

*The High Desert Masonic
Trestleboard*

July 2019

A COMMUNICATION BY AND FOR



OASIS OF MARA LODGE # 735

YUCCA VALLEY LODGE # 802

TOGETHER WITH THE APPENDANT AND CONCORDANT BODIES
IN THE HIGH DESERT COMMUNITIES OF
TWENTYNINE PALMS AND YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Freemasonry

THE DIFFERENCE IS...YOU

Messages from Oasis of Mara #735



Masters Message for July

My Brethren,

Welcome to July. It is the month of celebration. This is the month that the United States declared her independence from England. As you take this time to celebrate and eat good food, remember a fallen brother, or family and lend a hand where needed.

Our lodge is traditionally dark in July and August. However, we are the host lodge for OSI, which goes on the 15th of this month. It will be on the first section of the 2nd degree. The menu will be Salad and Spaghetti. Social will start at 6pm with business at 7. It is our lodge, and our officers are expected to be in place.

Congratulations is in order for Brother Mark Federspiel. He was initiated last month and is well on his way to becoming a faithful Master Mason among us.

If you haven't noticed, the lodge is coming along beautifully. I would like to say a special thanks to Worshipful Clint Marshall for all the hard work he is putting in. If there is any brother who has free time in the mornings feel free to stop by and give him a hand.

Lastly, my brothers, we are at the half way point of this Masonic year. It is time to start preparing for next year. Corey has a great line of officers, and as required, they need to be tested for proficiency. Let's assist as much as possible to ensure we are successful next year. The lodge is only as functional as its members. Let's get back to being functional and build our attendance and outreach.

Have a great Independence Day Celebration and look forward to seeing you on the 15th.

Fraternally,
Thomas Johnson, PM

Senior Wardens Message for July



Good day Brothers,

I am writing this article on June 24 which is St John the Baptist day. For our young Masons he is one of our patrons of masonry and he represents the summer

solstice. I had the pleasure of witnessing an all Past Masters 3rd Degree in Coachella on June 20th, and it was outstanding.

By the time you read this our lodge will have initiated Brother Mark Federspiel into our craft. He will be a great addition to our lodge and we have no doubt that he will enjoy his lifelong journey as a Mason. We will be dark for the month of July and August so no Stated Meeting Dinners or Breakfast during this time, however our Stated Meeting and OSI's are still going. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and have a safe 4th of July.

Fraternally

Cory Adrian



Messages from Yucca Valley Lodge #802



Masters Message for July

Brothers, Friends,

Summer at Yucca Valley Lodge is heating up with some fun and fellowship. Tuesday night has become not only proficiency in Masonry, but also in music as our member show up with their guitars and participate in group jam sessions. Our lodge has some very talented members and friends. We would like to have some more extracurricular activities supported by this such as Karaoke Night at Kokopelli's Cantina, and maybe a music

under the stars night. We love the vibration that the lodge is currently enjoying and the membership that it is attracting.

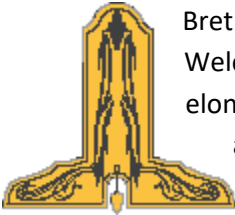
We are advancing chairs this month to prepare for next year's officer line. Come support these fine new officers as they perfect their next step in the line.

We do have new applications to ballot on and we'll be holding a 2nd degree or (two???) in the coming months. If you have not yet downloaded the lodge app please get with Brother Raymond Cano. It is helping us all touch base more regularly and updating us all on the happenings at the lodge.

Look forward to seeing you all at Lodge. Have fun this summer and stay safe out there.

Fraternally and in brotherly love,
WM Darin Sanden

Senior Wardens Message for July



Brethren,

Welcome to Summer! We had a little breather with an elongated Spring, but now we're full into the season we are best known for in the desert... hot!

July also brings with it Independence Day vacations, family plans, getaways, and other distractions. The hot weather brings safety to mind as well, as fireworks, travel, heat stroke, and over-indulgences of all sorts can lead to bodily harm. Be aware of your limitations, brothers. We are a small lodge and every member is valuable. We have lost too many in the past couple years to have us think that we are invulnerable. Many of us would like to believe that we are still in our prime, and some are, but over confidence can be deadly!

On the plus side, our lodge proudly performed another degree entirely from memory and we should be justifiably proud of that. We also

provided some key positions to the Past Master's Third Degree down in Coachella. As officer's coach, I can say that I am pretty pleased with how we, as a group, are doing in ritual work, and the worshipful inspector is well aware of the high level of competency we share. There shouldn't be much activity in July, aside from the Stated Meetings, but don't get rusty! Our Worshipful Master intends to accelerate a few of the positions to prepare brothers for their new assignments next year. Work on your ritual memorization for next year's positions, but stay proficient in your current chair as well.

We are midway through the Masonic Year already and we have probably two more first degrees to do in August/September timeframe. If you have not been around on Tuesdays or Thursdays and met our two newest prospects, Mike and James, please do so. They will be at the stated dinner on July 11, and breakfast on July 13th. Come meet the men you will be balloting on in the coming months.

Happy Independence Day, brothers. Keep liberty uppermost in your minds!

Fraternally,
TC Dowden, PM, Senior Warden

Lodge Website & Social Media

Our website <http://lodge802.freemason.org/>



Facebook page

<https://m.facebook.com/YuccaValleyMasonicLodgeNo802/>



The Lodge App:

https://www.grouphahead.com/app/ent_cafmgl_yucca_802/a9225fe9-a726-49f6-ab49-53cd57e49717



On the Menu for July Dinner

Our Fraternal Ties



LODGE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ONLINE, AND FREE! Help build a stronger lodge and hall. Learn the basics of managing your lodge and hall association. Visit the Grand Lodge website for details.

Time: 6pm - 10pm



Change a Child's Life –
One Mitt at a Time
Discounted Masons
Night tickets are now
available!

Night at the Ballpark

San Francisco: Oracle Park, August 26

Anaheim: Angels Stadium, August 28

Los Angeles: Dodger Stadium, September 17

San Diego: Petco Park, September 25

Cornerstone Ceremony in Covina

The Masonic Homes is building a new home on the Covina campus for its residents who need skilled nursing and memory care. On July 13, join Grand Master Wright and his Grand Lodge officers as they consecrate the cornerstone of the new



building. All are invited to witness this time-tested ceremony of our new facilities in Covina.

Bringing Masons Back Into the Fold

Membership in the Masonic fraternity is a lifelong commitment, but as we all know, over the course of a man's life priorities change and issues arise that demand their time and attention—and make attendance at lodge meetings difficult. The fact is that most absentee Masons aren't kept away by a lack of interest, but rather by everyday obstacles and busy schedules.

That doesn't mean we should simply lose touch with those members, however. With a little planning and forethought, officers can keep absentees from straying too far away, as Doug Ismail, the Worshipful Master of California Lodge No. 1 explains—and remind them of what attracted them to the fraternity in the first place.

Planning for Success

One of the most important methods of keeping in touch with members who've missed lodge meetings is through an annual Roll Call dinner, Ismail says. As the name suggests, Roll Call is a chance to bring as much of the lodge membership together as possible at once. The event began as a way to bring Master Masons back to lodge for a stag night, and has since become an annual lodge tradition.

The agenda for these evenings is straightforward, Ismail says. After a nice dinner, the Master of the lodge begins roll call, starting with the newest Master Mason and continuing to the most senior. Following roll call, a presentation is given honoring those brethren the lodge had lost over the previous year. "It's really a chance to bring guys back into lodge and reintroduce them to what is really an anchor of the fraternity: the concept that we make and keep life-long friendships," Ismail says. Each year, Roll Call attracts a majority of those members who live within driving distance of the event; for Lodge No. 1, that means between 90 and 110 members.

The effect is twofold, Ismail explains: For one thing, the event is a reminder of the importance of fraternal friendship—and typically one of the biggest reasons members joined up in the first place. That tends to spur some Masons who've been scarce to start coming back to lodge more frequently. The other important aspect of an annual roll call is that it's a way to keep in touch with older members, some of whom simply have a hard time coming to events. "Roll Call is a way for them to come back to lodge without having to worry about remembering the signs or modes of recognition—it's basically a light-touch reentry into the Fraternity," Ismail says. Even for those who are unable to attend, many brothers send written apologies along with an update on their own lives. These letters from absentee members are read during roll call.

The night ends with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and one final toast. Then, breaking off into casual conversations over coffee, the membership eventually disperses until they meet again—for some, at the next stated meeting, for others, perhaps until the next Roll Call. All



members, however, walk away refreshed and once more mindful of why they originally joined the fraternity

IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

by David R. Ritchie

It was a scene we have all seen many times. A Masonic dining room filled with Masons doing what we do best, drinking coffee, eating a sweet rich dessert (one that most of our doctors would not approve of) and talking. A young man sat in the middle, grinning. It had been a big night for him. At that moment he was Wisconsin's newest Mason. As is the custom he was being grilled on who he was, where he was from,

what did he do for a living, what his future plans are, etc.... In that brief moment when all the questions had been asked, this young man, this brand new EA did something amazing. He sought light and began asking questions about Masonry. Little did he realize the danger he was in. Surrounded by grizzled veterans, Masons of many years, here was a fresh set of ears who had not heard all the stories a hundred times or more.

And stories he heard. Men told him about their EA degrees, Masonic symbols, stories about lodge personalities no longer with us, and eventually the stories about Masonic character. These stories start with, "there was a man who helped me" and progress into "we were stranded on the side of the road" and the stories continue to grow until it seems like John Wayne riding in at the head of the cavalry. One stranger helping another. A Brother reaching out to someone he did not know. Great stories. Much to this EA's credit he sat for more than an hour and listened, grinning.

As Masons we do a lot of good. Collectively we support the Shrine Hospitals, the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Centers, the Templar Eye Foundation and the list goes on. As Blue Lodge Masons we give scholarships, help place defibrillators, provide school supplies, support a first rate home where Seniors can live in comfort and dignity, provide food for pantries and the list goes on. We give a lot. As Masons we are more likely to stop and help a stranded motorist, visit the sick, lend a neighbor a hand in time of need. But is this what Masonry is all about?

We claim to take good men and make them better. Wouldn't a good man do these things anyway? So what makes us different? What makes us better men?

As much as we like to brag about the big story, that is not what makes us better men. It is the little things. At a ball game with some Brothers I watched at least three Masons, at different times, stop and pick up litter that was not theirs. They had no idea anyone was watching. They probably did it without even thinking. After all what difference would it

make to pick up a couple wrappers or a soda cup in a ballpark filled with people. I have seen my brothers hurry their steps, to catch a door for someone with their arms full. All done with a well-practiced ease that makes it almost imperceptible. I have seen the concern in a Brother's eye upon hearing that another was in sickness or distress. I have seen the happiness in the eye of older Brothers as the new guy announces he bought his first house or is going to have a child.

What makes us better men is a subtle thing. It is not the big cardboard checks we pass or the families we have helped. It is about kindness, and gentle pride, and the courage to approach a stranger, it's about a listening ear and a genuine handshake. It is about a well-practiced way of life. We do not do these things because someone was watching. We do not do the little things because of potential members or some award. We do them because it is the right thing to do.

It is as simple as that, a group of men joined together in so many ways, each striving and practicing, until it is second nature. The good man may do these things but the better man does them without thought. Until he does not even realize he is doing it. Our Brother will tell you it is nothing special or that it is too small an act to be even commented on. He will tell you it was nothing and mean it. If you ask why he did it he will simply reply, "It was simply the right thing to do."

[Excerpt from *The Wisconsin Masonic Journal*, October 2013, Grand Lodge of Wisconsin]

LODGE CALENDARS

<u>July</u>	<u>Support Our Masonic Veterans Month</u>	
Mon, July 1	6 – 7:30pm	OM735 Lodge Dinner
	7:30 – 10pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Tue, July 2	6 – 8pm	YV802 Masonic Education
	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Practice
Thu, July 4	Independence Day	
Tue, July 9	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Practice
	6 – 8pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, July 11	6 – 9:30pm	YV802 Stated Meeting
Sat, July 13	8 – 10:30am	OM735 Breakfast
	8 – 10am	YV802 Lodge Breakfast
Mon, July 15	6 – 9pm	OSI Oasis of Mara
Tue, July 16	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Practice
	6 – 8pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, July 18	6 - 8pm	YV802 Fellowship
Tue, July 23	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Practice
	6 – 8pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, July 25	6 – 8pm	YV802 Fellowship
	6 -6:30pm	YV802 Hall Association Meeting
Tue, July 30	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Practice
	6 – 8pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, Aug 1	6 – 9:30pm	YV802 Stated Meeting
Sat, Aug 3	8 – 10am	YV802 Lodge Breakfast
Mon, Aug 5	6 – 7:30pm	OM735 Lodge Dinner
	7:30 – 10pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Tue, Aug 6	6 – 8pm	YV802 Masonic Education

Watch your email and the Lodge App for updates to events and activities.



OASIS OF MARA LODGE # 735

<http://lodge735.freemason.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Oasis-of-Mara-Lodge-735-Free-and-Accepted-Masons-of-California-892358567451489>

MASTER

Thomas R Johnson PM
romeoreg@aol.com
 (760) 362-2492

SENIOR WARDEN

Cory Adrian

JUNIOR WARDEN

Phil Fultz
4anitaNphil2@twc.com
 (760) 367-9639

TREASURER

Jason Dixon

SECRETARY

Clint Marshall PM
MarshallC@verizon.net
 (760) 464-5124

CHAPLAIN

Vacant

SENIOR DEACON

Sam Jones

JUNIOR DEACON

Bob Coghill

MARSHALL

Vacant

SENIOR STEWARD

Jim Lewallen

JUNIOR STEWARD

Fred Favors

TILER

Lance Ash

Sudoku is a game of number logic, not math.

Each row, each column, and box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once.

Exercise your mind.

9		4		2	5		7	
		8	4					1
3		2				8		
	6		3	5	7		4	
		1				3		9
4					6	7		
	1		8	7		4		3

<http://3ksudoku.com>

17 334068 - Level Hard



YUCCA VALLEY LODGE # 802

<http://lodge802.freemason.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Yucca-Valley-Masonic-Lodge-802/387646035017>

MASTER

Darin Sanden PM

ddsanden@gmail.com

(760) 401-0236

SENIOR WARDEN

TC Dowden

gtmochop@gmail.com

(435) 531-3573

JUNIOR WARDEN

Lee Sims

TREASURER

Joseph DuPont PM

jdupont1@gmail.com

(760)808-3888

SECRETARY

Stephen Leazer

asecretary802@gmail.com

(760) 367-7631

CHAPLAIN

Mark Clark PM

SENIOR DEACON

Rob York

JUNIOR DEACON

Vernon Monroe

MARSHALL

Spiro Zafirov

SENIOR STEWARD

Raymond Cano

JUNIOR STEWARD

Vacant

TILER

Eric Swanson

Organist

Mike Samu

From the Editor

The Trestleboard is for our masonic family. Share generously.

Information from your lodge, chapter or club are always welcome. News for about our fraternity of interest to Lodge members and our extended Masonic Family. Brothers are encouraged to submit articles that they believe would be of interest to the members and our masonic family.

To receive the Trestleboard by email, contact me at jdupont1@gmail.com and

**Grand Master of the State of California
Most Worshipful Stuart A. Wright**

**Inspector 830th Masonic District
Worshipful Jim Ridley PM**



MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY MONTH.

Trestleboard Editor
Post Office Box 686
Yucca Valley, CA 92286

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED