senior Deacon	
Dan Leonard	(916) 858-0189
(Susan)	dannyl123@hotmail.com
Junior Deacon	
Joseph Freidson	(916) 965-3953
(Alicia)	jfreidson@hotmail.com
Marshal	
Mark Lamb	(530)642-2613
(Judy)	Mark.Lamb@dgs.ca.gov
Senior Steward	
John Ludington	(916) 989-4896
(Sandy)	johnludington@yahoo.com
Junior Steward	
Christian Brown	(916) 320-2129
	trippoint@gmail.com
Tiler	
Jon Haney	(916) 834-7964
	jonhaney1@aol.com
Officer's Coach	
Casey Norris PM	(916) 983-4211
(Jacqueline)	cwnorris@worldnet.att.net
Head Candidate's Coach	
Michael Titus	(916) 726-5272

President	
Wes Mindermann	(916) 365-3772
Vice President	
Shawn MacDonald	(530) 409-7492
	pumppropumping@comcast.net
Treasurer	
Joe Lopilusa	(916) 989-1797
	jolap@comcast.net
Secretary	
Bill Miklos PM	(916) 294-0211
	billmiklos@sbcglobal.net
Members	
Paul Tibbens	(916) 726-4007
Frank Kitchen	(916) 984-2024

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
Chairman	
Doug Roberts	(916) 988-4935
Members	
John Holkko	(916) 933-1740
Eric Wells PM	(530) 677-3975

OTHER CONTACTS	
District Inspector	
Tom Golden PM	(530) 626-1275
	tom@tomgolden.org
Grand Master	
Larry Adamson	
Rainbow	
Karen Marshall	(916) 849-6677
	crazybasketlady@aol.com
Shrine Club	
Carlton Galbraith	(916) 987-5536
Amaranth	
Patricia Schilder	(916) 988-9518
York Rite Bodies	
Casey Norris PM	(916) 983-4211
Lodge Rental	
Jaquina Pilgard	(916) 722-6757
Ambassador	
David Barnekoff	(916) 939-3806
(Liz)	dbarnekoff@aol.com
Web-Master	
Rob Warren	(916) 420-0941
	rob@fengshuiyourplace.com

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QUOTES

"On every unauthoritative exercise of power by the legislature must the people rise in rebellion or their silence be construed into a surrender of that power to them? If so, how many rebellions should we have had already?"

--Thomas Jefferson, Notes on Virginia, Query 12, 1782



FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

September brings a significant annual Masonic event, the recognition and celebration of the U.S. Constitution, which was adopted on September 17, 1787. Worshipful Casey Norris will provide Masonic enlightenment on the U.S. Constitution at the September stated meeting dinner.

Much has been written, positive and negative, regarding Freemasonry's impact on the development of the United States governmental system. Worshipful Barbu, this month, has written with eloquence about the influence of our Masonic forefathers and their involvement in the establishment of our Constitution. I will address the subject from an alternative direction for a different purpose.

I became a Mason, in part, to have a positive impact on our community and society. I knew that many of our founding fathers, who created the framework of our nation, were Freemasons. While I am not suggesting that being a Mason naturally involves creating or changing governments, our forefathers -- those who were also Masons, represent men inclined to community involvement, and men of action. I also had heard, prior to joining, through my Masonic friends that Masons did not involve themselves in or discuss politics. Yet contrarily, the fraternity is enthusiastically devoted to the patriotic observance of our flag and our constitution; hence the observance each September. These paradigms seem, on the surface, to oppose one another. How can a fraternity dedicated to making good men better,

building societal leaders, and purporting to positively influence the moral and social virtues of our communities then impose on its members the restriction that they are not to involve themselves in politics.

Since becoming a Mason I have discussed with more learned Brothers, and researched on my own, these seemingly inconsistent messages of our fraternity. From this research I conclude and share the following. Freemasonry, on multiple occasions, has been accused of political influence that has dramatically changed the world, accusations of revolution and influence that instigated the downfall of men or a change in those who held power. Freemasons have been charged with starting the French Revolution, with trying to secretly influence the U.S. government in the early 19th century following the Morgan affair, and Freemasons were accused, by Hitler, of conspiring with the Jews and being the root of all evil prior to and during the 2nd World War. Whether accurate, or not, accusations such as these do create enemies. Even still today, anti-Freemason groups propagate through the web, and other means, the position that Freemasonry is part-partial the Illuminati, an organization they say secretly directs the government of our country and others around the world to monopolize the common man, creating wealth for those installed in the highest roles of its leadership. Within the context of this history, and our current battle for truth, is there any wonder why the California Masonic Code, in § 200.020 -- No Political or Religious Involvement, instructs that "Grand Lodge and its Constituent Lodges shall not interfere or voice an opinion with regard to political or religious matters. Members, when they are as-

sembled in Constituent Lodges or Grand Lodge, may not discuss political or religious matters."

However, we need to read carefully and understand this section of our Masonic Code. It is only Lodges, Grand or Constituent, which cannot voice opinion on political and religious matters, and Masons are restricted only while assembled within a Lodge. We are not restricted as individuals from holding and voicing political opinions. However, we must also remember from § 200.210 of our code that religious and political beliefs are not to be considered either for membership or visitation in a Lodge, as long there exists, within the man a belief in a Supreme Being. As well Masons, also should never forget that instruction to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds toward all mankind, especially our Brothers in Freemasonry.

In other words, nothing in our Masonic code or by-laws restricts us from developing and opining political thought amongst our friends and neighbors. Nothing prevents us from holding political office and leadership positions, or otherwise taking part in the management and government of our communities and other political groups. In fact, we are charged in the first degree to be exemplary in the discharge of our civil duties. It is an expectation that as Masons we will participate in the political systems of our society -- at the least through our private votes -- but we are not restricted from greater involvement; however, always remembering the demand that we as Masons do so in a manner respectful of all other beliefs.

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FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren and Ladies,

September is upon us and the hot days of summer will soon be behind us. Our officers continue to work hard and learn the work for next year's stations. We had a first degree for Brother Frizzel and I congratulate him and look forward to see him progress through his degrees.

The California State Fair opened today and the Child ID booth will not be there. This is really a sad thing, not only do we ID lots of children but we as Masons get exposure and potential members

and we enjoy each other's company and fellowship.

I'm looking for a few good men who are interested in writing Masonic Education for the Sr. Wardens trestle board articles next year. I must admit I am not real good at Masonic Education so I'm looking now for brothers to step forward and volunteer to write some articles.

Remember as Jr. Warden I take all the dinner RSVP's. When you make your RSVP please provide all names and note whether they are a potential member or guest.

This way I don't have to make contact with you. Also, please make your RSVP by the first Monday before stated dinner.

Travel well,
The other Scott



IT'S MONITORIAL ... 1ST DEGREE

THE COMMON GAVEL

is an instrument used by operative Masons to break off the rough and superfluous parts of stones, the better to fit them for the builder's use. But we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life; thereby fitting our minds as living stones for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

THE BADGE OF A MASON

The Lamb, in all ages, has been deemed an emblem of innocence. He, therefore, who wears the lambskin as the badge of a Mason, is continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.



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'?

Starter – Minestrone Soup,

Main Dish - Classic Lasagna, garlic bread.

Dessert - Rainbow sherbet or spumoni

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
Robert C. Aldridge	5-Sep	Basden, James	25-Sep-03
Roland Ledoux Jr.	6-Sep	Briner, Milton	13-Sep-89
Robert A. Williams	6-Sep	Burns, James	20-Sep-67
James F. Grey	8-Sep	Clarke, David Jr.	10-Sep-80
Mark Paterson	9-Sep	Couch, Scott B.	11-Sep-03
Leslie G. Clark PM	14-Sep	Daily, Sherrill Sr.	16-Sep-75
Dennis H. Johnston	15-Sep	Darnell, Kenneth	21-Sep-00
Ronald Peters	16-Sep	Davis, Joseph PM	19-Sep-83
Robert Reynolds	17-Sep	Dickerson, Gerald	13-Sep-03
Scott E. Barbu WM	18-Sep	Goleno, Kevin	12-Sep-04
Scott Couch	19-Sep	Gray, Duane	15-Sep-61
David R. Clarke Jr.	20-Sep	Grey, James F.	27-Sep-66
William P. Gilbert	24-Sep	Johnson, David	19-Sep-84
Brian J. Wegesser	25-Sep	Johnson, Robert L.	23-Sep-87
Sherrill I. Daily Sr.	26-Sep	Larson, Steven PM	23-Sep-02
Joseph S. Lopilusa	26-Sep	Leiser, George	24-Sep-97
Perry C. Leffler	27-Sep	Mac Kenzie, Thomas	7-Sep-91
Rene Barthel	27-Sep	Masegian, Kenneth	20-Sep-07
Terry Center	29-Sep	Mattingly, Jack	9-Sep-04
Ralph V. Seymour	30-Sep	Schrum, Bryon	25-Sep-97

CONGRATULATIONS!!



FROM THE EASTCONTINUED...

Also in October (at the Stated dinner) we will have our annual portfolio presentation, where we will see how we are faring regarding the financial health of our Lodge. The status of our investments will directly impact next year's budget and the programs we support.

Like this great nation, Freemasonry has a rich tradition of hearing every voice before speaking as the law of the land. As the elected officials of this Lodge, we are bound to represent our constituency and vote according to our cumulative conscience. Those of us who will cast our votes on behalf of the Lodge will need to know what the Lodge thinks about the legislation—I charge each and every member of Natoma #64 to weigh in and let us know where you stand. Like the United States Constitution, the *California Masonic Code* establishes the framework of what we do as Masons. And as there were forty original signers of the Constitution, the ability to change it still applies as this is a free nation—the same opportunity is available to Freemasonry every year we vote on the legislation. In September, bring with you the spirit of righteousness as we discuss and later determine how the legislation for Grand Lodge should be approached, just as the original framers of the Constitution did back in 1787 in Philadelphia.

Travel well, and as we who represent your voice travel to Grand Lodge in October, allow us to be your Trestle Board, whereupon the cumulative wisdom of our Lodge has been inculcated so the craft may pursue their labors.

For further reading:

Refer to <http://www.usconstitution.net/constframe.html> for a list of the framers of the Constitution.

Refer to <http://www.usconstitution.constquick.html> for a summary explanation of the Constitution.

Refer to <http://www.watch.pair.com/mason.html> for a summary of the Masonic influence in the Constitution.

Refer to the 160th Annual Communications proposed legislation regarding the items to be voted on in Grand Lodge in October.

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FROM THE WESTCONTINUED...

Our current time is one beleaguered with the turmoil of dramatic change. News media and political organizations seem, whether by intent or not, to promote social discourse that divides us by promoting the extreme of each opposing position, and obfuscating those positions that we may share. In so doing, they attempt to distract and dissuade us from our civil duty to participate in the representative democracy given to us by our forefathers, and defended for us every day by the men and women of the armed services. We are obligated to fight any tendency to ignore our responsibilities and avoid the turmoil. As Masons, we are obligated to civil duties, to be involved.

Therefore, I suggest during this month that we as Masons celebrate the United States Constitution, the document that set forth the framework which established the greatest representative democracy the world has thus far known, that each one of us reflect upon our participation in the process. Consider the sacrifice of the men and women defending our Constitution, which protects our God given rights -- including the right to free speech. Do not allow the enemies of civil discourse discourage you from your social duties to know, understand, and opine with civility for the betterment and future of our society. Emulate our forefathers in their practice of impassioned discourse, thou restrained by civility and decorum toward those with whom they disagreed, which ultimately lead the document we celebrate this month. I am certain that if the majority is fully educated in the issues of our time, and become truly involved, our nation will set a path toward even greater prosperity. However, if we the people disengage our course will be chosen by a few, for their benefit and at our expense.

All that I have said is best summarized by a famous quote from an author of our Constitution, **Thomas Jefferson** who said:

"All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent."

Yours in Brotherhood and On the Level,

Mike

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)



Masonic Resource Fair

Help for California Masons who have been laid off or are worried about their jobs

Mark your calendar for the Masonic Resource Fair in your area.

Information about:

Employment transition and retraining; Resume writing and interviewing; Health/medical care access
Social service programs; Foreclosure prevention; Educational opportunities; Managing stress

Upcoming Masonic Resource Fairs:

September 3

2 - 7 p.m.

Fresno Lodge No. 247

3444 E. Shields Avenue, **Fresno**, CA 93726

September 29

2 - 7 p.m.

Reading Lodge No. 254

195 Masonic Avenue, **Redding**, CA 96003

September 17

2 - 7 p.m.

Sacramento Lodge No. 40

1123 J Street, **Sacramento**, CA 95814

Snacks and a light supper will be served.

To register: Call the Masonic Family Resource Center
(510) 429-6435

Return Service Requested



DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DRESS</u>	<u>INVITEES</u>
09/03	6:30pm	Dinner	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Public
09/03	8pm	Stated Meeting	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
09/04	8pm	American River	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
09/07	7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
09/08	7:30pm	Amaranth	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Amaranth Memb.
09/09	7pm	Hall Association	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Masonic Adults
09/12	8am	Shrine Club	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Shriners & Wives
09/21	7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
09/28	7:30pm	York Rite Bodies	Sutter Creek	Bus. Formal	York Rite Masons