

The High Desert Masonic Trestleboard



November 2018

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

Messages from Oasis of Mara #735

Masters Message for November

The other day one of the daily quiz shows used the John Donne poem as the answer to one of the questions. I could not help but be struck by the applicability of these words to us, as Masons:

*No man is an island,
Entire of itself,*

Almost every one of our ceremonial utterances points out that we Masons are part of a fraternity as far away from a bunch of individuals as it is possible to be. We cannot be islands, even if we would perhaps prefer to be.

*Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were:*

Although Donne (an Englishman) was talking about Europe, incidentally not differentiating UK subjects from Europeans as Englishmen frequently do, it is clear that he intended his words to apply to all mankind. As is clear in the next stanza, he succeeded.

*Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.*

*John Donne
Meditation 17
Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*

Obviously all of us in the fraternity can and should keep in mind Donne's poem, which by the way has survived for nearly four hundred years. It doesn't sound like nagging because it isn't. It's an unfortunate fact of living that sometimes it takes a poet to explain to us in only a few words, how to think, how to behave, and how to feel. But having received those instructions it is relatively easy, or at least straightforward, to set and hold a course through life.

Lately, Grand Lodge has been reminding us of the availability and desirability of the Masonic Homes. Those reminders are telling us to avoid burdening our families with worry about us as we age—we are **a piece of the continent** of our families. And, as you remember, our late



brother Gary Mason was at some pains to point out to us the notion that the Homes are good choices, particularly when we are in search of lovely and well-kept surroundings, with security, and assistance as necessary. Paradoxically, if one chooses to live at a Home and isolate himself from the rest of the residents, he may do so, with some effort.

Finally, and you will hear me say this over and over, what you believe about the meaning of Donne’s poem or anything else doesn’t matter. What matters is how you behave. To put a very personal point to that statement; I do not care one bit if someone believes in and chooses to join the Ku Kux Klan. I care only about his behavior—how he treats me, mine, and the society. Because he’s not an island either.

Fraternally
Phil Fultz PM

Junior Wardens Message for November

I hope everyone had a great month of October and enjoying this great weather. Thank you for everyone who attended the October Stated Meeting Dinner. It was the best turnout of the year thanks to the hard work of the Ash family. We had a good turnout for the October 13th breakfast also and I thank my significant other Wendy for helping me with that. I hope that none of our brothers or family had damage from the heavy rains on early Saturday morning of the 13th. Our next Stated Meeting Dinner is on the 5th of November and the meal is Manicotti (Vegetable and Meat), Garlic Bread, Spiced Zucchini and Cannelloni. Unfortunately, we are not having our breakfast on the 10th of November due to previous commitments. Our next breakfast will be December 8th. I hope everyone has a great month of November and a great Thanksgiving.



Fraternally,
Cory Adrian



Messages from Yucca Valley Lodge #802

Master Message for November

Brothers,

We have two issues to bring before the Lodge on this month's stated meeting agenda. The first is the dues increase proposal that was read in Lodge last month and sent out in writing to all members in good standing. That proposal is to be voted on at the November meeting.



The second is the annual election of officers. We will be balloting on next year's slate of officers in due form. If you have any intention of filling an appointed officer's position and have not yet contacted either brother Sanden or me, please do so! We have a pretty limited number of active members and it is extremely important to fill all our chairs. Every officer has a function in the Lodge and our ability to be successful hinges on good men standing up and taking responsibility for the workings of their Lodge.

More importantly, we have two Master Mason degrees to perform this month, for brothers Cano and Samu, who have been working diligently on their proficiencies and are now ready to be raised. The dates are November 27th for brother Cano and November 29th for brother Samu. Master Mason's, we need you to take part both days, even if it is as a side-liner. This is a vitally important part of a Mason's journey, and the more helping, the better.

To keep you up to date, our membership now stands at 52 members in good standing. Since January 2017, we have initiated six Entered Apprentices, passed five to Fellowcraft, and raised two to Master Mason. Unfortunately, we've also lost three members by withdrawal, four suspensions for non-payment of dues, and seven ascending to the Celestial Lodge above. That's a net loss of six! Doing that math, our lodge will not continue to survive or thrive without new members. Accordingly, do you know good men that would fit into our lodge family? If so, invite them to a dinner, a breakfast, or a Tuesday/Thursday fellowship meeting! Send them a link to our Facebook page or website. All they will have to have do is ask you once about your Masonic association or activities and the ice is broken! It's

up to us to grow our family and use whatever tools are available to us. I projected that we needed to get eight new brothers this year and six next year to solidify our Lodge's future, and so far we have gained five this year.

For those who haven't met him yet, we have a new candidate for affiliation from Washington state, Erik Swanson. Introduce yourself and get to know him, we'll be reading his petition at the November Stated Meeting as well. We also have another young candidate, Garrett Conroy, a close friend of Mike Samu, and he's been attending our fellowships as well. Please get to know him as he works his way through the prospect process.

At the risk of repeating myself, I can't thank all of you enough for all the good works you have done this year. A master's year is only as successful as his brother's efforts, and you have come through in a big way. Thank you all, so much!

Fraternally
TC Dowden

From the Desk of the Lodge Secretary

Brothers,

Consider taking time out from your other activities and join us for dinner and the forthcoming, November stated meeting. Discussion and voting is scheduled to take place on a proposed amendment to the bylaws of the lodge. Since the proposed amendment to the bylaws has to do with dues, we cannot

send dues notices until that action is completed. If the amendment fails, then there will be no change to 2019 dues (other than the per capita assessment change established at the recently concluded annual communication) and dues request letters will soon be in the mail.

If, on the other hand the amendment passes, then it is sent to the Grand Lodge for approval. Even though approved by the lodge, It cannot go into effect until the Grand Master has approved it. That could



happen this calendar year, in which case the dues calculation for 2019 would change. If the Grand Master does not approve before the end of this calendar year, then the 2019 dues calculation will be unchanged.

So, whether all of the above words are understandable or not, the result is that the dues requests cannot be sent to you until we know the outcome of the proposed amendment and the Grand Master's approval takes place, or it is defeated. More simply stated: We can't send dues request letters (and we can't accept any dues submissions) until we know what the dues are going to be for 2019.

That brings us to another related topic: Pay Pal Account. Wor. Dowden is working with the Grand Lodge to establish a Pay Pal account. The establishment of an account will allow those who choose to do so, to pay their dues and some other functions online. This should be online soon enough for the payment of 2019 dues. It is expected that there will be a link on the lodge website to make payments. This should be particularly helpful to our brothers on active duty who are geographically separated from us. As soon as this is a reality, we will provide further information.

Let me touch upon just one more topic before I end this article. I would ask that you do the Secretary and the lodge a favor and take all of those outdated "Applications for Degrees" and "Applications for Affiliation" that seem to accumulate in briefcases and desk drawers, then appear out of nowhere and throw them in the trash. It does not do the applicant, or the lodge any favor when it becomes necessary to return an application because all of the necessary data that is required isn't on the old form, or the incorrect amount of funds is submitted due to the erroneous data on the outdated form. Please, if you are aware of someone desirous of joining our lodge, send them, or better yet, bring them to the lodge to obtain the proper version of the form. That allows the members to meet the brother, or potential member and assure that they get the proper form at the appropriate time.

Fraternally
Steve Leazer PM

Our Fraternal Ties



October 21st 2018, Most Worshipful Brother Stuart A. Wright was installed as grand master of Masons in California. We look forward to a year of growth and prosperity under his leadership, inspired by his theme: "Freemasonry... the difference is you."

Grand Master's Biography

A third-generation Freemason, Most Worshipful Brother Stuart Alexander Wright was raised a Master Mason in Henry Know-Westlake Lodge No. 392 (now Wisdom Lodge No. 202) on October 22, 1986. He served as master of the lodge in 1990 and in 1998 was presented with the Hiram Award.

Brother Wright has served the Grand Lodge of California in several capacities over the last 25 years. He served on the Insurance Committee from 1990-2014 and was the chairman for a total of 10 years. In 2011, he was appointed to Masonic Homes of California Board of Trustees and elected vice president in 2014. Brother Wright served as grand sword bearer from 2004 to 2005 for Most Worshipful Brother David R. Doan. He has served on each of the constitutional boards.

In addition to his service to his lodge and our Grand Lodge, Brother Wright has been very active in the concordant and appendant bodies. In 1988, he joined Al Malaikah Shriners in Los Angeles, where he served as potentate in 2000. His service extended to the Imperial Shrine. He served on the Imperial Athletic Committee; as director general of the Imperial Shrine Convention, held in Anaheim, California

in 2007; and as the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Shrine Hospital in Los Angeles for three years.

Brother Wright is a 33° inspector general honorary in the Pasadena Scottish Rite Bodies. He is a member of Signet Chapter No. 57, Royal Arch Masons; Omega Council No. 11, Cryptic Masons; and Los Angeles Commandery No. 9 Knights Templar. He also belongs to Dr. Rob Morris Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; St. Gabriel Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine; the National Sojourners; and the Heroes of '76.

After a long career with the Insurance Company of North America, Brother Wright is the owner and president of Stuart A. Wright Associates Insurance Service. Brother Wright is an avid golfer and has enjoyed playing hockey for a number of years, including five years with the L.A. Senior Kings. He and his wife, Julie, live in Woodland Hills. They have five adult children and seven grandchildren.

freemason.org the Grand Lodge of California.



Desert Valley Chapter 602 OES

Annual Installation of Officers for 2019

Saturday November 10th at 1:00PM

Yucca Valley Masonic Lodge

The 169th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California has ended. The 170th Annual Communication will commence at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019.

For those brothers interested the election results are posted on the Grand Lodge Website at <https://freemason.org> in the members area under FORMS> 169th Annual Communication.

If you haven't visited the website recently there is a wealth of information available, and its well worth the visit. Its also a good idea to visit and verify or update your personal information.



**Masons
of California**

Lodge Calendars

Tue Oct 30	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Tue Oct 30	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Wed Oct 31	All day	Halloween
Thu Nov 1	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner
Thu Nov 1	7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Stated Meeting
Sat Nov 3	8 – 10am	YV802 Lodge Breakfast
Sat Nov 3	11am – 2pm	OES Meeting Yucca Valley Lodge
Sun Nov 4	12:01am	Daylight Saving Time ends
Mon Nov 5	6 – 7:15pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner
Mon Nov 5	7:30 – 10pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Tue Nov 6	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Tue Nov 6	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu Nov 8	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Sat Nov 10	1:00 – 3:00PM	OES Installation of Officers
Sun Nov 11	All day	Veterans Day
Sun Nov 11	All day	<u>Grand Masters Visit</u>
Mon Nov 12	All day	Veterans Day observed
Tue Nov 13	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Tue Nov 13	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Wed Nov 14	11am – 2pm	Daughters of Nile YV Lodge
Thu Nov 15	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Thu Nov 15	8 – 8:30pm	Trestleboard Articles
Sat Nov 17	11am – 2pm	High Desert Shrine Club
Mon Nov 19	7 – 9pm	<u>OSI</u> - Palm Springs Lodge
Tue Nov 20	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Tue Nov 20	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu Nov 22	All day	Thanksgiving Day
Tue Nov 27	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Tue Nov 27	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu Nov 29	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Sat Dec 1	8 – 10am	YV802 Lodge Breakfast
Sat Dec 1	11am – 2pm	OES Meeting Yucca Valley Lodge
Mon Dec 3	6 – 7:15pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner
Mon Dec 3	7:30 – 10pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Tue Dec 4	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Tue Dec 4	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu Dec 6	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner
Thu Dec 6	7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Stated Meeting

Sat Dec 8 8 – 10:30am **OM735** Lodge Breakfast
Sat Dec 8 1:00 – 3pm **YV802** Installation of Officers

The Lodge calendars are subject to change. When in doubt contact a lodge officer. Please respect organizations by not interrupting their private activities. Members and Family are encouraged to participate in all public activities of our Masonic Family.

The Royal Society’s Search for Facts and Reason

The motto, “Take no one’s word,” was the basis upon which The Royal Society formed its roots in 1662 when it first received its official charter from the King of England. Proven facts were the truth they sought—not speculation, hearsay or passed-down dogmas. A vision of free will and thought led by science was presented by English philosopher and scientist Francis Bacon (1561-1626) in an unfinished utopian novel, *The New Atlantis* (1627). At a time when the Crown (government) and the Pope (religion) had the final word, in Bacon’s hypothetical society, truth could only be found by a group of like-minded individuals who would invest their hearts and minds in the idea of progression. Bacon felt the secrets of the universe were locked in each one of us, and with the proper commitment and education, one could discover how connected we truly are to everything—and to one another.

In 1646, twenty years after Bacon’s passing, a small group of intellectual men, who were frustrated by the limited teachings of the day, took it upon themselves to study the works of science, art, astronomy, music, architecture, astrology, and math. Their deeper connection to human existence and to the universe was clear—this was the path to higher consciousness. They first met as the “Oxford Experimental Science Club” which later became known as the “Invisible College.” They met in secrecy to argue and prove theories, experiments, inventions and discoveries for the greater good of men. Once they felt confident that their work was justified (by proven facts) they shared these findings with all who would listen. With the assurance that they would get support from the King, the group became public and called themselves “The Royal Society.” Sir Robert Moray, a Scottish Freemason, helped form the group and became its first president in 1661.

This group became a springboard for the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, and the rest, as we know, is Masonic history.

We could argue that, without the men of The Royal Society, Freemasonry as we know it today might never have been born. Thanks to those avant-garde thinkers, the Craft grew into its organized existence. Through two centuries, The Royal Society and Freemasonry stood side-by-side, like two peas in a pod, with a free-flowing interchange of ideas and members, fueling a changing society and exploring the hidden mysteries of nature and science. After 200 years, the groups parted ways.

Now more than ever, blurring truth and fact are becoming the new normal. Truth can be obscured and shaped to suit whomever it benefits; but still, facts (tried and proven) remain the foundation that gives rise to the truth we pass on to others. The Royal Society fought to make this the standard by which we could all govern our lives. The teachings of Freemasonry, through ritual work, further exemplify that profound principle.

Today, the Royal Society still exists and is considered one of the most esteemed scientific institutions dedicated to men and women who have made significant contributions to “improving natural knowledge.” As author David Harrison writes on page 7: “The Great Machine [the universe] would need a Great Inventor, or a Great Architect, and as Bacon argued and Freemasonry later encapsulated, experimental philosophy was the tool to understanding the works of God.” This is a truth Francis Bacon would be proud of.

Fraternally, Dago Rodriguez, PM, Managing Editor
Southern California Masonic Research Lodge April 2018

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



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

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- MARSHALL** *Vacant*
- SENIOR STEWARD** *Vacant*
- JUNIOR STEWARD** *Vacant*
- 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.

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

<http://1sudoku.com>

n° 328264 - Level Hard



YUCCA VALLEY LODGE # 802

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TILER

Vacant

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

From the Editor

I encourage everyone to receive the Trestleboard by email.

Send an email to jdupont1@gmail.com and I will update your preference.

The Trestleboard is intended to present information from your lodge and around the fraternity that should be of interest to Lodge members and our extended Masonic Family. Share it with your family.

Brothers are encouraged to submit articles that they believe would be of interest to the members and our masonic family.

Trestleboard Editor
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED