



1140 "B" Avenue
National City, CA 91950

SOUTH WEST LODGE NO. 283

Trestleboard

Tel: (619) 477 - 4488

Website: <http://lodge283.freemason.org>



Volume 133 – Issue 4

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

APRIL 2020

FROM THE EAST,



I know many are thinking..."All Lodge activities canceled? How will I fellowship with my Brothers? What about our lodge fundraisers? What about the Degrees that were all previously scheduled? What do I do in the meantime while we all wait for these to all pass?" These are all valid concerns, and ones which we will surely see manifest in the coming weeks and possibly months as the Craft collectively holds its breath and waits to see what happens next with this Corona Virus Pandemic.

However genuine these concerns might be, to take this tact is to miss the meaning of Freemasonry entirely. Freemasonry is more than just strapping on our aprons and performing rituals.

The lessons of our Craft manifest in our own earnest and selfless desires to be charitable, not in the organized opportunity itself. Our ceremonies and symbols are based on immortal and unimpeachable concepts, and ideas that a man truly on the path to illumination through our mysteries will understand are worth waiting for, and should not be rushed. In short, the physical plane is but one aspect of our Masonic philosophy, and we now have a more focused opportunity than we ever have in living memory to change our perceptions and open ourselves to the real work of the Craft.

We read and hear about the interior work of Freemasonry regularly throughout our ceremonies and lectures, although many Brothers compartmentalize these as little more than fairy tales or historical accounts. Our houses not made with hands, our edifices constructed without the din of iron tools, the numberless worlds around us, all allude to the building and attempted perfection of our own hearts, minds, and souls. I say "attempted" not to highlight our shortcomings, but because the act of performing this work and the process itself is just as important as the results we want to achieve, and upon reflection, we find that process and product are really one and the same. In striving to master ourselves on all planes, we live the real philosophies of our Craft.

Just like an organism adapting and strengthening itself against changes in its environment and situation, as Freemasons, we have been given just such a stimulus. Our focuses now necessarily shift inward as we limit our direct contact with others. Why not spend the time you might typically spend at lodge reviewing your ritual work with a critical eye for context? Perhaps consider exploring any one of many excellent, fun, and enlightening Masonic podcasts, YouTube channels, or websites? Pick out a new book to read (although many public libraries have shut down for the immediate future, there are scores of texts available as pdfs, e-books, and audiobooks online for little or no cost). Engage with your family. Meditate, pray, recharge, write a paper, draw a picture, or perhaps channel your creative energies into something you love. Plainly illustrated, perform the interior work.

If we do this, if we spend time introspectively working on ourselves contemplatively and in silence, can you even imagine what will happen when thousands of Masons who have spent numerous months earnestly doing the same and building their own temples within now converge together back into our hallowed halls? The levels of renewed energy, drive, perspective, and clarity gained from our individual efforts would be truly awesome. The effect of thousands of refreshed and engaged hearts, minds, and souls meeting with common goals is an unbelievable potential force for good, an organic refocusing of our efforts, and a chance to take our Craft collectively in a stronger, healthier and more unified direction.

In taking care of ourselves, we are better enabled to take care of others. I don't mean just in a physical sense but in an emotional and psychologically supportive way as well.

FRATEERNALLY,

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. De Vera, 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
935th MASONIC DISTRICT INSPECTOR		Romulo De Vera, PM(Lorna)	romyd317@gmail.com

SOUTH WEST MASONIC TEMPLE HALL CORPORATION

DIRECTORS

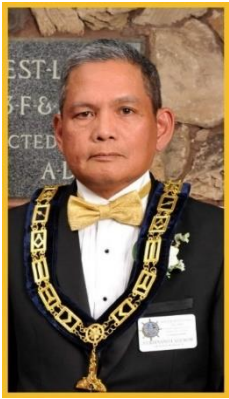
PRESIDENT	Percival E. Tiu, PM
VICE -PRESIDENT	Frank Jordan
SECRETARY	Roldan Marzo
TREASURER	Juven M. Egana

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Andy Padilla	
Eduardo N. Yaptangco, PM	
Salvador Ramos	
Natanil Torres, PM	
Ronald Ray Banci	
RENTAL MANAGER	Wilfredo Abalos Tel: (619) 392 - 3614
BUILDING MANAGER	Raymund M. Madiaga, PM

TRESTLEBOARD STAFF

EDITOR	RAUL NOORIS, PM
CONTRIBUTING STAFF	MASTER
	SENIOR WARDEN
	JUNIOR WARDEN
LAYOUT AND DISTRIBUTION CONSULTANT	JACOB BORILLO, PM

FROM THE WEST

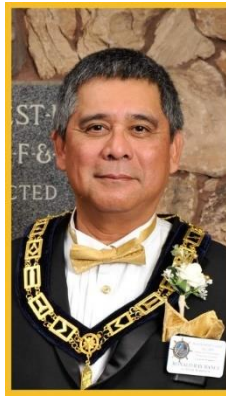
Fraternal Greetings, we are approaching the middle of the year again brethren and soon enough we will be wearing our Barong Tagalog, the traditional Filipino formal wear. We also celebrate the Public School Awards during this month for those well deserving young kids who will be our future. We have been young once but we did not know then how we can help sculpturing the future as we were just concerned of how we can survive comfortably and raise a family someday.

Well our immediate future has passed us and we can say that we did and continually do our part as an individual towards sculpturing a better future for these kids, even our own kids. So it is just worth rewarding these young kids of what they are achieving right now so they will continue doing the good things and have inspirations to do the same. Our Lodge, South West Lodge 283, has been an instrument to somewhat enlighten these young kids that Freemasonry in general appreciate their little sacrifices of their good deeds in school. But this year though this event will not be celebrated due to this pandemic effect of COVID-19 virus as was just discussed by our Worshipful Master Godfrey Catbagan and the public school coordinator.

My congratulation to our newly conferred brother Archie Picar in Entered Apprentice degree as you now embark on your journey in Freemasonry. To our bothers who are still waiting for their conferrals be patient for when due time comes then it will happen. This COVID-19 really halted the lodge activities as a precaution for everybody. We do not want it to spread and bring the infection to our own family. This illness is so new that no medication has yet been discovered but only prevention of its spread was planned. No assurance yet of how will it affect us all but we can contribute defeating this illness by taking care of our own health. We can still socialize with the use of our media tools and rest assured that a brother in distress will get help. Please join me in praying that our medical experts can come up with effective medicine and vaccine for Covid-19 so that we could all go back to our normal lives. In the meantime, no matter how hard it might be for you to just stay home and avoid crowds, please try to do so. Just imagine even the golf courses were closed indefinitely. Wow!

FRATERNALLY,

Ferdinand G. Lacuom - SENIOR WARDEN

FROM THE SOUTH

The month of March started with the usual excitement and anticipation as the South West lodge officers and members prepared and planned for the month's events and activities. We had our regular stated meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month and as always, it was very well-attended. About 50 brother masons, including about a dozen sisters, came and joined in the event and were surely not disappointed as they partook on another sumptuous and delicious seafood dinner lovingly prepared by our tireless kitchen crew led by Worshipful brother Ed Yaptangco.

During the stated meeting, two petitioners were voted to receive the degrees of masonry at our lodge and brother Nilo Enrile's petition for affiliation was unanimously approved. Congratulations to Brothers Greg Lafleur and Chris Serrano for passing the 3rd degree and 1st degree proficiencies, respectively and to Brother Archie Picar, who was initiated to our beloved fraternity. Welcome to the craft Brother Picar!

At about the 2nd week of the month, as the brethren were just getting started and getting warmed-up with our lodge activities, with excitement abound for our annual breakfast fund raising event and degree conferrals were ramping up; the news about a global pandemic that approached our shores began to hit us hard smack in the face. This deadly Covid-19 virus came upon us in lightning speed that almost everyone was caught unprepared. Every section of society has been affected and impacted. Workers are told that those who can should work from home. Business establishments, casinos, restaurants, hotels were ordered to shut down and close for at least several weeks to prevent the spread of the virus. To comply with this order, our Worshipful Master, upon the order of our Grand Lodge, suspended and cancelled all lodge activities for the month of March or until further notice.

Finally, I enjoin everyone in this time of crisis, to remember our masonic obligations and our principal tenets of brotherly love and relief and be good citizens by following all the safety precautions given by government officials to avoid the spread of this deadly virus and helping out whenever we can. These are, clearly, exceptional times. Our fraternal bonds are never more important than they are right now, as we deal with the COVID-19 issue. Let us all pray to the GAOTU to bless us and keep us all safe and for the immediate resolution of this pandemic.

WE WILL PREVAIL TOGETHER!

FRATERNALLY,

Ronald Ray A. Banci - JUNIOR WARDEN

SECRETARY'S NOTICE: Brethren – DUES PAYMENT for YEAR **2020** is now **\$111.00**

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES – Address CHECKS: to South West Lodge No. 283: Mail it to South West Lodge No. 283, PO Box 283, National City, CA 91951-0283

§804.215. MEMBERSHIP IN UNRECOGNIZED MASONIC LODGES.

No person shall hold or be eligible for membership in any Constituent Lodge who is or has been a member of a Lodge in a Jurisdiction not recognized by this Grand Lodge until he has resigned his membership in the unrecognized Lodge. Once he has resigned, he may then apply to receive the degrees in a Constituent Lodge, unless he holds a Demit from a Lodge in a Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge in which case he may then apply for affiliation. [Amended:

2010.] [Source: Section 26020 of the 1991 California Masonic Code.]

Happy Birthday!

Gonzalo A. Pangalangan	1-Apr
Howrd G. Morrison	1-Apr
Ferdinand D. Ferrer	3-Apr
Ricardo O. Montillano	3-Apr
Benito G. Cagayat	3-Apr
Dferdinand D. Ferrer	3-Apr
Rovir M. Matias	4-Apr
Artzell M. Bautista	5-Apr
Edgar M. De Leon	5-Apr
Alfonso N. Farinas	5-Apr
Matthew J. Lewis	5-Apr
Vincent G. Manikan	5-Apr
A Erwin D. Bautista	6-Apr
Herman C. Duriano	7-Apr
Perfecto M. Ortiz	8-Apr
Mario G. Bermudez	9-Apr
Mario P. Medina	9-Apr
Ruben M. Rocha	9-Apr
Guillermo H. Villafranca	9-Apr
Abner Placido B. Cordova	10-Apr
Jose R. Macasinag	10-Apr
Rolando A. Cristobal	11-Apr
Leonilo N. Enrile	11-Apr
Leonardo M. Talamayan	11-Apr
Francisco S. Baylon	12-Apr
Carl Patrick T. Mariano	12-Apr
Abelardo D. Alex	13-Apr
Jose Rafael L. Ramos	14-Apr
Esty D. Camerino	15-Apr
Robert A. Laney	15-Apr
Kevin J. Ferran	15-Apr
Ernesto F. Revita, Jr	16-Apr
Ernesto Ireneo C. Camara	17-Apr
Aniceto V. Domingo	17-Apr
Mario S. Dumpit	17-Apr
Mardysam D. Madrid	18-Apr
Jesse G. Cruz	19-Apr
Ronmithz A. Lacson	19-Apr
Rocelino C. Castro	20-Apr
Kris A. Walsh	20-Apr
Bayani C. Sto. Domingo	21-Apr
Benjamin E. Raymundo	24-Apr
Thomas D. Porter, Jr.	25-Apr
Ernesto P. Garcia	25-Apr
Abel M. Paule	25-Apr
Alberto T. Calalay, Jr	26-Apr
Joseph L. Rapoza, Jr	27-Apr
Joey R. Baciles	28-Apr
William L. Duka	28-Apr
Rosauro O. Hernandez	29-Apr
Franco S. Jordan	29-Apr
Pedrito R. Vivencio	29-Apr
Vincent O. Abella	30-Apr



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA MASONIC MEMORIAL TEMPLE
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Masonic Events During COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions

March 18, 2020
Masonic Events During COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions

On March 16, the California Department of Public Health released new guidance on the prevention of COVID-19 transmission. The Department has found that all non-essential gatherings should be postponed or canceled until further guidance is provided. **All Masonic gatherings are non-essential in the context of this guidance.**

In addition, a growing number of counties are issuing "shelter in place" orders, directing everyone in those counties to stay inside their homes and away from others as much as possible while the order is in effect. They may leave their homes only to provide or receive certain essential goods or services, engage in certain essential activities or work for essential business and government services. **All Masonic gatherings are also non-essential in the context of these shelter in place orders.**

Based on the foregoing, it is my direction that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in this state until further direction is received from me.

This includes all Masonic organizations and Masonic Youth Orders. None of our Masonic organizations or Masonic Youth Orders may hold a gathering of any kind in this state until further direction is received from me.

Masonic Funeral and Burial Services

While there is some authority to the effect that a funeral is an essential activity, you should contact the licensed funeral director for the service about your participation. If the licensed funeral director believes that the conduct of the funeral will qualify as an essential activity which you may attend, then members of lodges, Masonic organizations, and Masonic Youth Orders may attend and participate, but only in such numbers and with such social distancing as the licensed funeral director for the service shall determine.

Payment of Lodge Essential Bills Including Charity

As a result of these actions, no lodge can hold a stated meeting to pay its bills, and there is no clear remedy in our law to solve this problem. I do note CMC §403.095 which allows the elected officers of Grand Lodge to conduct the essential business of the Grand Lodge if a competent state or national authority prohibits an Annual Communication. While this provision is not available for use by constituent lodges, I believe that the extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances we are now experiencing allow me to exercise my powers as follows:

Special Procedure for Lodges

Effective today, a majority of the elected officers of the lodge may order the advancement of lodge funds to pay those essential lodge bills whose payment cannot reasonably be deferred.

- The elected lodge officers may confer by telephone, video conference, or email in making this determination.
- Expenditures by the lodge charity committee are an essential lodge bill for which payment should not be deferred.
- The lodge must ratify these payments at the next stated meeting held by the lodge.

The lodge master should inform the inspector of any other circumstances that may need to be addressed while this special procedure is in effect.

This special procedure is available only during the pendency of any applicable inhibition or prohibition on non-essential gatherings. In any event, it will have no further force or effect after my term as Grand Master ends.

Sincerely and fraternally,

JOHN E. TRAUNER
Grand Master
Grand Lodge F&AM of California

SOUTH WEST LODGE NO. 283
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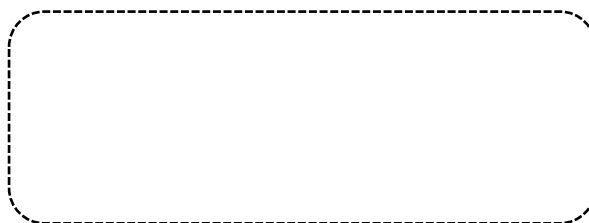
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April 2020

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO



From the Grand Master of Masons of California: Masonic Events During COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions

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