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# THE TRESTLEBOARD

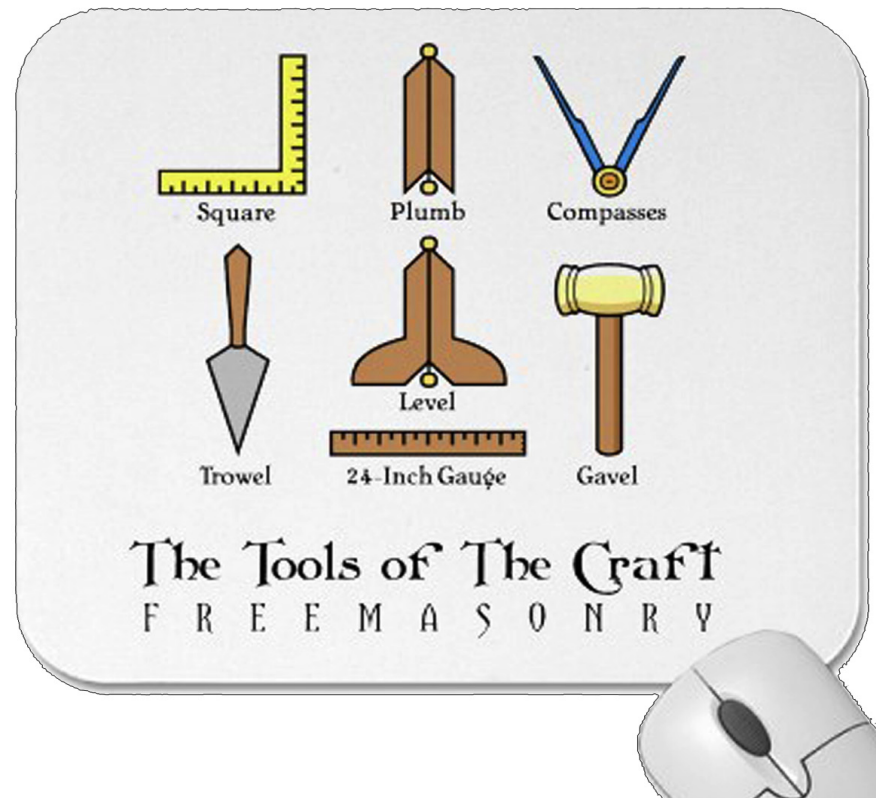

## San Bernardino

### FREEMASONRY

#### Lodge No. 178

VOL. 12-9 SEPTEMBER 2012



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY SAN BERNARDINO LODGE NO.178



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# **SAN BERNARDINO LODGE NO. 178** **– OFFICERS 2012 –**

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Inspector .....	Wor. Richard Harlan (Teresa) <a href="mailto:dadharlan@att.net">dadharlan@att.net</a>
Blood Bank Chairman .....	Wor. Ken Goddard
Sunshine Chairman .....	Bro. John Welcher
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Webmaster .....	Wor. Eric Bordner <a href="mailto:Eric.bordner@gmail.com">Eric.bordner@gmail.com</a>

<p><i>San Bernardino No 12 Club No. 430</i></p> <p><i>Good Food!</i></p> <p><i>Good Fellowship</i></p> <p><i>Meets Friday</i></p> <p><i>At</i></p> <p><i>For all Members, their Spouses, their Widows and Friends</i></p> 	<p><i>In Memory of a worthy Brother:</i></p> <p><i>Bro. Smith Marshall</i></p> <p><i>from a Friend &amp; Brother, Mason</i></p>
<p><b>YOUR NAME/AD HERE</b></p> <p><b>\$150.00 FOR ONE YEAR</b></p>	<p><b>YOUR NAME/AD HERE</b></p> <p><b>\$150.00 FOR ONE YEAR</b></p>
<div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>From the Secretary's Desk</b></p> <p>Brethren all the pros and cons of raising our dues have been stated, restated and restated again. Our dues have to be increased no matter if we stay here at the York Rite or have our own building. It is not a matter of where we are, it's a matter of survival. The Master's article says it all ---- <b>HOW MUCH IS FREEMASONRY WORTH TO YOU?----IT GOVERNS MY LIFE.</b></p> <p>Come express your opinion—See you September 6<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Fraternally</p> <p>Tom Meyer, Secretary</p>	



## SCOTTISH RITE BODIES VALLEY OF SAN BERNARDINO

4400 Varsity Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92407 - (909) 887-4415

- September 11th - 6:00 p.m. - Building Board Meeting  
- 6:30 p.m. - Executive Board Meeting  
September 18th - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner (Reservations Required)  
- 7:30 p.m. - Special Program  
- 8:00 p.m. - AASR Stated Meeting



## Gate City O.E.S. #212

### SEPTEMBER 14, 2012 "Members Night"

6:00 pm. Dinner "Good Ole Country Fair"  
Chicken dinner w/all the fixin's  
R.S.V.P - By Sept. 12th \$10.00 per person  
Linda Windegger (909) 882-9787  
Sandy Ditto (909) 862-5241  
7:30pm Regular Stated Meeting  
Dress code: Casual - NO PANTS PLEASE

### SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

7:30pm. - Regular Stated Meeting  
"Teddy Bears Apple Jamboree"  
Ruth Marie Groves, P.M., Chmn.

## In Memorium

### **Bro. Rex Cox**

Our Treasurer for 33 years passed away  
on June 17, 2012

### **Bro. Orville Nunley**

Passed Away on May 24, 2012



Into thy loving hands we commend the spirit of our departed brothers. If you hear of someone passing on please let the Secretary know, so that he can send a card to the family.

## Greetings from the East



### Greetings Brothers

Once again I was sadly disappointed at the turn out at our last months Stated Meeting. With such an important issue as the increase of your dues, you have relegated the decision to just a handful of Brothers. I can only assume that most you are not reading the Trestleboard. But with hope that you read this article, you can be assured that a good discussion was had on the subject and the motion to raise the dues was tabled for the vote will be held at this months (September) Stated Meeting. Please be sure to attend. With this said, I would ask you to answer this question: How much is freemasonry worth to you?

As one of our brothers reflected on his grandfathers dues card from the 1920's, the annual dues at that time were \$25.00.....equal to his monthly mortgage payment. Mortgage payments today are well over \$1500.00 per month and our current dues are only \$110.00 (including per capita) per year. It becomes pretty obvious to me that our fathers and grandfathers felt freemasonry was worth a lot more than many of us do today when we cringe at the thought of spending \$240.00 a year for dues and per capita combined.

If we are to become the community pillars we once were, if we are to support our youth groups, if we as a fraternity are to survive and carry forth the values that each of us has, while kneeling before an altar, promised to do.....an increase is necessary. How much is up to you. Consider the following thoughts sent to me by one of our brothers:

### *Gentlemen...*

*I thought I would share with you some thoughts that you might wish to include in the Trestleboard when you discuss the proposed dues increase.*

1. *There are over 320 members in the lodge, and over 70 of those members pay no dues. The lodge is losing not only the dues for those non-paying members, but is also losing \$35 per nonpaying member in the per capita that is paid to Grand Lodge. This is an issue that will be dealt with (on an individual by individual basis) in the near future.*

2. *Because the lodge has reduced it's budget to the point where there is nothing left to reduce, it (the lodge) is becoming a "degree mill"...there being no money for other activities.*

*-The secretary is not receiving wages, and the 2 prior secretaries have either received no wages or have received severely reduced wages.*

*-Youth organizations are not being supported to the extent they should be (\$100 per year for the Job's Daughters and a like amount for DeMolay... in today's world, that's precious little, and does little to provide financial assistance to those organizations.)*

*-Our involvement in the community has been reduced to the point of almost non-existence...our budgeted expenditure is limited to less than \$250 per year.*

*-All family events (including picnics) have been virtually eliminated. (The only exception is the bi-annual visit of Flagstaff to our lodge.)*

*(continued on the next page)*

***(Master's Message continued)***

3. A dues increase of at least \$52 per member is required to meet the existing expenses at the new lodge building. Once the remodel is completed and the building occupied, expenses at the building will increase, and we'll have to pay the rent to cover those increases. This includes property taxes, utilities, maintenance, janitorial, etc. It is estimated that the increased expenses will require another \$25 dues increase (this is in addition to the previously mentioned \$52). And, this still leaves no money for youth groups, community involvement, family events, etc.

4. The Building Board hopes to find tenants to help offset the expenses associated with the new building. However, we don't have any at this time and it would be foolish to assume that there will be tenants in the near future. If we find an organization that will enjoy the new building as much as I think we will and they wish to rent it for their activities, the Building Board might reduce our rent or, alternatively, the Building Board might be able to pay "dividends" to share holders of record.

5. If the lodge is to survive, we must move out of the "degree mill" mode. Masonry is not a social club, but we do have a commitment to our teachings, and, it is important that our brothers have the full support of their families. Failure to fund some of the activities that we have allowed to die will most certainly result in the death of this lodge.

6. In establishing our dues, it's important that we look to the future as well as at the present. We must not be short sighted and pretend that 5 or 10 years down the road there won't be a major expense...and when that unforeseen expense arises, we need to have money in the bank to cover the cost.

7. We are considering seeking investment counseling from a Financial Planner in hopes that we might find opportunities to increase the growth of what few dollars we do have. If you are a Certified Financial Planner and would like to help your Lodge, please contact the Master.

This brothers letter says it all. See you all at stated meeting.....by the way, my answer to the question "How much is freemasonry worth to you?".

A lot, an awful lot!

There is a reason Freemasonry has been around for so long, and it's not about the money.

Fraternally, Frederick (Rick) Stilt, Master

## **Sickness & Distress**

Bro. Joe Barthlessen, P.M. now at home  
Irv Uffer is at "Highland Palms Healthcare Center" - Highland

George Ellis is at "Somerford Place" - Redlands

Please visit these brothers if you can.  
Prayers Work!!! Just ask someone who has come back from a illness!

## **YORK RITE BODIES SAN BERNARDINO**

2888 N. Arrowhead Ave. - San Bernardino, CA 92407 - (909) 883-2615



### **Keystone Chapter No. 56, R.A.M.**

September 5th – 7:00 pm – Building Board Meeting  
September 5th – 7:30 pm – Stated Convocation  
September 8th – 8:30 am – Conferral of Chapter Degrees



### **Valley Council No. 27, C.M.**

September 5th – 7:00 pm – Building Board Meeting  
September 12th – 7:30 pm – Stated Assembly  
September 15th – 8:30 am – Conferral of Council Degrees



### **St. Bernard Commandery No. 23, K.T.**

September 5th – 7:00 pm – Building Board Meeting  
September 19th – 7:30 pm – Stated Conclave

## **SHRINE WIDOWS & FRIENDS CLUB**

The Shrine Widows invite all widows and their guests to visit our San Bernardino Widow's and Friends Club. They normally meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at The Gourmet Restaurant, 1445 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino at 11:30 am. Theirs is often enjoyable entertainment. There will be menu choices to choose from. For more information and reservations, call Eleanor Seccombe at 886-8026 about 2 weeks prior so she may take orders for lunch and prepare appropriate introductions.





## Greetings from the South

Last month, my written remarks had to do with my feelings about Freemasonry in MY particular life and how I have always viewed my membership in the "Craft" as being one of the five best and most important things I've ever done.

I also stated that those institutions and relationships that gain our Love are the very ones for whom we have sacrificed (or are willing to sacrifice) the most and that an institution or relationship that does not by its nature REQUIRE sacrifice on its behalf, has not the power to gain our Love in the first place. I'd like to develop this theme a little further.

Think back to your most recent act of service, how much did it cost you in terms of time or money? Sometimes there are other costs that cannot be so easily measured. When the now infamous "Morgan Affair" occurred, numerous Lodges shut down or went dark AND thousands previously active Freemasons severed their affiliation with the Craft because they considered the "social" costs of Masonry to be higher than they were willing to pay. Loss of business revenue, loss of friends or even loss of a favored status on some social hierarchy measured in terms of "worldly wealth and honors", was considered to be too great a cost for many of our brethren, who instead, cast aside their obligations to Masonry, in favor of "respectability".

However, those who took their obligations made before God more seriously endured the bitter recriminations and rebuilt American Masonry, in spite of Reverends, Priests, Presidents (and even a Political party), that preached against it.

Today, Masonry is suffering again. In spite of a slight recent uptick in numbers, national statistics indicate that American Masonry could become literally extinct in a generation. Our Lodges (and yes, even OUR Lodge) is feeling the squeeze of an economic down-turn that seems determined to destroy our ancient and honorable Fraternity. However, some of us feel just as determined not to let that happen.

May I ask, that each of us sacrifice what we can for the good of Masonry (generally) and of our own Lodge (specifically). If time is all we have to give, then give time. If money is within our ability to contribute, then, by all means, give money. For those of you who can do both, I plead that you do whatever it is that you can do (without serious injury to yourself or family). Those who are blessed with more can give more (each according to our ability).

In the near future, we may be called upon to increase our membership fees. If it is possible for you to support such measure, I encourage you to do so. At any rate, let each of us recommit to doing what we can to ensure the survival of our own Lodge, and the Lodges of Masonry generally, by being willing to SACRIFICE MORE for this venerable and valuable Institution and Brotherhood.

Fraternally,  
Mark V. Stilt  
Junior Warden



## Greetings from the West

Well, September stated meeting is a very important one. It is the meeting where voices will be heard in respect to the raising of the dues to align our budget with the expenses that a new building will require. I have thus far, at least in way of the Trestle Board, been quiet on this subject. I have been listening to what others have had to say, and weighed out the information as best as I can, but now I wish to voice my own opinion.

The question that I have been asking myself lately is: What is Masonry, and how does the San Bernardino Lodge #178 fit into that philosophy? I joined our lodge in 2005. At that time we were renting at the Scottish Rite building. In my tenure as a Mason I have never had an "official home". As I have started to progress through the chairs and been afforded the opportunity to see what other lodges are doing, for Masonry is thriving in certain lodges, and dying in other lodges. I then asked myself why are certain lodges thriving while others are dying and why are we not doing the things that the thriving lodges are doing?

Having a building one night a week barely affords enough time to practice the degrees and perform them. There is little else that can be accomplished in that time frame. I have spoken with brothers in other lodges and learned about their New Member Orientations, Masonic Education Nights, Family Nights, Community events etc. We, in our present state, cannot incorporate those programs due to the lack of access to a building.

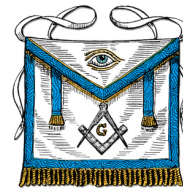
But with a building of our own comes expenses that we have been able to be free of as renters. However, how expensive is it? At the time of this writing I am not sure what exactly the dues increase will be or if it will even pass, but let's say for the sake of argument the dues go up to an annual fee of around \$200.00. This works out to roughly \$16.67 a month. My gym membership is more than double that. My T.V., internet and phone bill is \$134 a month. A Starbucks cup of regular coffee is around \$2. Anyway, you get the point.

The real question, however, is what does your \$16.67 get you? I won't list the plethora of standard programs that you already know about. But we are building a house to help put our lodge out in the public eye. You are giving a couple of kids a Kindle during the school year for showing academic prowess, which we would like to expand to every school in San Bernardino. You are building a facility where our youth orders can have a place to come and fellowship. You are building a house where we can have our families get together, and break bread with each other. You are building a place where prospective candidates can come and get information about our fraternity, and new members can go through classes about what it is they are being taught in the degrees. You are helping to secure the next generation of Mason. In short, you are helping to bring Masonry back to San Bernardino, by allowing us to become a very visible and active part of the community.

Fraternally,  
Jesse M. Maust, Senior Warden

San Bernardino Lodge

# September 2012



## Upcoming Events to Watch for:

ISS at Evergreen Lodge

3rd Degree September 13th

2nd Degree September 27th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Job's Daughters at Scottish Rite Center
2	3 <i>Labor Day</i>	4  De Molay at Scottish Rite Center	5	6  Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 P.M.	7  Hi-Twelve Arrowhead CC- 11:30 am	8  ISS at Evergreen Lodge Masters & Senior Wardens Invited
9	10	11 <i>Patriot Day</i>	12	13  3rd Degree 7:15 P.M.	14 <u>Hi-Twelve</u>  Gate City O.E.S. Members Night 6:00 pm Dinner	15  Job's Daughters at Scottish Rite Center
16	17  DOA at Fontana 1st Degree, 2nd Section & Closing 6:30 P.M.	18  at Scottish Rite Center 6:30 P.M.- Dinner 7:30 P.M.- Special Program	19	20  2nd Degree Practice 7:15 P.M.	21 <u>Hi-Twelve</u>	22
23 30	24	25	26	27  2nd Degree 7:15 P.M.	28 <u>Hi-Twelve</u>  Gate City O.E.S. Teddy Bear Jamboree 7:15	29