

TRESTLE BOARD

January 2026

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

As we begin a new Masonic year, I want to first thank Wor. Jacob Gershbock, PM and his wonderful mother, Faith, for an excellent job and great diligence in all of their hard work in the life of our Lodge, through four consecutive terms. Secondly, I want to thank all of you Brothers of Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 for entrusting me to offer continued leadership for our Lodge. I also want to thank all of the Lodge Past Masters, officers and spouses/partners for accepting being elected and appointed to serve in the coming year. I truly appreciate your enthusiasm and participation!

We commence this new year continuing in the theme and spirit Wor. Jacob initiated, in 2025: *Masons are builders* — which was also adopted by our Grand Lodge. Our Lodge is now over 100 years old and as established as we are, we find ourselves at a new stage of growth and building. In commemoration of this very premise, I am issuing each Brother of Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 a lapel pin of a lone honey bee.

As you have already been informed, the bee hive is an emblem that teaches us to forever be productive, while creating a society where we take care of each other and our fellow man. It is in this spirit that we thrive into a new chapter of our history. Sometimes as Freemasons, we can get rather caught-up in the obviously recognizable symbols of Masonry — losing sight of some very special symbols pointing to ideas that distinguish us in society, rather than simply identifying us. So, as you observe (quite intentionally) there is no square, compass or G attached to the bee, I ask that you remember the biggest insignia of Masonry is the positive impressions and impact we make in our communities and greater society — not in the symbols which publicly identify us.

On a personal note: my fondness of Ionic Composite 520 extends long before my affiliation, in the Summer of 2022. When I first joined Freemasonry in my home Lodge, I was encouraged by the (then) Master of that Lodge to attend OSI meetings, relative to my degree level. And, as I was also encouraged to participate in the instruction sessions, the Ionic Composite Brothers were extremely supportive and helpful. As years went by, that support never wavered and when I became Master of my home Lodge, Ionic Composite 520 went above and beyond to aide me and the Lodge however was reasonably asked. In my ten years observing Ionic Composite 520, I have always admired two very outstanding traits of our Lodge: 1) you Brothers' Masonic integrity is evident in the work you do and how you carry yourselves in the world; and 2) as a Lodge, I have always observed you operating in unity, while maintaining an amazingly rich history in Southern California Masonry, at the end of the day.

With this said, I am elated to be part of such a strong and well-represented Brotherhood and I am excited to continue serving with you all, in this capacity. Again, I humbly thank you!

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

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)

January Calendar

Monday, January 5th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee **7:15 Dinner**

Menu: Salad, Rib roast, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetable, apple pie

RSVP via the link below:

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

8:00 pm: Stated Meeting (Golden Veteran and Annual budget presentations)

Join us for Worshipful Wright's First Stated Meeting as Master and help us begin this year in style by celebrating 50-year Pin Award to Bro. Henry Koffman!

Ladies' stated meeting activity*: Let's get social: Navigating Social Media with Purpose, Confidence & Community

Monday, January 12th, 7:15 pm: Second Degree Practice

Monday, January 19th, 7:15 pm: MLK Observation Hang and Discussion

Monday, January 26th, 7:15 pm: Second degree

Candidate – Bro. Isaac Cruz

Join us in celebrating Bro. Cruz's progress in Masonry

(Note: Date for the January OSI TBD)

* An often-cited model of the family life of a Mason is a man (the Mason) trundling off to his weekly stated meeting leaving his wife at home to take care of herself. In an effort to break down this mold, Ionic Composite #520 is now inviting the wives to come to lodge on the evening of our stated meetings, to enjoy the dinners we serve, and then to participate in a separate session designed just for them while the men do their business in the stated meeting. Each month will feature a different topic that should be of interest to women. For example, our first presentation, scheduled for January, will be a discussion about social media entitled "Let's get social: Navigating Social Media with Purpose, Confidence & Community"

Upcoming events

February 2nd – Stated meeting (Semiannual Reports)

February 9th – Sweethearts' Night

March 9th – Stated meeting

March 15th – Midnight Mission Dinner Service

June 7th – Theater event: Hell's Kitchen

Sweethearts' Night

A celebration of the appreciation we have for the sacrifices of time and for the unacknowledged work that the partners of Masons have provided over the years

Ionic Composite Lodge #520 will recognize and thank the ladies who have not only willingly allowed their significant others to spend time at lodge, but have often participated in lodge activities themselves. We will salute them with a dinner and program in their honor on February 9, 2026, at the lodge. The entertainer will be Clarence Ulrich, who has brought his musical talents to us before. Clarence was a member of the world famous singing group, The Drifters, for a quarter of a century.

All of our sweethearts (as well as caretakers, should that be the case) are cordially invited to be our guests (in other words, no charge) for dinner and entertainment at our current lodge, located at 2244 Westwood Blvd in Los Angeles. We will have a greeting reception at 7:00 PM followed by dinner (salad, chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, asparagus, dessert [chocolate item and fruit]) at 7:30 with the show to follow.

Parking is available on Westwood Blvd in front of the lodge or across the street. We only ask that a reservation be made; this can be accomplished by calling the lodge (424-273-1054). If a ride is needed, please let us know at the same phone number and we will arrange for one of our members to pick you up and take you home.

Midnight Mission Dinner Service

The Midnight Mission (TMM) has served the unhoused population on Skid Row for over 100 years. It provides food, clothing, sleeping facilities, and other necessities of life to hundreds of people on a daily basis. It also houses recovery programs as well as seeking permanent housing for those living on the Row. It relies largely on donations from the public as it only accepts limited government support.

On Sunday, March 15th, Ionic-Composite Lodge #520 has obtained the opportunity to assist TMM's program by providing dinner to those who seek this service. While TMM staff will prepare the food, it will be our pleasure and privilege to dispense it to each individual who comes through the line. The lodge has done this service in the past and our members and their families invariably come away from this experience with feelings of accomplishment and gratitude for being able to help those who are less fortunate.

Prior to the day we serve, you will need to go to the TMM website (<https://www.midnightmission.org>), place your cursor over the "Give Hope" heading at the top center of the page, scroll down to "Volunteer", then click on the "Sign up today link". You can then create an account or log in if you have one already. Ionic Composite already has a team signed up for dinner on March 15th, and you can add your name to the list if you are not already on it. If you do plan to serve, please call the lodge (454-273-1054) to get on the list; in doing so, you may be able to skip the above sign-in process.

We will meet at the Midnight Mission (601 San Pedro Street, Los Angeles 90014) at 3:00 PM. Please report to the main entrance (which is on 6th Street) in order to undergo COVID testing (a requirement for admission to the facility). You will then be directed to the kitchen and dining hall, where you will be instructed as to what you will be doing. You will be given gloves and hair nets to wear while serving. The attire for the serving is casual, namely pants, sleeved shirt, and closed toe shoes.

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.

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

A few days ago, I came across the title of a story on the internet that aroused my curiosity. It was “A \$100,000 robot dog is becoming standard in policing – and raising ethical alarms”. The subtitle was “More than 60 bomb squads and SWAT teams in the US and Canada are now using Spot”. It was from the Bloomberg News and written by Samantha Kelly. I could not understand why a robot dog would become an ethical issue. This led me to download the article and read it.

Spot was described as a “four-legged robot from Boston Dynamics, Inc.” It has the ability to climb stairs and open doors. It is used to intercede in situations that might be dangerous for human law enforcement officials such as confrontations with armed individuals, exposures to hazardous materials, or rescuing hostages. Its four legs provides better mobility and agility than robots that operate on wheels or tracks. According to the manufacturer, 2000 Spot units are now in use in the world; as they cost upwards of \$100,000 each, this has been a multi-hundred million dollar business.

Apparently some civil liberty groups and technology experts are concerned because law enforcement is becoming too “militarized”. In fact, for a period of time, New York City stopped using Spot due to complaints about cost and the use of Spot in surveillance. One critic worried that such robot dogs could put a “friendly spin” on police technology and objected to calling it a dog. Another critic, coming from a different perspective, worried that robotics “dehumanize” police.

At the same time, another story in the news was the mourning over the death of K-9 Spike, a real dog that was killed during a pursuit of a criminal suspect. While I understood the sympathy that was expressed by the citizens of Burbank and elsewhere, the story about this dog’s funeral seemed to exceed what we usually see when a human first responder loses his or her life.

Robot dogs are not living animals; they are machines. The people who are objecting so vigorously to them because of their potential use in recording the day-to-day activity of the general population could probably better spend their time focusing on drones or the internet, even though those entities do not look like animals.

Think about it.

January Birthdays

First name	Last name	Birthdate
William	Weiss	5
S Zachary	Samuels	7
Ronald	Koretz	11
Andre	Richardson	12
Kerin	Surents	13
Steven	Kierman	14
Edwin	Siegel	16
Vrej	Eskandarian	17
Nazareth	Guluzian	20
Aaron	Gonzales	22
Stuart	Horwitz	27
Bradley	Zalben	29
Michael	Mosbach	31
Kyle	Ware	31

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally.

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.

Masonic doings



Worshipful Michael Bear happened to be receiving treatment at the UCLA Infusion Center at the same time that Dave Roberts, the manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers and a cancer survivor, paid a visit. The two had a brief conversation about the Masonic support we provide to the Dodgers Foundation through the Masons 4 Mitts program.

**Brothers departing to that undiscovered country
from whose bourn no traveler returns**

Lloyd Robinson