

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

March, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 3

A FREEMASON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ADVERSITY

*"Rejoice with them that do rejoice: and weep with them
that weep."
Rom. 12: 15*

Times of ill-fortune or destitution, whether of the purse or the soul, touch the lives of every Freemason, his family and friends. It is indeed the mystery of this existence that all mankind is destined to suffer, not because the Great Architect has willed us pain, but that we should learn important lessons about life. Poverty, ill health, times of war, moments of self doubt, persecution, fear and even death extend their ugly tentacles and threaten to grip us in a vice of depression. We have, each one of us, experienced the very best and the very worst that life has to offer and have learned along the way that the best hope we have at coping with the very worst is the love and comfort of our family, friends and Masonic brethren.

Masonic tradition teaches us that such adversity should be accepted as a test of our character and met with courage and prayer. We are also taught to go to the aid of a brother in the grasp of despair and to seek out our brethren when we are in need of comfort. Yet, to do so we must first know who is our brother and that we cannot know if we neglect to meet, if we neglect to forgive, or if we turn our backs upon the men of the Craft we have each loved so well. If giving and receiving comfort in times of adversity is a Masonic trait, shouldn't each one of us first prepare for that certainty by getting to know our brethren, or reacquainting ourselves with a brother whom we have neither seen nor spoken to for too long a time?

Anger, disharmony, or pain suffered as a result of passed injustices, real or perceived, too

often influences one man to forsake another, or for one Brother Mason to ignore another worthy brother. When we allow such evils to separate us, who will be there to rejoice when we rejoice, or weep when we weep? Doubt not that such evils exist in every Masonic Lodge, as they exist in the homes, the churches and the government houses throughout the world. Cain first struck his brother Abel, killing him on the spot. That one uncontrolled departure from brotherly love resulted in a separation of two brothers forever, as well as a ceaseless and friendless wandering from region to region. Yet, Cain is but one example and history will never forget the holocausts, the infanticides, or the march of hatred from one generation to the next.

Healing begins at home with your God, your family and your worthy brother Mason. If you harbor ill will today for any past slight, wrong, injury, or injustice, be the first, not the last to pick up the telephone and call that brother. Time is running short and you may never again have the chance. Remember, the time will come when we shall all meet again in the Great Celestial Lodge above where no man is less than any other, except he who failed to love his brother. Forgiveness is a Divine virtue, for each day God forgives us much, or he would not suffer us to live. Is there no man whom we cannot forgive, as He forgives our every fault and error?

May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless
You
John Heisner

Contents for March, 2004

Two

*From the East
Dues & Life Membership*

Three

*Birthdays
From the Secretary
Electronic Age
Let's Dine Out
Yacht Club Event
Ladies Luncheon*

Four

*Blackmer Lodge Officers
Lodge Events Calendar*



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MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

During the month of February, Blackmer conferred a degree upon a very worthy Mason. Bro. Paul Warren was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on February 12, 2004. Bro. Warren paid serious attention to the ceremonies of that degree and appears destined at age 28 to be a tremendous asset to our Lodge for many years to come.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the degree team for their excellent work. The degree was performed with the same dedication to proper emphasis that we have all come to expect during a Blackmer degree presentation. Each of you is to be commended for your participation. On behalf the Blackmer Brethren, I also wish to acknowledge the consistent and excellent contributions of our Sr. Warden, Coren Andrews, who also serves as Officer's Coach. Without his guidance, Blackmer Ritual would truly suffer.

The month of March is traditionally viewed as the month of new beginnings. Spring arrives and offers us a glimpse of nature's unfolding beauty. Climates begin to warm, days grow longer and the brethren at Blackmer start to think about outdoor activities. In addition to the plans you are making with your own families and friends, your Lodge is planning a Dine Out evening on Coronado island, a Lodge picnic, and a Lodge outing to the new Petco Park where our favorite San Diego Padres will be playing this baseball season. We want to offer the brethren and their families as many opportunities as possible to enjoy Masonic fellowship in this great and beautiful city of constant sunshine. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

The month of March also commences the beginning of the Grand Lodge Leadership seminars that will be attended by your Junior and Senior Wardens. During the past several years, those seminars have inspired and motivated Blue Lodge leaders throughout this state, resulting in better Lodge planning, a better understanding about Lodge economics, and a better grasp of what constitutes the "best interests" of the brethren. This year's seminars should prove to be as good, if not better, at building the qualities of leadership Blackmer has come to expect.

Please make a special effort to attend our next Stated Meeting. Blackmer will be presenting a \$500 cash scholarship award to the winning student from Hillsdale Middle School in our essay contest sponsored at the beginning of this year. The school's Principal, the winning student and his or her family will be joining us in this important celebration of Public Education Month. Your presence will demonstrate Blackmer's support of Freemasonry's commitment to preserving an enduring free and public education as the cornerstone of the democratic values we all cherish.

John Heisner
Wor. Master



BLACKMER DUES AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Each year it seems that Lodge expenses increase and the Lodge's active dues paying membership declines making it more and more difficult to pay for the necessary costs and programs our Lodge has. The Lodge meets these expenses in several ways.

The two largest are investment income and dues. The Lodge works hard to make its investments provide as much income as possible and to maximize their benefits for the Lodge.

Lodge dues are the responsibility of every member of the Lodge. Blackmer Lodge offers both a regular dues payment plan, \$75 due each year (only \$6.25 per month), and a Life Membership Plan based on Lodge dues and the member's age and varies from \$825 to \$1575. The Life Membership exempts the member from any future dues increases and these funds are also an endowment to the Lodge as the principal cannot be spent, only the income.

Each year in California, at the Annual Communication in San Francisco, the members of Grand Lodge, which includes all Past Masters, Masters and Wardens, vote on an increase in the "per-capita" amount for the following year. The payment to Grand Lodge of this increase in "per-capita" each year reduces the amount of each members dues that our Lodge has for its programs and expenses. The "per-capita" for 2004 was \$22.15 per member and for 2005 it has been approved at \$25.00. Each year the Lodge is able to use less and less of the dues income it receives.

Next bulletin - ALTERNATE DUES PLAN

Blackmer Lodge Bulletin

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA. Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA

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Subscription is free and all material is copyright by Blackmer Lodge #442 or other sources and may be reprinted with proper credit given. The Blackmer Lodge Bulletin is published monthly except August with a circulation of about 500 copies. Please note that errors and omissions occasionally occur and for which we sincerely apologize. Please submit articles to the editor by e-mail, US Mail or at the lodge by the 15th of the month for publication.



FROM THE SECRETARY

Congratulations to our new Master Mason, Paul Warren.

This month we are trying something different in having our Bulletin printed. We are sending it via email to the printer. This will cut out one trip that we have to go to the printer.

Our dinners have been very good, since our Ladies have been picking the menu. However, it is very important that you call in your reservations, or you can be put on the permanent dinner list and take the responsibility of paying for your meal even if you don't show unless you call to cancel for that dinner.

There are still several members that have not paid their dues. Please send in your dues as soon as possible.

Don't forget our dine-out this month at Las Parillas on March 1st at Parillas Mexican Food Cafe at 555 Mount Rose Court, El Cajon. Hope to see many of you there!

When you call the office and leave a message, PLEASE speak slowly and repeat your phone number twice. I cannot return your call if I don't know who you are and cannot figure out your phone number.

We have had several newsletters returned due to bad addresses. People have moved! Let us know when you are going to move, so we can change your address in our mailing list and lodge roster.

If you know of a Brother or his lady that are not feeling in the best of health, please let us know. It is almost impossible to call all of the Brothers to find out if they are OK. Call us at 619-291-0465.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

LET'S DINE OUT

March 1st at Las Parillas Mexican Food Cafe. Located at 555 Mount Rose Court in El Cajon, this is a very fine place for us to meet for a change of scenery from "beloved pizza". We are once again going Mexican and invite the members, ladies and friends to join us for dinner and good fellowship. The restaurant has a fine menu and you will easily find a dish to tickle your taste buds. See you there at 6:30 p.m.!

BLACKMER AND THE ELECTRONIC AGE

As expenses grow and membership declines, the Lodge is continually working on better serving its members and saving the Lodge money. The proliferation of computers and their ability to connect us all, makes for some wonderful opportunities. One of these opportunities is the ability to deliver the Blackmer Bulletin by email. This can save the Lodge both printing and postage costs and may ultimately be a significant cost saving practice for the lodge. Beginning with the April, 2004 issue of the Blackmer Bulletin, we are offering to deliver the current issue to you by email as a PDF file (readable on nearly any computer). This means that you can save the lodge money, save wear and tear on your Secretary and Editor and you will get your copy of the Bulletin days before other members. All you have to do is to email the editor at ctandrews@comcast.net and tell him to add you to his growing list of Blackmer's cutting edge members.

BLACKMER AND THE AL BAHR YACHT CLUB

Look for details on a joint outing of Blackmer and Al Bahr Shrine Yacht Club members to Coronado for a wonderful time at Mexican Village on April 15.

BIRTHDAYS

Francis Adams	3/10
Norman Alpert	3/12
Jonathan Blayman	3/03
Thomas Bossert	3/05
George Brassfield	3/27
Buford Broadway	3/12
Alan Cass	3/26
Earle Clarke	3/04
Werner Dreifuss	3/12
Lou Dunst	3/11
Oberlin Evenson	3/26
Morey Feldman	3/07
Matt Foulger	3/18
Sol Goldstein	3/17
Scott Gould	3/25
Justin Hammerlun	3/27
Carmi Hodge	3/13
Jim Hom	3/07
Saul Klein, PM	3/03
Ray Krum	3/24
Robin Loftus	3/15
Kevin Mofidi	3/21
J. Morris Mulkey	3/12
Albino Navasca	3/01
Stephen Orestano	3/25
Laurence Plummer	3/09
Donald Price	3/02
Lewis Rubin	3/15
Richard Saldano, PM	3/01
Emeterio Salindong	3/03
Robert Smith	3/17
Frederick Swenson	3/29
Konstantin Swerilas	3/30
John Vooring	3/19

Happy Birthday to these Brethren! We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

HONORED LADIES LUNGHEON

NOON

Thursday, May 20, 2004
A superb menu has been planned and guaranteed to favor your taste buds.
Call in reservations
619-291-0465

Please be considerate and make your dinner reservations early. If you are going to come to one of our dinners, make reservations. Two days in advance is sufficient, but please reserve.

Upon checking, the Secretary finds there are several members who have STILL not paid their 2002 dues. Please do so as soon as possible and include the amount of your 2003 dues which are also due.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Freemasonry seeks good men and
 makes them better. Tell a friend!*

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MARCH 2004, CALENDAR

March

- Mon 1st** Las Parillas in El Cajon for dinner, Officer, members, wives and non-Masons invited for dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 4th Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. **Inspector's Official Visit, Drawing for Stated Meeting Dinner Tickets and a presentation by Jim Achenbach on "Masonry and Public Education - Speech Therapy"**
- Mon 8th** Dark
- Thurs 11th** Officers' Practice: Second Degree, 6:30 p.m.
- Mon 15th** Officers' Practice: First Degree, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 18th** Al Bahr Shrine Yacht Club - Blackmer's members who are also Shriners are invited to support Commodore Carlson at dinner.
- Mon 22nd** Dark
- Thurs 25th** Darius-San Diego Chapter, York Rite
- Mon 29th ISI, 574 hosts 837 who will do Third Degree, visitor intro, balloting and long close, 7:00 p.m.** Officers, call Inspector if you cannot be there.

April

- Thurs 1st Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Essay Contest Awards Dinner
- Mon 5th** Pizza Night, place TBA, 6:30 p.m.

MARCH STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Roast Tri-Tip Beef and Chicken Fettucine with Alfredo Sauce
- Twice Baked Potatoes and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
- Caesar Salad, Rolls and Beverages
- Black Forest Cake