

TRESTLE BOARD

October 2026



Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

I bid everyone is doing well! I want to start off by congratulating our two newly accepted Candidates for Masonry: Mr. Shlomo Castro and Mr. Beau Bilkiss! We are looking forward to both of you being fine Brothers in our Fraternity. Remember, you have already begun your Masonic journeys, simply by 'knocking' to have Masonry be opened unto you. Mr. Castro's First Degree Conferral will be held on Monday, September, 28, 2026 at 7:15PM.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Wor. Jacob Gershbock on a job well-done, handling our annual contributions to Charnock Road Elementary School. We had a very nice turnout for their honoring and that could not have happened without Wor. Jacob's great efforts. With that said, I am particularly excited that we will honor Wor. Jacob with the Hiram Award, at this October's Stated Meeting. It goes without saying how deserving of this award our dear Worshipful Brother is. Please, come out and celebrate the recognition of this good Brother's service to our Lodge and Fraternity, at large.

Let me also take this time to say that I am personally excited to be attending Annual Communication, as Master of Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520, this year. We have a solid delegation attending, on behalf of our Lodge and I have really enjoyed serving our Lodge this year, as Master. I think so highly of you Brothers and I am grateful to serve among you.

To close, I ask that we all take some time to reach out to Brothers of ours in need, in various ways. The climate in society, right now, is temperamental in a number of ways and people are finding themselves vulnerable to any facet of the current societal situation. I implore us all to keep love in our hearts, kindness on our minds and peace in our spirits because if nothing else, these elements help make the world positively go 'round.

Fraternally yours,
Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

Late September/October Calendar

Monday, September 28th, 7:15 pm: - First Degree

Candidate – Mr. Shlomo Castro

Attire: Suit/Tie

Join us in celebrating Mr. Cruz's introduction to Masonry

Monday, October 5th, Stated Meeting

7:15 Dinner*

Menu – A kosher meal selected by the honoree for the evening

RSVP no later than Friday October 2nd by 6 PM via the link below:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>

Attire: Men coat/tie; Women dressy

8:00 pm: Meeting (Hiram Award to Jacob Gershbock and Stated meeting)

Friday, October 9th -Sunday, October 11th

Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of California (San Francisco)

Monday, October 12th, 7:15 pm:

Casual social (open to Members, Candidates, Prospectz)

Monday, October 19th, 7:00 pm:

2027 Planning Meeting (All members are encourage to attend and participate)

Tuesday, October 20th, 6:30 pm:

Officers School of Instruction, Ionic-Composite #520 – Topic TBD

Monday, October 26th, 7:15 pm: - TBD

* \$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

November 2nd – Election of 2027 officers

December 12th – Installation of 2027 officers

The Midnight Mission (TMM) is constantly in need of new or used clothing for the men, women, and children whom it services in Skid Row and houses elsewhere in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau conducts an annual clothing drive for TMM and is planning to do so again on November 15th at its meeting. In order to facilitate this effort, Ionic-Composite Lodge will be collecting such items at the lodge and transporting these to that November meeting. Please bring any new or used clothing that you no longer need to the lodge at some time before November 15th; perhaps the most convenient time will be when you are attending a meeting or other activity at the lodge.



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 January 1977 issue of the New Mexico Freemason

A good story

A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The money lender was standing in front of his shop, and the young man noted that he was wearing a large and beautiful Masonic emblem. After going on a whole block, apparently lost in thought, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker, and addressed him: "I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too. It happens that I'm desperately in need of \$25 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me; but I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note."

The pawnbroker mentally appraised the young man, who was clean-cut, neat and well-dressed. After a moments thought, he agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man being a Freemason. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed and that ended the transaction.

About four months later the young man was in a Lodge receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree; he had not really been a Mason when he borrowed the \$25. After he had been admitted for the second section of the degree, the young man looked across the Lodge room and saw the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed the \$25. His face turned crimson and he became nervous and jittery. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker. Apparently not, so he planned at the first opportunity to leave the Lodge room and avoid his benefactor. As soon as the Lodge was closed he moved quickly for the door, but the pawnbroker had recognized the young man, headed him off and, to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and outstretched hand.

"Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25," the pawnbroker commented.

The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, "No, I wasn't, but I wish you'd let me explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a Brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day I didn't need that \$25. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing, I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true. You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that what I had heard about Masons was true, that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress. That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that with this explanation you will forgive me for having lied to you."

The pawnbroker responded, "Don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the strength of my being a Freemason. When you asked for that \$25, I remembered what I had heard about Masons, that they were honest, upright, and cared for their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard was really true, so I lent you the money and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard about Masons was true so I presented my petition to this Lodge. I was the candidate just ahead of you."

October Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth date
Alan	Block	5
Jonathan	Klein	5
Alfred	Sapper	7
Arthur	Dakesssian	9
Mark	Neander	9
Robert	Smerling	16
Dale	Jacobs	17
Lawrence	Phillips	23
Rafael	Mantejano	24
Robert	Nairin	28
Roy	Steinfeld	30

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

A sometimes burdensome task that I encounter when going out to dinner is deciding on how much money to leave as a tip for the server. Common folklore tells us that these people are poorly paid and that they depend on tips to supplement their income. On the other hand, recent changes in some state laws have required restaurant owners to increase hourly wages, so it is not clear to me how “in need” any particular server is at any given eating establishment. According to Google, the acceptable practice is to leave 15 -20% of the before tax total as a gratuity, but such advice does not help when the service is very good or very bad.

Consider the story that I found recently on the internet. Unfortunately, the story only described the tip without any names or locations. The man in question was working as a waiter at a restaurant that closed at 9 PM. At about 8:40 a young couple, accompanied by an infant, were seated at one of his tables and they ordered dinner. The waiter was well aware of the time and believed that the couple also knew about the closing issue. While they were finishing their salads, he went over to them and reassured them that, while the restaurant would be shutting their doors, they were welcome to stay and finish their meals at their leisure. He specifically said “It’s more important to me that you have a good experience in the restaurant than I leave at exactly the closing time. Like, I’m cool with this. You worry about having a great experience. Don’t worry about the closing time. I’m really okay with it. Trust.”

Nonetheless, the couple finished around closing time and the waiter was getting them take-home boxes after leaving the bill (about \$60). When he returned to the table, the couple, along with the baby, had already departed the building, but they left a \$100 bill on the table. The waiter had not expected such a large tip and rushed out of the restaurant, found them, and handed them back \$20, telling them that they were still leaving him a fat tip. After some discussion, the couple agreed to take the \$20, the waiter gave them his business card, and the couple agreed to return in the future. The waiter left the story with a question: Was he right to reject the larger tip?

There were a number of comments from other readers of this story. Interestingly, while recognizing the good intentions of the waiter, many (but not all) of those comments criticized the waiter for challenging the size of the tip. The waiter responded that he would do the same thing the next time. I agreed with those readers. The only time that I could see such a challenge would be if the waiter thought the large bill was left by mistake; for instance, it was a \$1000 bill. However, leaving a single \$100 bill for a \$60 charge could not have been a mistake. After all, the tip represented a voluntary decision by the diner; such decisions should be respected. Obviously, other readers disagreed with me, I would ask you to

Think about it.

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 be 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.