

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

July, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 7

THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

*"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it;
for He hath no pleasure in fools;
pay that which thou hast vowed."
Eccl. 5:4*

It is required of all Masons that they be steadfast in keeping the vows of the Order, that they be sincere in the practice of all the virtues taught by the ritual, symbols and lectures of the various degrees, and that they maintain unflinching loyalty to the fraternity. A faithful servant is one who keeps his vows, who is diligent in his stewardship, dutiful to his master, and loyal in the face of trial and tribulation.

In the explanation of the ritual of the entered apprentice degree, faith is said to be the first round in the theological ladder of Masonry. Trust in God is required and is emphasized in all of the succeeding degrees. It constitutes the basis of true character and service, and thus demands a belief in something beyond ourselves, beyond our science, and beyond our capacity to know anything for certain. Masonic ritual continually verifies the virtues of faith and trust and teaches us to so conform our conduct. Candidates are blindfolded, not for the purpose of frightening them, but to teach them a valuable lesson to trust in the one who guides them. In the first degree, they are reminded to fear not what man can do unto them, but to have faith that the brother guiding them will not permit them to fall into harm.

These lessons are not solely limited to teaching one to trust another brother, but to trust that the other brother is faithful and himself led by God. Each member of the Craft is initially asked in whom he places his trust. The response is nothing short of the most important vow of the candidate's Masonic career: a vow to trust in God. The manner in which we respond to our duty to our country, our neighbor, our families, and ourselves evidences the extent of our faith. How we respond to calamity, misfortune, ill fortune, and even the reality of our own death demonstrates our steadfastness, or the lack thereof.

It is within our human nature to be fearful, to doubt, and even to question the merit and wisdom of our own faith. Man often searches for proof of the truth about that which he is asked to believe. Faith and trust require that we rise above our human nature, that we satisfy our souls that God is truth and that nothing in the knowledge we have attained in secular studies has ever disproved His love. Nature teaches us that what cannot be disproven is proof certain of its truth in fact.

May the Great Architect Bless You
With Greater Faith,
John Heisner

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FROM THE EAST

This Fourth of July marks the 228th anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence and will be celebrated throughout the land with words memorializing the virtues of sacrifice, steadfastness, justice and truth. As Masons, we are also invited to remember that it marks the beginning of a government of people founded for the first time in history upon Masonic principles - principles that have withstood the test of time, war and devastation. This year, I invite every member of Blackmer Lodge to pick up a good book about the founding of our country and become reacquainted with those principles.

I also invite you to attend a local community event where your Masonic brethren are marching in a parade, serving a meal to others, or gathering with families for a more personal celebration. Your support at this time for the principles in which you believe can become the best statement you will make this year about your commitment to Freemasonry. If you cannot attend one of these functions, you may at least offer up a prayer thanking the Great Architect for the blessings of freedom.

Several of your Blackmer brethren will again participate in the Coronado parade. Having done so myself, I can vouch for the fact that it is a rewarding experience. Children waving American flags call out to us from the sidelines; parents can be heard saying, "there go the Masons - you know that they helped found this nation;" and, military men salute us paying tribute to the fact that if there had been no Masons in 1776, there would have been no United States of America. If you have the time and the ability, please attend. You will be rewarded in ways to cannot fathom.

John Heisner, WM

THE \$5000 LOAN

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blonde for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the blonde returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blonde replies..... "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

2 Finally, a smart blonde joke.

HIRAM AWARD CEREMONY

The Hiram Award Committee, consisting of past Blackmer Hiram Award recipients, has nominated Worshipful Coren Andrews as the 2004 recipient. This is the highest Masonic honor that can be conferred upon any Blue Lodge member, and as such your officers will host an appropriate conferral ceremony on August 12, 2004. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will precede the ceremonies, which will follow in the Heald Room. In that a large gathering is expected, reservations with our Secretary are a must.

The ceremonies will be conducted in an open Lodge setting to permit all Masons and non-Masons the to attend. The Master of Ceremonies intends to offer an explanation of this prestigious award. He and others will chronicle Wor. Andrews illustrious Masonic career, introduce honored guests and past Hiram Award recipients, as well as regale you with discrete stories about Wor. Andrew's travels and journeys throughout his eventful Masonic life.

The date is Thursday, August 12, 2004. The time is 6:30 p.m. The attire is coat and tie. Reservations are required. Bring your Ladies and your non-Masonic friends to join in honoring Wor. Coren Andrews on what should be a most deserved memorable moment in his Masonic life.

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

We will be having a 50 Year Presentation at our July Stated Meeting for Brother Ernest Miller. We would like to have a big turn out for this Honored Brother. Please call in your reservations as soon as you can.

It is my sad duty to inform the Brethren that Brother John Henry Midgett has gone to the Celestial Lodge above. Brother Midgett, a former Secretary of Blackmer Lodge, passed away on May 17, 2005 in Washington. May he rest in eternal peace.

The furniture in the Lodge is undergoing renovation. It is looking good. Come on down and take a look!

We have several Brethren who need our prayers as they are not feeling up to par. Say one for them

One of the consequences of not paying your dues is suspension from Masonry. I have passed a list to the Senior Warden of 38 members who need to write a check to the Lodge to bring their dues current for the current year or contact the Lodge to discuss other avenues. Brother Senior Warden, Coren Andrews, will be sending these 38 a letter regarding the delinquent dues.

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.

We have had several newsletters returned due to bad addresses. You may have moved! Let us know before you are going to move, so we can change your address in our mailing list and lodge roster. Fraternaly, Johnny Johnson, Secretary



BULLETIN BY EMAIL

A growing number of your fellow members of Blackmer Lodge in receiving your copy of the Bulletin electronically. To join in, just drop an Email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net to begin receiving your Bulletin in an Email.

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

ONE DAY CONFERRAL

All Master Masons are invited to attend a demonstration of the proposed one day degree conferral on Saturday, September 11, 2004 from 1-4 p.m. at the San Diego Scottish Rite.

THANK YOU AND KEEP 'EM COMING

Thank you those who have made contributions of Albertson's receipts and cans and can tabs. These are ongoing projects by Worshipful Galen and Worshipful Coren. Please continue to contribute! THANK YOU

BIRTHDAYS

Thomas Aycock	7/08
James Easterly	7/15
Guy Francesconi	7/20
Ezra Johnson	7/29
Paul Jones	7/01
Donald Lee	7/28
James Ogilvie, PM	7/05
David Parker	7/02
Richard Petersen, PM	7/24
Chris Quimpo	7/9
Lowman Sachitano	7/18
F. Walter Savage	7.06
Justin Seligmann	7/13
David Smith	7/29
James Stewart	7/12
Louis Towne	7/21
Mitchell Wallace	7/09
W. Harold Williams	7/17
John Wright	7/12
Mazin Younan	7/04

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.



*** ENDOW YOUR LODGE ***

*** GET A LIFE MEMBERSHIP ***

Blackmer Lodge passed a resolution at the Stated Meeting in May to adopt the alternate dues structure. When approved by Grand Lodge, this will result in an increase in dues paid by each member of the Lodge.

Therefore, NOW is the time to get your life membership. Our standing resolution allows a graduated amount depending on the members age. Current dues are \$75.00 per year, while next year it will be \$65.00 PLUS the percapita voted by Grand Lodge in October.

Until October, you may endow the Lodge with your Life Membership at the following rates and never worry about writing that dues check again:

Under 49	21 times annual dues or \$1575
50 to 54 inclusive	19 times annual dues or \$1425
55 to 59 inclusive	17 times annual dues or \$1275
60 to 64 inclusive	14 times annual dues or \$1050
65 and over	11 times annual dues or \$825

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.

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.

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*Personal Responsibility
 Accept It and Teach It*

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JULY 2004, CALENDAR

- July**
- Thurs 1st** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
 Guest Speaker is Beth Martin, Deputy Grand Matron, Order of the Eastern Star
 - Mon 5th** Lodge Dark for long weekend
 - Thurs 8th** Officers' Practice: First Degree, 6:30 p.m.
 - Mon 12th** Lodge Dark
 - Thurs 15th** Officers' Practice: Second Section, Third Degree
 - Mon 19th** Lodge Dark - Candidates Coaches School at ESD, 7:00 p.m.
 - Thurs 22nd** Darius, York Rite meeting
 - Mon 26th** **ISI, 837 Host, 561 Work, Third Degree, Flag Reception, Officers' Election, 7:00 p.m., Officers, call the inspector if you cannot be there.**
 - Thurs 29th** Officers' Practice to be announced
- August**
- Thurs 5th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
 - Thurs 12th** **Hiram Award - Dinner 6:30 p.m., Please call for reservations**

JULY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Kabobs of Beef and Roast Turkey
- Mashed Potatoes and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
- Tossed Greens and Assorted Rolls
- Cobblers and Beverages