



1140 "B" Avenue
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SOUTH WEST LODGE NO. 283

Trestleboard

Tel: (619) 477 - 4488

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Volume 133 – Issue 5

STATED MEETING – First Thursday of each month, 7:30PM
Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2020

FROM THE EAST,



In light of the Corona virus outbreak, it is unfortunate that all Masonic gatherings at South West Lodge No. 283 will continue to be postponed until further notice. These months (March, April, and now May) are the times of spring season. Weather season is warmer, flowers are blooming and the grass is once again green. This would be the time where families would be enjoying picnics under the cool breeze and summer vacation plans are being drawn....

However, the world is at a standstill as our normal lives are disrupted and placed on a sudden hold. We are faced with an unforeseen global calamity, and are subjected to stay-at-home orders for our safety and of those we love. This is truly an overwhelming time and we are ill prepared.

I am blessed to be safe at home with my family and humbled that I have a sort of flexibility with my work schedule (even though I come into work daily) and able to provide for them. I cannot help and wonder how EVERYONE is holding up and coping. My thoughts and prayers go to you and your families. Should you find yourself in a crisis of any kind, might it be financial or perhaps your health (mentally or physically), or any difficulty of sorts; PLEASE refer to the list of Officers and contact numbers on the last page. You are encouraged to reach out to any one of us. Another resource developed by our Grand Master MW John E. Trauner is the "Distressed Worthy Brother" Emergency Relief Fund administered by the Masonic Outreach Services at (888) 466-3642. I urge those who are directly impacted by COVID-19 pandemic to call for assistance; the Relief Fund can help cover some of those gaps.

Very importantly, the other side of Masonic Relief is CHARITY... So for Masons who are in the position to contribute to the Relief Fund, this a particularly important opportunity to fulfill the obligation that all Masons take to support one another. We encourage all members to contribute what they can for our fellow Brothers. I will end this entry with a message by our Grand Master, "The COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted life in California. But it's also a golden opportunity for all of us, as Masons, to live up to the highest ideals of this fraternity. Being there for one another is the real legacy of California Masonry, and it's one we can—and must—take up today."

**To learn more or to begin a Relief Fund Application, visit the Masonic Assistance Application page found on masonichome.org website. To donate to the Relief Fund, visit the California Masonic Foundation (masonicfoundation.org), or call (415) 292-9117.*

FRATERNALLY,

Godfrey D. Catbagan - MASTER

SOUTH WEST LODGE NO. 283 - 2019 LODGE OFFICERS

	Master	Godfrey D. Catbagan (Lorraine)	gcatbagan@gmail.com
	Senior Warden	Ferdinand G. Lacurom (Belinda)	flacurom@yahoo.com
	Junior Warden	Ronald Ray A. Banci (Arleen)	ron.banci@gmail.com
	Treasurer	Clarito A. DeVera, PM (Connie)	ldevera44@yahoo.com
	Secretary	Jacob V. Borillo, PM (Linda)	jakeborillo@gmail.com
	Chaplain	Francisco T. Ragsac (Gloria)	fragsac@cox.net
	Assistant Secretary	Alan I. Ambito, PM (Lynn)	alspar72@gmail.com
	Senior Deacon	Peter Cortes	pcortes0620@yahoo.com
	Junior Deacon	Juven Egana (Vanessa)	jegana64@yahoo.com
	Marshal	Ira James Castro (Marilyn)	castro13md@yahoo.com
	Senior Steward	Gregory J. LaFleur	tigermn319@aol.com
	Junior Steward	Salvador Ramos	salramos195300@yahoo.com
	Tiler	Luisito Mayor, Jr. (Emelita)	
OFFICER'S COACH		Clarito A. De Vera, PM (Connie)	ldevera44@yahoo.com
OFFICER'S COACH		Ernie M. Lampa, PM (Emy)	t2ernie@yahoo.com
935 th MASONIC DISTRICT INSPECTOR		Romulo De Vera, PM(Lorna)	romy317@gmail.com

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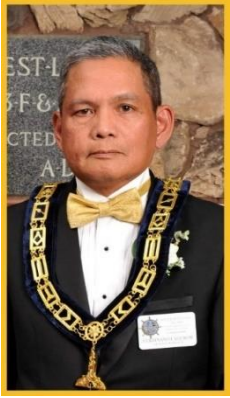
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FROM THE WEST

Enough of COVID-19! Brethren, such is the wishful thinking that all of us wanted so we can leave the fright that is instilled in our minds. How we wish it will be that easy and not to think of it so we can all go back to normal lives; but reality is, on many instances, hard to accept. We are not even sure if this disease will become seasonal like the common flu we have that takes many lives, many dreams, many happy moments that should have

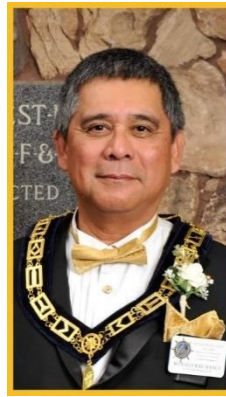
had occurred, but not. In this world of uncertainties nothing is impossible nor unimaginable nowadays. We are still lucky that we keep our families intact and safe from this ailment. But we have to pray for those brethren who lost their loved ones that they will have strength and courage to continue life and find purpose to help others also.

How we missed those fellowships among our brethren singing karaoke together, those unhealthy food that we share and happily digest. These are the various things that make us all happy being together as a brother of a sacred bond. We miss all these but at the end of the tunnel, as they say, there is always light and may that light be near us so we can meet again on the normalcy that we once enjoyed. But in every unpleasant experience I am most certain there is always a change. A change of how we can greet each other might be the one that must be implemented. That hand shake or that grip which distinguishes us from outside this fraternity might just be seldom felt in trying to protect each one from getting infected. But in trying to shy away from one thing we are obliged to keep our brother safe from any danger, provided there be greater probability of saving his life than of losing our own.

Now is the time to increase our knowledge about the craft. Applicants can know more about freemasonry by digging into a lot of resources. Masons of California website is one of the vast information venue that can be perused by anyone to know what the oldest fraternity is all about. And for the rest of the brethren, what an opportune time to grab our bluebook and become familiar again with the activities in the lodge. I am of great hope to see you all soon brethren.

FRATERNALLY,

Ferdinand G. Lacurom - SENIOR WARDEN

FROM THE SOUTH

First and foremost, I hope all the brethren of SWL 283 and families are all safe and healthy and managing well through this current Covid-19 crisis. This pandemic has taken most of us by surprise and unprepared, and undoubtedly in myriad of ways, we've all been affected and our lives surely impacted. One thing we all certainly have missed is attending our various lodge activities, stated meetings, proficiencies, degree conferrals and more importantly, the fellowships that come with these activities. The good news is that at these times of stay-at-home and lockdown orders from our federal and state officials, we have technology to rely on and help us get

through this tough situation.

We can meet and have fellowship virtually and online! We have read and heard from the news that our Grand Master and the executive committee have been inspired by the number of virtual lodge gatherings happening on Zoom and other conferencing apps. These gatherings keep us connected and provide much needed socialization while we shelter in place. However, some may think this is an opportunity to conduct regular lodge business while gathering online but this should not be the case. As lodge leaders, we need to ascertain that this does not happen. Official lodge activities are strictly prohibited by the grand lodge.

For the month of April, we did not have a stated meeting per order of the Grand Master, but our elected lodge officers held an online meeting to handle necessary lodge business including the paying of our lodge's essential bills. We also have held weekly online fellowship meetings via Zoom spearheaded by our sitting Master Godfrey Catbagan and the two other pillars, Senior Warden Ferdie Lacurom and yours truly, the Junior Warden Ron Banci. These Zoom online meetings have been very successful. Everyone was happy to see each other online after several weeks of not being able to go to the lodge due to the mandated quarantine orders being issued sometime mid-March. Everyone is invited to join the weekly zoom online meetings. The more the merrier so please be in the lookout for the meeting invitations which are being posted weekly in the SWL 283 Facebook page. Hope to see you all in the zoom online meetings.

Lastly, we all can remember in the 1st degree Charge that as masons, we are to regard the Sacred Volume as the great light in our profession and we are also taught to look up to Him in every emergency, for comfort and support. We've also learned the greatest of all masonic lessons when we were raised as Master Masons that when human strength and wisdom fail, we should ever remember that Divine assistance is vouchsafed us through the medium of prayer. Brethren let us all take a moment to pray for good health and safety of everyone!

FRATERNALLY,

Ronald Ray A. Banci - JUNIOR WARDEN

§809.370. SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

A. If a Mason has not paid his dues during a period of 12 months, the Secretary shall notify him that he will be suspended for non-payment of dues unless at the Lodge's next Stated Meeting either his dues have been paid or sickness or inability to pay is shown as the cause for the failure to pay. The notice shall be given either by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to his last known address, or by actual service of notice, duly certified by the Tiler. If all dues due and payable have not been paid by the time of the Lodge's next Stated Meeting, he shall be declared suspended by the Master, unless for special reasons shown the Lodge shall remit his dues or grant him further time for payment.

Happy Birthday!

Roberto D. Canare	1-May
Rafael C. Laserna	2-May
Luisito D. Mayor, Jr.	2-May
Gloriani A. Lontoc	3-May
Marcelino M. Bagtas	4-May
Zainal I. Khan	4-May
Arturo R. Santos	4-May
Felizardo B. Tria	4-May
John R. Cirujales	5-May
Cresenciano H. Dayrit	5-May
James W. Secrest	5-May
Eliodoro M. Calacsan	6-May
James Gil R. Magno	6-May
Alberto G. Matias	6-May
Robert Francis C. Santos	6-May
John C. Brosnahan	7-May
Fernando C. Cabusao	7-May
Rodolfo G. Manalo	9-May
Rolando E. Cayetano, Jr.	10-May
Joe N. Anderson, Jr.	11-May
Reynaldo E. Javier	11-May
Jerry A. Lleva	11-May
Edward C. Pamintuan	11-May
Khen E. You	11-May
Benjamin P. Doria	12-May
Carlos Y. Mabalot	12-May
Wilfredo M. Abalos	13-May
Jacob V. Borillo	13-May
Kyle A. Ross	13-May
Giovanni L. Perez	14-May
Reynaldo L. Sansano	14-May
Louie J. Opol	15-May
Joven M. Miller	16-May
Carlito F. Plojo	16-May
Eddie D. Brandes	19-May
M. V. Brock	19-May
Jason P. David	19-May
Jim L. Desquitado	19-May
Joseph C. Perral	19-May
Melvin M. Samson	19-May
Ramil S. Caguioa	20-May
Seuko R. Hawkins	20-May
Lester M. Nelson	20-May
Bryan V. Que	20-May
Chad V. Bearden	21-May
Jess C. Fulgencio	21-May
Carlos H. Solinap, Jr.	22-May
Raul S. Nooris	23-May
Rex D. Afan	27-May
Angelo Arvin S. Catindig	27-May
Patricio M. Flores	27-May
Beda C. Galleta	27-May
Antonio L. Urbina	27-May
Rene C. Abano	28-May
Johnny Collins	28-May
Eleazer Ariel D. Ochinang	28-May
Alex C. Pascual	30-May



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Brethren,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits.

As you know, the state of California and a number of counties issued stay-at-home orders in mid-March and directed that all non-essential gatherings be postponed or canceled until further guidance is provided. All Masonic gatherings are deemed non-essential in the context of these orders. On March 18, I directed that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in this state. This includes all Masonic organizations and youth orders. I included instructions to lodges on the payment of essential bills and charity, and participation in Masonic funeral services. This direction is still in full effect and will remain so until further notice.

As Masons, we are guided by our values and we will lead with our values. Our values include looking out for one another and acting in the best interests of others, including our communities. Our values also include following the laws by which we are governed. We will follow all orders and guidance issued by national, state, and local governments.

Last week the state of California publicized four stages to “resilience and recovery” outlining how the stay-at home order will be modified and ultimately rescinded. We are currently in Stage One. While there is not yet enough information about each stage to know when or how Masonic meetings and events may resume, we believe gatherings like ours will be permitted in the later stages.

Due to stabilization of COVID-19 hospitalizations and other key metrics, Governor Newsom announced on Monday that the state will move to the initial phase of Stage Two on Friday, May 8. This phase does not apply to gatherings like ours. We will continue to monitor state and local modifications, and I will issue further guidance when it is possible for us to conduct meetings and events in a safe and healthy way.

In the meantime, I am adding to my March 18 instructions to permit the elected leaders of lodges to approve dues remissions recommended by the charity committee. Elected officers should take this issue up as soon as possible in order to meet the June 30 deadline to record dues remissions. I have also addressed other issues concerning per capita and the grand secretary will issue a notice concerning those later this week.

The Grand Lodge has canceled a number of statewide meetings and events. It has proven impossible to reschedule the 2020 Master and Wardens Retreats. While the retreats are now canceled, I am pleased to announce that we will offer a new virtual program for masters, wardens and other lodge leaders that will begin in June. The California Masonic Symposium has been modified to a virtual experience and will be offered on July 16. You will receive more information about both of these very soon. In addition, we have introduced an all-new Masonic Speaker Series offering two to three distinguished speakers per month. Over 1,000 Masons from around the world registered for our first program on April 27. And of course our 9 p.m. toasts every Saturday night on Facebook Live will continue as they have been popular close to home and around the world. Visit this website for more information about Grand Lodge events.

I am very proud of the response to the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund. Due to your generosity, we have been able to help Masons from all around the state who have lost their jobs or otherwise been affected by COVID-19. If you know a brother in need, please direct him to Masonic Assistance. The phone number is on the back of our dues cards. If you can contribute to the fund, go to masonicfoundation.org and make a gift today.

My brothers, as difficult as it has been to cancel our gatherings and remain at a physical distance, Masonry is as strong and unified as ever. Masons know how to “wait a time with patience” and we know the rewards of doing so. We will meet in our lodge rooms again—with likely modifications—but we will do so only when the time is right and the conditions are safe. Until then, let’s keep our social connections alive online and let’s keep the light of Freemasonry shining bright in our lives.

Sincerely and fraternally,

John E. Trauner

John E. Trauner
Grand Master

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May 2020



OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO



MONTHLY SCHEDULE		MAY 2020				MASTER	
						GODFREY D. CATBAGAN	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
---NOTE--- Dress code for Stated Meeting and Special Meeting is Business Suit or Barong Tagalog					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24/ Memorial Day 31	25	26	27	28	29	30	