

TRESTLE BOARD

MAY 2024



Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

I am pleased to be able to announce that we are back in the business of making Masons! We had a first degree on April 15th, initiating *Brother* Oliver Viletta as our newest Entered Apprentice Mason. In addition, we have another applicant in the wings waiting on Grand Lodge approval (Red Tape, alas, is one of the evils of the world that even Freemasonry is not immune from), and a good number of additional prospects ready or nearly ready to submit their own applications for degrees or affiliation, and even more just expressing interest in joining or meeting us for the first time. In short, we are poised for actual growth.

That said, this growth is unlikely to be reflected in this year's membership report, because among other items, one of my goals this year has been to clean up our register and ensure that our rolls are accurate. Grand Lodge is currently helping us clear our Sweethearts list, which had grown to almost 500 entries, the vast majority of which we no longer had valid contact information for, and many of whom we strongly suspected to have passed on. Likewise, we have a number of brethren on our roster who I am sorry to say I personally suspect have long since been called from labor, but whose passing was never reported to the Lodge. Therefore, I strongly suspect that this year, clearing those names will represent a larger loss of membership (officially) than we stand to gain from new prospects, at least numerically and on paper. Nevertheless, new life and new energy is coming to the Lodge, and I am thrilled to see it.

I am also pleased to say that this year's Masters and Warden's Retreat was a *massive* success! Not only was it incredibly well done, with informative, worthwhile programs and workshops, but I was also able to get in touch with Grand Lodge's head of Communications, who had a few helpful suggestions regarding another of my planned initiatives for the year – the Social Media campaign I mentioned back in January. Grand Lodge's #ImAMason campaign is coming back again this year at the end of May, and Ionic Composite Lodge will be launching our own campaign around the same time, as it has been written and designed to take advantage of that and build on it. Worshipful Chay Wright, our Senior Deacon, has agreed to take point on managing the campaign as it launches, but we are in need of brethren willing to take part in filming the actual clips. No special experience is necessary! If you are interested in helping out, please contact me, Worshipful Chay, or our Secretary, and we will be in touch with information on how you can help and get involved in the pre-launch efforts.

For everyone else, I will ask if you have Social Media of any kind – Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc., please like, tag, retweet, or otherwise share and help out our posts once they go live later in May. Also, don't forget to post in the #ImAMason campaign. Masonry both in California and around the world have seen *massive* results from that campaign, which started a couple years ago here in California and have since spread around the world to Grand Lodges near and far. If you are proud to be a Mason, all you need to do is take a quick clip of yourself saying just that! Better still, if you can tell people *why* you are proud to be a Mason, even better! Just be sure to use the right tags. Links will be uploaded to our Website (www.ioniccomposite.com) when the campaign launches.

Finally, I want to remind everyone to sign up for our upcoming Festive Board. It's a multi-course meal with many formal toasts, an open bar (with booze donated by yours truly in

accordance with CMC rules), and lots of fun and fellowship. We will be honoring the Honored Lady Cindi Tabrisky, the Grand Royal Matron of one of our Women's Organizations, the Order of the Amaranth, and her husband Joe. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

Jacob Gershbock, PM

MAY CALENDAR

May 6th: Stated Meeting 7:15 pm

Chopped Salad w/Cilantro Lime Dressing
Chicken Tamale Pie
Rice and Beans
Flan

Please make \$15 dinner reservations with Secretary Michael Bear at Michael.Bear@mac.com by Friday May 3.

May 13th: Practice 1st Degree 7:15 pm

May 20th: Annual Festive Board 6:00 pm

Guests of Honor include Lady Cindi Tabrisky, Grand Royal Matron of the California Order of the Amaranth, and her husband, Worshipful Joe Tabrisky – **6-course meal**, alcohol included*.
Cost for this event is \$60.00

*Open to all Masons and Non-Masons at least 21 years of age.

Please make reservations with Secretary Michael Bear at ioniccomposite@gmail.com by Friday May 17.

May 27th: Lodge Dark. – In observance of Memorial Day. Looking for volunteers at the West LA Veterin's Memorial Day Service.
Please contact Michael Bear at (310) 962-4346 if interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our lodge has the volunteer opportunity to **serve dinner at the Midnight Mission** on Sunday, June 30th from 3-6pm. If you are interested or need details, please contact event chairman Steve Resnick PM at steveresnickgroup@gmail.com.

Save the date for Sunday, July 21st at 1pm for the: 54th Annual Reception of the Grand Master MW G. Sean Metroka at a family lunch catered by the First Mom of Ionic Composite. Bring friends, family, kids, and prospects. Kids under 18 will eat free. Representatives from DeMolay and Job's Daughters will also attend

FUTURE STATED MEETING MENUS

June 3rd

Green Goddess Salad
Herb Crusted Flank Steak
Honey Roasted Carrots
Chocolate Blondie Brownies

July 1st

Chopped Green Salad
Salisbury Steak
Twice Baked Potato
Peach Cobbler

**Masons4Mitts
Masons Night at Dodger Stadium**

Dodgers vs San Diego Padres

Thursday, September 26, 2024

I am currently in the process of identifying seat location options and price. For information when details are available contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or brnhrd18@yahoo.com.



Batter Up!

**Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt
For the 2024 Masons4Mitts Fundraiser
supporting the LA Dodgers Dream Team
Program**

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers Dream Team program. This program is more than just baseball and softball. Kids and parents attend programs about leadership, teamwork, health, safety, finances, and good citizenship.

Support your lodge's participation in this great program.

Go to www.masons4mitts.org

Click LA Dodger Logo

Click Media Central Titans

Click Give a Mitt

Click Donate

Contact Bernie Morse at (310) 556-4463
if you have any questions.

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 and can be printed or downloaded in an 8 ½ x 11 format which can be printed or downloaded to a phone.

There are 2 ways to get you dues card:

1. Login to www.member.freemason.org, select Imposite Lodge bar, then select Virtual Card.
2. Send an email to our lodge Secretary Mike Bear PM (michael.bear@mac.com) requesting that it be mailed to you.

If you need help registering for iMember contact the Secretary.

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M. THINK ABOUT IT

The situation in college athletics continues to evolve. In 2014, a court decision in O’Bannon versus National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) declared that, while colleges were profiting from the use of athletes’ names and likenesses in such things as video games, athletes were not being compensated and that this was a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. In January 2021 the Supreme Court, in the case of NCAA versus Alston, ruled that the NCAA could not limit education-related compensation for students. At this point, the NCAA changed its policy and allowed student athletes to receive compensation for the use of their name, image, or likeness.

In 2018, the NCAA introduced its “Transfer Protocol” that allowed student athletes to transfer from one member institution to another. The process required the athlete to put his or her name in an online database and declare a desire to transfer. At that time, coaches from other schools could then contact the athlete, invite him or her to visit the campus, and even offer a scholarship. Originally the rules required the athlete to sit out a year after the transfer, but in 2021, transfers in Division 1 football, basketball (men and women), ice hockey and baseball had the first such transfer excluded from that restriction.

In March 2024, the members of the Dartmouth basketball team voted to form a union. Two players noted that it was time for amateurism to end and expressed plans to form such unions at other schools. Dartmouth officials stated a belief that athletes were not employees and that an athletic pursuit is simply part of the academic process. The vote is now under review by the National Labor Relations Board.

At the present time, NCAA rules still prevent colleges from directly paying athletes, although they can offer them scholarships. However, according to much commentary, if the Dartmouth players prevail, the issue then becomes athletes being treated like employees. As such, the NCAA will have to make some changes in their rules about direct payments from colleges to athletes. There has been much internet discussion about how colleges will pay, with a common fear that most of the current sports programs, which operate at a loss and are really more designed to be outlets for students than training grounds for athletes and sources of bragging rights for alumni, will simply be discontinued.

My fear relates to those sports which remain. Given this current evolution, I can see a time in the not-so-distant future when college football, basketball, or hockey (and perhaps even baseball) will simply become the new minor leagues of the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League. For their part, players will negotiate terms with individual colleges and even become free agents as time progresses. They will have even less incentive to go to classes.

Think about it...

CASTING CALL

Wannabe Actors, Thespians And Those Who Want Great Ritual

You can help enhance the Masonic degrees for our candidates by taking part in the ceremonies. We want to put together ritual teams in all three degrees that will create memorable experiences. Note that Entered Apprentices can take part in the 1st degree, Fellowcrafts in the 1st and 2nd degrees, and Master Masons in all three.

We are also looking for Master Masons who want to be officers. We have openings for 2024. We want and need your involvement. If interested, please contact:

Bernie Morse, PM
Officer's Coach
(310)556-4463

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

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.

Happily, none to report!

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.

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| 2024 OFFICERS | Master – Jacob Gershbock | Marshal – * |
| | Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha) | Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna) |
| | Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah) | Junior Steward – * |
| | Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M | Inspector for the 626th Masonic District Gevork Asatryan P.M. |
| | Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria) | Trestleboard Layout – Michael Mosbach |
| | Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn) | Assistant Secretary – Michael Mosbach |
| | Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie) | Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M. |
| | Assistant Secretary - Michael Mosbach | |