

# TRESTLE BOARD

November 2025

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

At this year's Grand Lodge Annual Communication, the members of the GL Executive Committee revealed their new strategic plan: the Keystone Initiative. While more specific information will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead, the three main parts of the plan center around the areas of inspiring and encouraging Lodge Leadership, enhancing member experiences, and better community visibility and awareness. Grand Lodge has undertaken a massive push to help Lodges both with new training and teaching tools, new accounting software, and streamlined communication tools and scheduling programs for Lodge officers, as well as larger scale assistance, such as the creation of a captive, in-house insurance agency specific for Lodge Halls, so that all Lodges can be fully insured without risk of for-profit insurers pulling out of the state entirely or making premiums unaffordable.

Additionally, a crucial piece of legislation passed that will – hopefully – have a major impact on the way Lodges in general and our Lodge in particular operate behind the scenes. Specifically, Grand Master Salazar's Recommendation number 4 modifies the Secretary's duties in the CMC to allow that many of the kinds of things that were previously required to be kept by the Lodge in hard form in perpetuity instead be kept in digital form and uploaded to the Grand Lodge's vault (which in turn is backed up daily to the cloud). This is critical in that it not only applies to future items, but also to *historical* documents that, until now, Lodges were required to keep in hard storage – *forever*. Our Lodge is currently paying a truly obscene amount of money monthly to maintain two storage units, which in addition to holding some of our old Lodge building's (better) furniture and excess dinnerware also holds entire drawers, file boxes, and shelves of old documents, minutes books, trestleboards, mail return stubs, and receipts from the various Lodges that ultimately consolidated and merged into our present Ionic Composite no. 520. It will now be possible to get someone to digitize these documents, upload them to the Lodges Vault via iMember, and then discard the physical copies.

While I am not 100% sure of this, a quick look at the two storage units, a check of the contents, and an off-the-cuff evaluation of the geometry involved (and yes, I do mean geometry... think "Tetris") indicates that if we indeed take full advantage of this, not only will we be more organized in the future, but we should be able to consolidate to a single storage unit within a year (assuming we are expeditious in getting things organized and digitized).

To me, changes like this give me hope. They prove that even with an organization as inherently resistant to institutional change as Masonry, we can nevertheless enact meaningful and useful changes for bringing ourselves into the new age without sacrificing our history. Note, for example, that only those required documents that have been digitized and preserved for posterity in the cloud may have its physical original discarded. This legislation also does not require any Lodge to discard anything but simply gives Lodges and Secretaries in particular new options for easier, more efficient, and more streamlined performance of their duties. By making the most tedious and complicated parts of the job easier and less time-consuming, it should in the future be easier to attract more people to learn to carry out these important duties (or at least help out!).

Brethren, Masonry isn't the same as it used to be. But the more it seems to change in the mechanics, the more the enduring, unchanged, and unchanging principles of our Craft shine through. When minutes can be distributed electronically, Secretaries can store and organize things digitally, and integrated systems help handle incoming and outgoing funds in accordance with the CMC in a way that insures that even those who are not professionals in the fields of administration and finance can do the jobs, it allows us all to focus more on what is really important – the Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth that serve as the foundations of our Fraternity. When the superfluities of administrivia are chiseled away, our Ashlars are that much smoother, and our time that much freer to engage in Masonic education and fellowship.

The fact that, for the first time in 60 years, Masonry in California showed a net positive growth in membership in 2025 demonstrates that Masonry is just as – if not more – important today than it ever has been. We remind the world that there is indeed a better way to get along together. One that does not require the immediate termination of friendship just because of political or social disagreements or even arguments. One that knows how to honor its past, take the best elements of its tradition forward, and still allow for new modes of operation and updates to its operations, even while ensuring that its core mission and values remain unchanging. One that values veracity over volume, truth over trends, mutual aid over monetary gain, and partnership over partisanship. One that can both inspire and instruct, both ground and guide, both tolerate and teach. Peace and Harmony are the slogans of our new Grand Master, and I am constantly reminded by our Fraternity that these two concepts are often misunderstood. When people think of Peace and Harmony, they often think of calm unity, but nothing is further from the true core of these principles. Peace is in fact the thing most worth fighting for and indeed is only possible when its opposite is also possible. That is to say, there can be no peace without the possibility of conflict. Note, I said the *possibility*, not the *presence*. Likewise, there can be no harmony in unity. When all players hit the same note, there is no harmonic interaction because there is no variance. It takes different notes to make up a chord, and only when there are several different notes can there be harmony. So too with people – only when there are differences between people can they live harmoniously, reaping the benefits of the best of each to the betterment of all.

Join us this month for Elections at our Stated Meeting, and be sure to bring clothes for the Midnight Mission's clothing drive and drop them off at the Lodge. They will be delivered to the Midnight Mission from there by several of our brethren. See the insert for full details.

Fraternally,  
Jacob Gershbock, PM  
Master

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## November Calendar

### **Monday, November 3rd, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee**

### **7:15 pm: Stated Meeting and Annual Election of Officers**

Join us for our monthly business meeting and dinner and vote on next year's  
Elected officer positions.

### **PLEASE BRING CLOTHING FOR THE MIDNIGHT MISSION**

### **CLOTHING DRIVE TO LODGE!!** *(see insert)*

Menu: Traditional Turkey Dinner with all the fixings!

RSVP by clicking the link below:

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

### **Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Practice**

All officers are required to attend. FC's and Master Masons welcome! Come  
and refresh your ritual!

### **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Conferral for brother Isaac Cruz**

Join us as brother Cruz is passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft! All FC's and  
Master Masons are welcome to attend! Light refreshments to follow.

### **Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>: Hold for Social/Fraternal night (location TBD)**

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## December Calendar

### **Monday, December 1st, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee**

### **7:15 pm: Stated Meeting**

Join us for Worshipful Gershbock's Last Stated Meeting as Master and help us  
wrap up this year in style!

Menu: TBD (stay tuned!)

### **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm: Annual Installation of Officers**

You are all cordially invited to Ionic Composite Lodge's Annual Installation  
of Officers.

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Program begins *promptly* at 6:00 pm.

Dinner to follow (free to all).

Attire: Tuxedos for Officers, Suit and Tie or equivalent for all others.

This ceremony is open to all – Masons and non-Masons. Please bring family,  
friends, and other guests. All are welcome!

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



**November 16, 2025**

**START COLLECTING NOW** for our NOVEMBER 16, 2025, 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 (LAMSMB) do their very best to fill a Midnight Mission truck with new and slightly used clothing, shoes and other personal items.

Did you know that the Midnight Mission was founded by a Freemason, Brother Tom Liddecoat, in 1914, and Freemasons continue to be involved with its leadership and support. The Midnight Mission, which provides aid to the homeless and those in need, is an example of Masonic relief in action.

Start collecting new and slightly used clothing now for our annual clothing donation to the Midnight Mission that will take place at our **November 16, 2025** 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"> <li>• Bath Towels &amp; Wash Cloths</li> <li>• Deodorant (men &amp; women)</li> <li>• Diapers (all sizes for men, women &amp; children)</li> <li>• Disposable Razors (men &amp; women)</li> <li>• Face Wipes</li> <li>• Feminine Soap &amp; Spray</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hygiene Kits (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, etc.)</li> <li>• Socks &amp; Underwear/Bras (NEW – men &amp; women's)</li> <li>• Shaving Cream</li> <li>• Soap</li> <li>• Toilet Paper</li> <li>• Twin Size Bed Sheets (new or used, flat or fitted)</li> </ul>
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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).

**YOU CAN DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE LODGE AT THE NOVEMBER STATED MEETING.**

**IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520**

**2026 GROUP THEATER EVENT**

**We have a block of 16 orchestra seats for**

**Hell's Kitchen**

**Sunday, June 7, 2026**

**6:30 PM**

**\$86/person**

**at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood**

Hell's Kitchen is a jukebox musical built around the music and lyrics of Alicia Keys with a semi-autobiographical plot about her upbringing in Manhattan in the 1990's.

**For information and reservations please contact Bernie Morse, PM at  
(310) 704-2262 or email [brnhrd18@yahoo.com](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com).**

# Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

## Think About It

While there are “teams” in the Olympic Games, namely the various countries of the world, the individual events usually focus on a single person. Thus, and unlike most of the sports that we watch on television, the person chosen to be interviewed after the event is the one who won. Probably one of the most common questions posed to that person is “Was it worth all of the effort you went through?” The athlete being interviewed almost invariably responds “Yes”. There is no doubt that Olympic medal winners spend years of their lives training on a daily basis for an event that only occurs once every four years, so they all expend a great deal of effort. Of course, this is also true for the other participants, the ones who did not win the gold, silver, or bronze. What has always been a curiosity to me is what those who failed to medal would answer if they were asked if it was worth the effort.

In this light, consider the story of Tommy Allen Patton. He was born on September 5, 1935 in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania and played baseball while he was growing up. He was good enough that he was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1953 as a catcher. He played for various minor league teams in the Cardinals’ organization, as well as in winter baseball, for the next three years. In the winter of 1956 his contract was purchased by the Baltimore Orioles and he began the 1957 season on the Vancouver Mounties team in the Pacific Coast League. Shortly after that season began, the starting catcher for Baltimore, Gus Triandos, was injured and Patton was called up on April 22nd to be the new backup. Then, when the other Oriole catcher, Joe Ginsberg, was injured by a foul ball early in a game with the Chicago White Sox on April 30th, Patton made his first major league appearance. In the six innings that he played, he batted twice, getting to first base once on an error. He caught a foul pop-up by future Hall of Famer Luis Aparicio and threw out another one, Larry Doby, who was trying to steal second base. Ginsberg resumed the catching duties the next day and Triandos returned to action the next weekend. Tom Patton visited every American League park except Washington during his days with the Orioles, but he never appeared in another major league game and ultimately returned to the minors. He was released in 1961 after having played in 670 minor league games, batting .261 and hitting 33 home runs. He returned to Pennsylvania, married, had two sons, and worked for Pepperidge Farms mixing dough for cookies and crackers for 35 years. He rarely went to baseball games but he did watch them on television. His advice to younger players was “Always hustle every time you put on a uniform”. He died on September 8, 2025 at the age of 90.

I could not find any record of anybody asking him if the years of playing baseball were worth the six innings that he played for Baltimore in the “show” (major leagues). I do know that we all, at one time or another, expend great efforts to achieve some dream, often still failing in the process. From that perspective, do you think that Tom Patton’s efforts were worth it?

Think about it.

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# 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.

## November Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
Louis	Dalesandro	3
Laurence	Friedman	3
Lester	Riskin	5
Gene	Pira	8
JohnRobert	Wilson	9
Michael	Pecina	21
Steven	Bailin	22
Oliver	Viletta	22
Bernard	Talmas	24
Mauricio	Leon	25
John	Rasor	26
Zachary	Lodmer	30

<b>2025 OFFICERS</b>	Master – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.	Marshal – Aaron Gozales
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
	Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Junior Steward – Michael Mosbach
	Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M. (Virian)	Inspector for the 626th Masonic District Gevork Asatryan P.M.
	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)	Trestleboard Layout – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.
	Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Musician –
	Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - *	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)