TRESTLE BOARD



December 2026

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / https://www.ioniccomposite.com



My Brothers,

First, I want to humbly thank you all for re-electing me to serve as Master of Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 for the ensuing Masonic year. I am so grateful for all of the support everyone has given me (and Virian), over this past year. I want to, personally and publicly, thank all of the Officers who served and are continuing to serve in the upcoming year. I do believe we have a very good year ahead of us, and I'm looking forward to the continued success of our Lodge in its 105th year!

As we enter into this Holiday season, let us reflect on the state of our world and the various circumstances people are finding themselves under. In urban terms, these days: "life be life'n…" And, what that means, is this: a number of people going through their daily lives are fighting to survive. So many are fighting with a smile on their face — never letting on to anyone what's really transpiring. The cost of living now is astronomically growing higher, day-by-day, and people's paychecks aren't necessarily growing at the same rate. As if that's not enough, people are encountering unforeseen health issues, losing loved ones, and struggling not to lose themselves.

As the old Duke and Mercer Ellington song goes, "things ain't what they used to be." It's easy to think of things now along the lines of how they once were. I'm reminded of a brilliant lecture I watched by a genius economist, Jeremy Rifkin about seven years back. He spoke of the world rapidly moving into the "shared economy" paradigm and the consequences for those dependent upon the 20th century economic system and logic. And, now the world is being thrown in the deep-end of AI technology — and, many people are absolutely blindsided by it.

What I am saying is this: we are entering a season where many people are simply *in a condition of darkness*… living *without*… living without loved ones… living

without necessities… living without hope. As Masons, let us be the *light* for those who feel they're living in darkness. Even inside of the proverbial Lodge room — let us be the *light* for each other, because there are moments where we don't even recognize the Brother standing next to us is most in need of *light*.

God bless you and yours and everyone all over the world, this Holiday Season.

Fraternally yours,
Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

December Calendar

Monday, December 7th, Stated Meeting
7:15 Dinner*
Menu – Roasted tomato soup, Roasted beef tenderloin or Vegetarian lasagna, Caprese salad, Sweet potato puree
RSVP no later than Friday December 4th by 6 PM via the link below:
https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/
Attire: Business suit

Monday, December 14th
Installation practice

Sunday, December 19th
105th Installation of officers
5:30 – Social time
6:00 – Installation
Dinner following ceremony (There will be no charge for this dinner, but please make a reservation so we can get an estimate of our food need.)

Monday, December 21st
First Degree practice

Monday, December 28th
First Degree for Beau Bilkiss
Greet our newest member

* $15/person. Please note that we are requesting that those planning on attending make a reservation in order that we can prepare an appropriate amount of food. Those with reservations will be fed first; those without reservations cannot be assured that there will be adequate food remaining.

Upcoming events

December 19th – Installation

December 28th – First Degree for Beau Bilkiss

January 14th – MLK Day lecture: Advocating for the Common Man: A Modern Comparison to the Poor People's Campaign of 1968

BRETHREN BEWARE

of scam / phishing emails asking for money or personal information.
Scammers are pretending to be Masons, even the Worshipful Master!
We'll never ask you to send money or gift cards via email.
Reach out to Lodge Leadership directly or by phone.

2026		
	Master – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M. (Virian)	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Marshal –
	Junior Warden –Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
	Treasurer – Aaron Gonzales	Junior Steward –
	Secretary – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Musician –
	Chaplain – Robert Smerling (Maureen)	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)
	Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.	Trestleboard Editor – Ronald Koretz, P.M. (Grace)

The following is from the May-August 2020 issue of the Albert Pike Lodge 303 Trestleboard

(Author unknown – Albert Pike Lodge #303, Wichita, Kansas)

A Mason Loses A Bet and New York Gains

Paul Boynton, during the 1832 political campaign, lived in Vermont. Those were dark days for the Craft. Andrew Jackson, a past Grand Master of Tennessee, was the candidate for the Presidency against William Wirt, a Mason running on the Anti-Masonic ticket. Brother Boynton was a devoted Freemason and did not recant or hide his association with the Craft while the storm was brewing and many members deserted. He made an election vow that if Vermont went for Wirt he would move "out west". In those days "out west" meant St. Lawrence Country, New York, to New Englanders.

When Wirt won in Vermont (the only state in which he won), Brother Boynton kept his word and moved. At the end of an eighty day journey on horseback, Brother Boynton settled down in Canton New York. He swapped his horse for a watch and a gun shop. He became the best gunsmith in the area and his gun stocks are now collector's items. He invented many things, such as eight day clocks and a pedometer. In 1835 he built what is now known as The Royal Arch House, located at 12 Pine Street, as a constant reminder to friend and foe alike, that he was a mason. Emblems familiar to the Royal Arch Mason are on the front of the building. It is said that he dug his own grave and made his own marker, except for the date. He died on July 13, 1851.

December Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth Date
Gary	Cremo	1
Vartan	Guykasyan	6
Wesley	Challacombe	7
Jason	Louv	11
Marshall	Krupp	13
Etan	Goldman	16
Norman	Harris	19
Bruno	Samuel	20
Harold	Forster	22
Yukkhiro	Marsumoto	22
Michael	Maroko	23
Ezra	Ozer	24
Stanley	Ziegler	27

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

The Palo Alto Unified School District has noticed a significant increase in the number of lawsuits that are being filed against it. Furthermore, this is occurring at a time when the system is also facing a $40 million budgetary shortfall. A situation that is not helping resolve this problem is that some of these suits were filed by parents who are seeking compensation for actions taken by their own children.

In one case, a third-grade boy stuck out his tongue at a playmate whom he had accused of kicking him during a game of tag. His teacher made the following comments on his subsequent report card: "…is working on his responses to peers when he is frustrated or upset", "He is developing his ability to listen to others' perspectives and collaborate with humility. We will keep working on this.", and that he "needed continued practice with showing respect and cooperating with others". His mother, who had previously acknowledged that her son's behavior was silly, asked the school board to remove the commentary. However, after deliberating the issue, the board voted 4-0 to deny that appeal, stating "The (report card) comments reflected the teacher's observations, were within her competence, were substantiated and were not misleading in the context of the full report card.". The mother, who had already hired an attorney, is suing to obtain another hearing and to have the school board pay her attorney's fees.

In another case, a 10th grader had an essay he submitted screened for the use of artificial intelligence (AI). It was scored as being "76% AI" and his grade was subsequently lowered from A- or B+ to C. His father, who was also a CEO of a Silicon Valley AI startup company, sued the school board for $150 million. As part of his application, he did offer to drop the action if the school changed his son's grade to a B. Interestingly, the suit was dropped without any settlement.

There were a number of on-line comments posted by readers about these suits. Most of them were directed at the father of the high school student and were not complimentary. One person speculated that the father dropped the suit because found out that the son had used AI. Another said that "Every student deserves an A+." An Oregonian noted "Here in Oregon too. They graduate and some can't read, write or do math." Another statement was: "The student used AI to write a report? Good for him; he's demonstrating the skills he'll need to become the CEO of his dad's AI startup."

The comment that probably most closely reflected my perspective was the following: "So, what these parents are telling their kids is you are not personally responsible. Instead, blame the school system."

Think about it.

Masonic doings



Jacob Gershbock, PM, accompanied by Faith (his mother) receiving Hiram Award from Worshipful Chey Alexander Wright

Dues payments simplified

The California Grand Lodge has made the process of paying dues simpler, automatic and less painful (especially for those who are dual members or members of concordant bodies). Instead of several lump sums, it can he taken out in increments as shown below. If you need to, please use the format below.

Process Map: How to sign up for AutoPay in iMember 2.0

Step 1: Access Your Profile
- Action: Log in to iMember 2.0
- Click: My Profile from the dashboard

Step 2: Add a Payment Method
- Click: Add Payment Method
- Enter: Your credit or debit card details
- Save: Your payment information securely

Step 3: Configure AutoPay Settings
- Click: Auto-pay Settings Configure

Step 4: Choose a Payment Interval
- Options:
  1) Monthly* – Charged 15th of each month
  2) Quarterly* – Charged March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
  3) Annually – Charged Dec 15

Step 5: Confirmation
- AutoPay is now enabled – you'll receive confirmation of your setup.

Why Enroll in AutoPay?

- Convenience: One-time setup, always in good standing.
- Financial Flexibility: Smaller payments spread over time.
- Peace of Mind: Never miss a due date – it's automatic.
- Stay Current: Be sure to update your credit card information if it expires or changes to avoid avoid any disruptions in your AutoPay setup.

* Monthly and Quarterly options allow contributions to accumulate over the year, covering your dues in advance without a large single payment.