

OCTOBER 2023

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

Masonry has always put a strong emphasis on education, especially public education, because we have always understood that for a Democratic society to be possible, the public must be educated to at least certain basic levels. Furthermore, as a Fraternity predicated on the ideal of self-improvement, it has always been understood that education is one of the principle ways in which we can improve ourselves. To learn is to grow.

In today's world, perhaps more so now than ever before, knowledge truly is power. A teacher, therefore, is someone who literally empowers students by arming them with both knowledge and the tools by which to gain more. Most highly successful people can point back to at least one influential teacher or educator in their past who guided them or especially moved them in some important way or at a crossroads in their life. I myself can think of several right off the top of my head, and I am still in contact with at least 2 such individuals to this day.

Today, society is seeing a major downward trend in literacy and writing skills in graduating high school seniors. Part of this is no doubt related to technological trends (why bother to write a formal letter when you can use shorthand in a text or a tweet, never mind the use of emoji's), but part of it is, in my opinion at least, due to a societal shift in the way we treat educators. This is especially true of Elementary educators, who have the dual job of helping socialize and shape young boys and girls, as well as attempt to instill in them a love of learning at an early enough age that they will be able to flourish as they mature.

It was for this reason that at our September Stated meeting, we were planning on presenting awards to teachers and classified employees from two different Elementary schools. However, when speaking with the principals of the schools in advance of the event, something that still boggles my mind

occurred: not one, not two, but three separate schools turned us down at the last minute. Two of the schools didn't even offer an explanation as to why; the principals simply declined our offer of both awarding teachers and employees annually as well as adopting the schools on an ongoing basis. The third school cited a concern that "teambuilding" efforts might be hurt if the school appeared to honor one teacher as being "better" or more "extraordinary" than all the others, never-mind the fact that numerous ways of selecting the honorees were put forward, including random selection, and it was stressed that everyone would eventually win.

This last reason strikes me as being a place they could certainly learn from the Masons. Part of our code is rejoice in one another's successes rather than be jealous or bitter when we are not personally selected for a given award or honor. Not "winning" is not the same as "losing", and society needs to be reminded of that. Likewise, we understand that in order for people to be motivated to go above and beyond, exemplary effort, achievement, and dedication must be recognized. Finally, we understand that when we as Masons see a brother honored for extraordinary service or accomplishment, it can and should act to motivate each of us to strive to greater lengths ourselves.

On that note, at our October Stated Meeting, we will be honoring the long dedication and service of two brothers of our own Lodge to the Fraternity by presenting Worshipful Bob Sills and Brother Sheldon Lodmer with their 50 year Golden Veterans awards. Most Worshipful Mel Stein, Past Grand Master, will be presenting the awards. I hope to see a big turnout for these dedicated brothers at Lodge.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2, 2023

STATED MEETING 8:00PM

**PRESENTATION OF GOLDEN VETERAN'S AWARD TO
WORSHIPFUL BOB SILLS AND BROTHER SHELDON LODMER
MOST WORSHIPFUL MEL STEIN WILL PRESENT THE AWARDS
PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR SPOUSE/PARTNERS
TO SUPPORT THESE LONG-TIME, DEDICATED BROTHERS!**

LODGE OPEN: 6:30PM

GREET GUESTS: 7:00PM

DINNER: 7:15 PM

OPEN PORTION AND AWARD PRESENTATIONS: 8:00PM

CLOSED BUSINESS MEETING TO FOLLOW.

MENU

CAESAR SALAD

CHOICE OF: TRI TIP, BBQ CHICKEN OR VEGETARIAN PASTA MARINARA

ROASTED CAJUN POTATOES & MIXED ROASTED VEGETABLES

APPLE COBBLER

**PLEASE RSVP TO BROKYLEWARE@GMAIL.COM
BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR ENTREE CHOICE**

OCTOBER 9, 2023

OSI

6:30 PM DINNER

7:00PM OSI START

ITEMS TO BE COVERED: GL RESOLUTIONS, QUALIFICATIONS, FUNERAL SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS
ALL OFFICERS MUST ATTEND UNLESS EXCUSED IN ADVANCE BY BOTH THE MASTER AND THE INSPECTOR!

OCTOBER 16, 2023

TBD

OCTOBER 23, 2023

DARK

OCTOBER 30, 2023

DARK

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

NOVEMBER STATED MEETING 8:00PM

DINNER: 7:15 PM

MENU

GREEK SALAD

FETA, CUCUMBER, RED ONION, ROMAINE

LULA KABOB & RICE PILAF

BAKLAVA



BATTER UP!

2023 MASONS4MITTS WRAPUP

A record \$72,029 check was presented to the Dodger Foundation on September 13.

This provides 3604 mitts to kids in the Dodger Dreamteam program. The South Bay Spartans were the winning fundraising team with \$25,390. Our Media Central Titans team came in 2nd Place with \$16,705, our best year ever.

Thanks to all our lodge members who contributed this year.

TRESTLEBOARD EDITOR & LAYOUT

Beginning ASAP the Lodge is in need of assistance
with monthly Trestleboard Editing & Layout.

Please contact Lodge Secretary Kyle Ware if you can lend a hand
brokyleware@gmail.com

HOW TO GET YOUR DUES CARD

With the installation of the iMember 2.0 online system a few years ago that all brothers can access upon registration lodge secretaries no longer receive all the dues cards to mail out after payment.

The dues card is now online in an 8 ½ x 11 format which can be printed and also downloaded to a phone.

There are 2 ways to get you dues care:

1. Login to www.member.freemason.org, select Ionic Composite Lodge bar, then select Virtual Card.
2. Send an email to our lodge Secretary Kyle Ware (brokyleware@gmail.com) requesting that it be mailed to you.

If you need help registering contact the Secretary.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard Ameny 4
Alan Block 5
Jonathan Klein 5
Paul Schiek 6
Alfred Sapper 7
Arthur Dakessian 9

Mark Neander 9
Albert Kaplan 14
Robert Smerling 15
Lawrence Phillips 23
Rafael Montejano 24

Bruce Shaphran 26
Ray Friedman 28
Robert Nairin 28
Roy Steinfeld 30
Arnold Schoenfeld 31

Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau Presents The Annual Clothing Drive for the Midnight Mission



November 5, 2023

START COLLECTING NOW for our NOVEMBER 5, 2023, ANNUAL CLOTHING DONATION TO THE MIDNIGHT MISSION.

(Clothing collection will start at 7:30 am, full buffet breakfast at 7:45 am, and Meeting at 9:00 AM.)

Every year Lodges that make up the Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau (LMSB) do their very best to fill a Midnight Mission truck with new and slightly used clothing, shoes and other personal items.

Start collecting new and slightly used clothing now for our annual clothing donation to the Midnight Mission that will take place at our **November 5, 2023** meeting at the Pasadena Scottish Rite, 150 N. Madison Ave, Pasadena. ***A special full buffet breakfast is being offered by the Midnight Mission starting at 7:45 am as a thank-you for your Masonic support of the Mission and its services.*** All Masons and their adult guests are invited, with hope that they will contribute to the clothing drive, to demonstrate our concern and aid to this worthy organization.

The new items you buy, and/or the slightly used clothing you have outgrown or no longer desire, can warm the lives of those less fortunate. Let's make this year's donation the largest ever. In addition to used clothing, here is a list of items Lodge members might want to purchase and donate to the mission.

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bath Towels & Wash Cloths• Deodorant (men & women)• Diapers (all sizes for men, women & children)• Disposable Razors (men & women)• Face Wipes• Feminine Soap & Spray• First Aid Kits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hygiene Kits (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, etc.)• Socks & Underwear/Bras (NEW – men & women's)• Shaving Cream• Soap• Toilet Paper• Twin Size Bed Sheets (new or used, flat or fitted) |
|---|--|

At the meeting, we will hear from Bro. Mike Arnold, the head of the Mission, and will also be presenting him with a financial contribution in further support of their charitable work.

Your support will allow The Midnight Mission to provide a path to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction.

All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the tax code. Midnight Mission staff can supply a receipt upon request (Federal Tax ID 95-1691293).

Drop donations off at any lodge meeting!

THINK ABOUT IT

RON KORETZ, P.M.

We recently celebrated Labor Day but, in California, it was highlighted largely by labor dispute. In fact, in an Associated Press article by Adam Beam, it was called a “summer of discontent”. We had the long-lasting strikes by the screen writers, actors, and hotel workers as well as a threatened one by nurses at Kaiser and a one-day walk-out by city workers. Now the State Legislature has entered the fray as it is considering a bill submitted by State Senator Anthony Portantino to make strikers eligible for unemployment compensation.

My understanding of how the unemployment program was supposed to function was that it provided a partial financial supplement for up to 26 weeks to people who, through no fault of their own, lost their jobs. This clearly was the case during past recessions and the recent COVID epidemic, when many businesses closed. I am less sure that I understand how people who go on strike are viewed by Sacramento politicians as having lost their jobs through no fault of their own. These people on strike voted for the strike; in other words, they chose to lose their jobs.

Labor unions have asserted that workers earn unemployment benefits while they are on the job. However, the unemployment funding is provided by employers only; unlike social security, the workers do not have any money taken out of their paychecks. In the past, the unions have set aside funds for such eventualities as part of the dues that the members pay. However, that responsibility does not seem to be borne by the unions any longer.

Further complicating the situation is the fact that the amount of money provided by employers is no longer sufficient to support the unemployment expenses we are currently

encountering. The federal government actually loans the states the money to pay unemployment benefits and the states are expected to pay that money back. Mr. Beam reported that California currently owes the federal government over 18 billion dollars (largely from money loaned during the COVID pandemic) and that it will take a decade to pay off that debt and the accumulated interest. In the meantime, it was estimated that current benefit payments will exceed monies collected by over one billion dollars. This increasing debt has occurred in spite of three years of “record job growth”, a phenomenon that has never before been seen during a period of job growth (according to the Legislative Analysts’s Office). Adding more recipients will certainly not make that burden lighter for the state.

One solution to resolving this debt is to increase the taxes that employers pay on behalf of their workers. Currently the tax only covers the first \$7000 that any employee makes, although the state recently imposed an additional \$21 per employee. Unions and some legislators note that the average employee in California makes \$67,000 per year, so the tax should have a higher earnings cutoff. Of course, simple economics tells us that such an increase will ultimately be passed on to the consumer.

Actions have consequences, and the actors have to assume the responsibility for those outcomes. Strikes almost always have adverse effects on the general public, ranging from interferences in traffic to more limited goods and/or services. Strikes have side effects for the strikers as well, namely reductions in income. Making things easier for the latter group will not result in less discontent in future summers.

Think about it.

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

Bill Miller

Recovering from right shoulder fracture. The weather is hot in Arizona.

Wellness Calls And Funeral Notification List Please Contact Bro. Stan Sax
stan_sax53@yahoo.com

Brethren Please, a Telephone call from you could brighten their day. To get the contact information of those listed please contact the lodge Secretary or Master. If you know of a Brother or a member of a Brother's family who is ill, please contact the Lodge Office.

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.**

2024 Officers Needed - Secretary & Assistant Secretary

If you would like to serve your lodge as an officer in 2023 please contact Officer's Coach
Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262

2023 OFFICERS

Master – Jacob Gershbock

Marshal –

Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

Senior Steward – Varun Dadabhoy

Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)

Junior Steward –

Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Assistant Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)

Secretary – Kyle Ware

Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.

Chaplain –

Officers' Coach – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M

Inspector for the 626th Masonic District
Jhairo Echevarria P.M.

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Trestleboard Layout – Kyle Ware