

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

September, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 9

HUMILITY OF MIND

*"Before destruction the heart of man is haughty,
and before honor is humility."
Prov. 18: 12*

The Holy Writings teach us that all is vanity, and in so doing should enlighten us to the fact that worldly pleasures end in emptiness. A thoughtful man considering his life's toil cannot help but reflect upon what he has wrought, the great works he has accomplished, and the treasures he has accumulated. One preacher and sage observed that when he looked at all of the work of his own hands and considered the extent of his own labor, he saw that all was, indeed, vanity and vexation of spirit; that nothing he wrought on his own profited him anything of lasting value.

Our Masonic rituals teach us that all brethren should maintain freedom from pride and arrogance. It is destructive to view oneself as wisest, more faithful, most industrious, and singularly important because of our own peculiar talents. The good seed of harmony is thereby choked by the weeds of self importance. The Craft's enriching ritual teaches how much we gain when we rely upon others to also exert their very important talents; how society is so much benefitted by the working of multiple hands and minds. The initiate does not conduct himself around the Lodge; he is assisted by others. We see not one pillar in any Lodge room, but several. Our administration is not in the hands of one man, but a line of officers working together.

The first step toward the acquisition of truth is humility of mind, a sense of personal ignorance, and a desire for knowledge. We live in an age of ever increasing fanaticism, intolerance and rage driven by an unrelenting crazed certainty on the part of those so possessed that they act in the name of God. It is the height of vanity to

presume that our own perception of the Great Architect constitutes the sole and complete divine truth and that those who see matters differently are so subhuman as to be deserving only of a swift vengeful demise.

As Pike observed, "(T)he Mason does not dogmatize, but entertaining and uttering his own convictions, he leaves everyone else free to do the same; and only hopes that the time will come, even if after the lapse of ages, when all men shall form one great family of brethren, and one law alone, the law of love, shall govern God's whole universe." The way is written in the first of the Ten Commandments delivered by Moses to the Hebrews: thou shalt have no other gods before me. It can only be truly understood by a humble heart, a spirit so subdued to the will of the Great Architect as to faithfully know that He created all, not just a few; that He loves all, not just some; and, that he wishes all, not merely an "elite" to live in peace and harmony.

The prayer of humility does not assume that the Great Architect is like a Santa Claus, to be called on when we wish Him to do something for us, or to give us something that we desire. The humble prayer seeks to know God, to be like Him, and to serve His will by being filled with His knowledge - the knowledge of brotherly love. When we practice true Freemasonry, it is those heights we seek to climb and none other.

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe Bless You

John Heisner

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May there always be...*

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contact us

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619-291-0465**

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2004 LEGISLATION

GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S DECISIONS

1. Senior Deacon Qualification

GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2004-01 Grand Master's Lodge
- 2004-02 Candidate's Fees to Grand Lodge
- 2004-03 Lodge funds and property
- 2004-04 Executive Committee appointments to Constitutional Boards
- 2004-05 Candidate's Contributions to the Masonic Homes, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

CARRY-OVERS FROM 2003 (GRAND MASTER HOLSINGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS)

1. One Day Conferrals
2. Flexible Dates for Annual Communication

2003 CARRY-OVER RESOLUTIONS

- 03-02 Reduces Stated Meeting quorum from seven to five.

2004 RESOLUTIONS

- 04-01 Re-establishes powers of Hall Associations
- 04-02 Changes time for voting on Grand Lodge Budget
- 04-03 Permits advertising and public relations by Lodges
- 04-04 Requires Flag Salute at all Lodge meetings
- 04-05 Requires Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to pay dues
- 04-06 Withdrawn
- 04-07 Out of Order
- 04-08 Out of Order
- 04-09 Out of Order
- 04-10 Out of Order
- 04-11 Allows California Masons to belong to the Ancient and Heroic Order of the Gordian Knot.

2004 EMERGENT MATTER

- 04-06 Expands persons eligible for admission to the Homes to include members of the general community.

Copies of the legislation are available on the
California Grand Lodge website at

www.freemason.org

Click on Member Resources under the Members Center

Here you will find complete text of all the decisions,
recommendations and resolutions in Acrobat format.

May there always be
work for your hands
to do;

May your purse
always hold a coin
or two;

May the sun always
shine on your win-
dowpane;

May a rainbow be
certain to

follow each rain;

May the hand of a
friend always be

near you;

May God fill your
heart with

gladness to cheer
you.

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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 EAST

As your three principal officers of the Lodge prepare this month for the Annual Communication of the California Grand Lodge, they will weigh the pros and cons of each item of proposed legislation. Like last year, the most widely discussed proposal is the adoption of the one-day conferral of all three degrees upon classes of candidates. Unlike last year when the measure failed, the necessary number of votes required for passage is greatly diminished. My discussions with Masons throughout the state suggest to me that the measure will likely pass.

The arguments for and against have been clearly stated. Those in favor believe this legislation will greatly improve membership in many Lodges. Those against express concern about holding the new one-day Masons in the Blue Lodges, as well as about the perceived erosion of traditional Masonic values relating to the ritual and the required memory work. Each side has merit and it is genuinely hoped that the prevailing position will work to guard against the concerns expressed by the losing position.

We must remember that if this legislation passes, the one-day class is an option for each Blue Lodge. In other words, no Lodge is required to confer all three degrees in one day. Any Lodge so desiring to follow the traditional path may do so without waiving the right to exercise the option in the future, if it so chooses. Also, any Lodge may choose to mix the traditional with the new one-day conferral, i.e., some candidates may receive their degrees "long form," while others may receive their degrees in one day. It is also possible for any Lodge to simply follow the one-day conferral method and organize Masonic education within the Lodge concurrently.

There are many questions that cannot be answered unless and until the one-day conferral actually gets under way. What will a proficiency look like? How will the lack of memorization requirement affect the line of officers? Who will ensure that each candidate receives the

necessary instruction in Masonic principles? Presently, these are questions without clear answers, but Freemasonry is not without a precedent to assist us in deciding what is best. The one-day option is being used in Ohio, Nevada, Arizona and elsewhere. What Lodges in those states have learned about how to address these matters will be passed on to those of us who will be grappling with this newest and greatest challenge.

If you have an opinion, your officers would like to hear from you before the Annual Communication.
John Heisner, WM

FROM THE SECRETARY

There were three Masonic funerals in July. Brothers Charles McFarland, Paul Johnson and Chuck Warren are resting in eternal peace.

Brother Perry Hooper in in Scripps Memorial-La Jolla having had open heart surgery. A speedy recovery is requested.

Please make your dinner reservation (619-291-0465) or the Stated Meeting Dinner, so that we know how many to order for.

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.

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.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

BIRTHDAYS

Bernard Barnett	9/10
James Barron	9/23
Roland Camacho	9/10
Donald Clark	9/24
Jack Cruse	9/26
Clarke Day	9/04
Charles Dickenson	9/13
Zane Feldman	9/08
Bruce Gray	9/26
James Guthrie	9/06
Gordon Millikan	9/20
William Newbern	9/23
Harold Thoman	9/08

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.



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.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2004."

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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SEPTEMBER 2004, CALENDAR

September

- Thurs 2nd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Drawing for baseball tickets and Greg Maizlish will speak on Constitutional Observance.
- Mon 6th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 9th** Grand Master's Reception Practice
- Sat 11th** **Grand Lodge One-Day Class workshop.** Officer attendance a must per Inspector
Grand Masters Reception and Mason of the Year Program at 6:00 p.m. Reservations required.
- Mon 13th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 16th** Officers' Practice - First Degree at 6:30 p.m.
- Mon 20th** Officers' Practice - First Degree at 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 23rd** Darius, York Rite meeting
- Mon 27th** ISI: 35 Host/837 Work - Third Degree, Second Section - All Officers to attend - call Inspector if unable to attend. 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs 30th** To be announced

October

- Mon 4th** **TBD**
- Thurs 7th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

SEPTEMBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Baron of Beef with Gravy and Roast Turkey
- Mashed Potatoes and Zucchini and Squash
- Spring Mix Salad and Dutch Apple Pie
- Beverages and Rolls