

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

April, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 4

THE PRINCIPLE OF BROTHERHOOD

*"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:
and there is no friend that sticketh closer than a
brother."
Prov. 18:24*

The principle of brotherhood and the obligation of a distinct affection for fellow members are characteristics common to many fraternal organizations. Too often, however, brotherly love is a mere abstraction, an indefinable something that is not practiced, or if an effort is made to practice it, the individual is motivated by selfish interests. In the Masonic fraternity, the candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry is impressed with the fact that the great principles of the Order are brotherly love, relief, and truth in the initiatory rites, and throughout his advancement.

The mode and manner for the practice of these principles are detailed in words illustrated in symbols, so there can be no cause for error in understanding or failure in practice. Certainly no Mason can fail to be fully acquainted with the Five Points of Fellowship; the interesting incidents that accompanied their explanation can never be forgotten; and so long as he is controlled by this knowledge and retains this remembrance, he cannot fail in his duties in the practice of Brotherly Love. Freemasonry refers to this principle as the duty of benevolence.

Benevolence is sometimes defined by Masonic writers as the expression of goodwill to others which results in great deeds of helpfulness. It is prompted by the emotion of love inculcated in the command: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as

thyself." A benevolent disposition suffers uneasiness at the suffering of others, abhors cruelty under every guise and pretext, and seeks to relieve these conditions. It becomes universal when it yearns for and strives to secure the welfare of all men - friends and enemies alike.

As Masons, we are taught to look upon all mankind as formed by the Great Architect of the Universe in a spirit of sympathy and love, and to discharge the duties of benevolence in the widest and most generous scope. Masonry is an internal principle intended to regulate outward conduct. We are taught to be essential - to work for the benefit of others, to labor for our neighbor's best interest, to never become satisfied that we have given enough, but to pray for the strength to be a brother ceaselessly. What extra step can you take today to demonstrate such brotherly love?

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe Bless You.

John Heisner

**SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND
ITS PROGRAMS.
YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**

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contact us

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MASTER'S MESSAGE

Spring is upon us and nature's rebirth is visible to all who care to take a drive with the family and view the beauty of San Diego's mountain country. This month also marks Masonry's annual celebration of Public Schools Month. For years, Lodges throughout California have taken time to contribute to this essential institution of our free society. At our Stated Meeting, we will be hosting the students and their families from Hillsdale Middle School who have participated in Blackmer's sponsored essay contest, "Why is public education essential to a free society?"

We have the honor of announcing the winner and presenting a \$500 cash scholarship award. The winning student will read his or her essay during dinner and we will hear a guest speaker from the school talk about Hillsdale's progress in meeting the challenges of educating our youth in times of grave economic stress. All Blackmer Masons, their wives and children are encouraged to attend. In that we anticipate a very large turnout, advance reservations with our Secretary are a must. Please show your support by contacting Johnny Johnson as soon as possible. This should prove to be a wonderful family event.

As we look forward to April, we have also scheduled a Lodge Dine Out in conjunction with the Al Bahr Shrine Yacht Club. The event will be on April 15, 2004, hosted by Blackmer's Rick Carlson, who is also serving this year as Commodore of the Yacht Club. A voyage is planned from Broadway Pier aboard the Coronado Ferry to the Coronado Landing where Margo and I will greet the group and direct everyone to the famous Mexican Village on Orange Street. We are informed that the carnitas are a specialty. Please contact either Rick Carlson, or Johnny Johnson to let us know how many plan on attending. We will need a reasonably accurate headcount for the restaurant to have adequate selections on its menu.

Blackmer is making great progress toward fulfilling the requirements of the Grand Master's Achievement Award. Last month, the brethren visited Old Glory Lodge and witnessed a First Degree presented in excellent form. Our thanks to Bro. Harold Thurber for organizing the visitation in conjunction with the Knights of St. Andrew of the San Diego Scottish Rite.

I wish to thank all of the brethren for their support during the first quarter of our Masonic year. Our officers have performed excellent ritual during that time and have practiced for upcoming degrees for new and existing candidates. I am glad to report that our Lodge is on track to accomplish the goals we have set for ourselves this year. If you wish to inquire about upcoming events, or how to place your name into consideration for a position as an officer of your Lodge, please ask Johnny Johnson, or any one the other officers for information. While no positions are currently open, no one will be turned away. Blackmer can easily accommodate a back-up line of interested new officers.

John Heisner, WM



BLACKMER AND THE ALTERNATE DUES PLAN

Each year, Blackmer Lodge faces a dilution in the amount of income it receives from its membership. This dilution stems from two areas, loss of membership and increases in the amount of per-capita required by Grand Lodge. The loss of membership can be stemmed by bringing in more members than we lose through deaths and suspensions. The dilution due to increases in per-capita are currently handled by the Lodge by absorbing the loss for several years and then attempting to pass a rather large dues increase to cover the last few years per-capita increases. Using this method, the Lodge operates for several years with dues income that steadily declines because of increasing per-capita sent to Grand Lodge. The Lodge is always playing catchup.

Through a resolution passed by Grand Lodge recently, we have been provided a plan that enables the Lodge to get out of the rut of this constant catchup. That plan is the Alternate Dues Plan. When adopted by a Lodge, this plan provides for the Lodge to set a dues amount that it can live with and to have the yearly increases in per-capita added to that dues amount each year. Increases in per-capita will then not affect the Lodge's income.

If Blackmer should adopt the Alternate Dues Plan, the Lodge would establish an amount that it needs for dues to operate the Lodge and its programs. The yearly per-capita would be added to the dues to arrive at the amount each member must pay for that year.

This topic was brought up for discussion under new business at our March Stated meeting.

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

Where does the time go, here it is almost Easter.

We have been very busy getting ready for the Honored Ladies Luncheon on May 20th with the Worshipful Galen in charge. There is a notice about the Luncheon in another part of this newsletter. We would like to see a big turn out for this Luncheon, Please call in your reservations early.

We still have some members who have not paid their 2004 dues, your dues payment is due on January 1st so take a few moments and send in your dues payment. It will be greatly appreciated.

It is my sad duty to inform you that two of our Brothers have gone to the Celestial Lodge above, they are Brothers Forest Roger Johnson and Earl Williams Clarke. May they rest in eternal peace.

Our Stated Meeting is on April 1st, Please call in your reservations before Monday the 29th. 619-291-0465

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

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.

HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

Our event chairman, Worshipful Galen, and Worshipful Master John, invite you to this stellar event. The Honored Ladies are guests of our fine Lodge (other ladies, guests and brethren, \$10 each). We would like your reservations by May 17th for the event which will be at NOON on Thursday, May 20th at the Scottish Rite Center. A superb menu has been planned, guaranteed to make your taste buds do flips. Call reservations to 619-291-0465.

BLACKMER AND THE ELECTRONIC AGE

Join a growing number of your fellow members of Blackmer Lodge in receiving your copy of the Bulletin electronically. This service is brought to the members as both a convenience and as a means to save the Lodge money.

Just drop an email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net to begin receiving your Bulletin in PDF format in an email. It is easy, you get your copy days before some of your brethren and you save the Lodge postage and printing.

If you aren't sure you want to receive the Bulletin by email but would like to see what it looks like, please email the editor at ctandrews@comcast.net and ask for a sample copy. He will send you the most recent copy for your examination.

Be on the cutting edge, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net.

BLACKMER AND THE AL BAHR YACHT CLUB

Meet and take the Ferry to Coronado and have a wonderful dine out with the Al Bahr Yacht Club at Mexican Village. Call Worshipful John or the Secretary for details. April 15 is the date!

BIRTHDAYS

Ernest Addleson	4/06
Harold Arnhart	4/28
Harry Besnoy	4/26
Giles Brown	4/21
Richard Carlson	4/28
Terry Christian	4/22
Roland Dietrich	4/09
Charles Ellis	4/10
Clyde Fry	4/23
Herbert Harnly	4/20
Albert Heck	4/12
Richard Jones	4/26
Marcus Klein	4/02
Julius Krasner	4/14
Samuel Krasner, PM	4/20
James Lavender	4/23
Solomon Minsberg	4/25
Sidney Norman, Jr.	4/04
Robert Ross	4/17
Dan Underwood	4/8
Lamberto Vales	4/16
R. Michael Walters	4/15
Warren E. Wilsie	4/09

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.

EDDIE GUMPEL HONORED

The memory of Past Master Eddie Gumpel has been honored with a tile on the wall outside the Scottish Rite building. Look high and to the right.

HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

NOON

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Personal Responsibility
 Accept It and Teach It*

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APRIL 2004, CALENDAR

- 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** Dark
 - Thurs 8th** Dark
 - Mon 12th** Officers' Practice: Third Degree, Second Section, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thurs 15th** Dine Out with Al Bahr Shrine Yacht Club
 - Mon 19th** Officers' Practice: First Degree, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thurs 22nd** Darius-San Diego Chapter, York Rite
 - Mon 26th** **ISI, 442 hosts 35 who will do Third Degree, Second Section,
 7:00 p.m.** Officers, call the Inspector if you cannot be there.
 - Thurs 29th** Dark
- May**
- Mon 3rd** Call
 - Thurs 6th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

APRIL STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Old Fashioned Meat Loaf and Roasted Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans Almandine
- Tossed Greens and Dutch Apple Pie
- Rolls and Beverages