

Oasis of Mara Lodge #735
Twentynine Palms, CA

Yucca Valley Lodge #802
Yucca Valley CA

May 2022



The CA High Desert Mason's Trestleboard

A newsletter serving the Masonic and affiliated bodies of the CA High Desert



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Oasis of Mara Lodge #735

From the Oriental Chair

Bro. Cory Adrian, PM
Worshipful Master, Oasis of Mara #735



How quickly the month of April has
gone by!

Thank you

Fraternally, Worshipful Cory Adrian PM

By the time of this publication, Oasis of
Mara Lodge #735 has passed 4
brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft in
the month of April. This month we will
have one more Fellowcraft degree and
starting practice for our upcoming
Master Mason degrees. I will be
reaching out for help from the brothers
to make this happen. We don't have
enough active members from our lodge
alone to perform this degree.



Our May stated meeting has been
postponed from Monday May 2nd at
7:30 p.m. to Monday May 9th at 7:30
p.m. We have not scheduled any
breakfast's yet; we are working on that.

According to our OSI schedule, the
next OSI is held at Palm Springs lodge
on Saturday May 21 at 10:00 a.m.
Social hour is at 9:00 a.m.

Our lodge hopes that all of our brothers
from our district have a great month
and we appreciate all of the help that
everyone has given us to keep our
lodge doors open.



Yucca Valley Lodge #802

From the East

Bro. TC Dowden, PM

Worshipful Master, Yucca Valley #802



Brothers,

The May stated meeting will feature a vote on another change to our bylaws, changing our day for stated meetings from Thursdays to Wednesdays. After years and years of conflicting meeting nights with other lodges in SoCal, this move will allow us to do visitations to other lodges who may also meet on Thursdays. Should the measure pass, the change will be effective next Masonic year.

Last month, we passed the bylaw change increasing our annual dues to \$200, which will help us meet expenses that continue to go up.

I can't stress enough how important it is to have brothers here for stated meetings to have your voices heard on important matters concerning our lodge. I

know, more than half of our members live elsewhere, but 20 of 46 members are local and we would love to see you back here for meetings!

Congratulations go out to brother Vince Gantz, who wedded his lady, Blue Maloney, last month in Arizona. Kim and I were pleased to attend the nuptials!

Brother Joey Buice is continuing to represent the lodge well with his custom skateboards for deserving kids! Well done, brother!

Our lodge was well represented in the California Freemason Magazine by brother Dylan Luster, who had an article written on him. Congratulations, brother!

I am planning a Masonic Information Night in June which we will publicize locally to attempt

to generate local interest in Freemasonry and our lodge in particular. Brothers, without new local members it will be difficult for our lodge to continue to operate.

Public Schools Appreciation Night is coming this month, and I would appreciate as many local members as possible to meet/greet/set up and display our appreciation to the local schools. We have been doing this live for 33 years (except the COVID year) and it is our best opportunity to display Freemasonry locally!

Well done to brothers Josh Stevens and Joey Buice for assisting Oasis of Mara in performing their degrees! We all need to support high desert Masonry!

It seems that another Mason, Master of his Lodge, went to Heaven and met with St. Peter.

He identified himself as a member of the Craft and St. Peter asked, "What Lodge?"

Proudly the Master replied, "Old Adage Lodge #1."

St. Peter immediately took him to the Masonic Clock Room. The Master, in puzzlement, looked around the room which was filled with clocks. Each clock had a Lodge's name on a brass plate and, strangely enough, each clock

was at a different time.

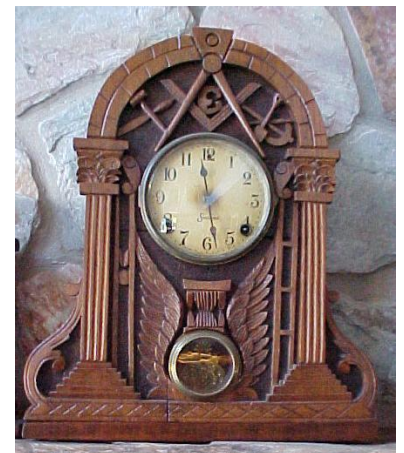
He asked why and St. Peter informed him that the hands only moved when someone in that Lodge made a mistake in the Ritual.

The Master then asked where *his* Lodge's clock was, as he couldn't see it.

St. Peter replied, "Why, it's in the kitchen, of course."

"The kitchen?" said the Master.

"Yes. You see, we needed a new fan!"



The Editor's Corner

Bro. T.C. Dowden, PM

LEAD

DON'T



FOLLOW!

"Our fraternity has always taken pride in the leaders that have been part of both history and Freemasonry."



We should all be striving to be a Masonic leader, right? But what does it mean to be a leader?

Leaders can be found in many ways, from formalized rank structures to informal groups. We *elect* leaders in politics and organizations. We *select* and follow leaders in times of both stress and boredom. We *create* leaders through competition and socialization. We *become* leaders through our actions, words, influences, attitudes, knowledge, and deeds. Many times, leadership is thrust upon a person when they least expect it.

But what is a leader? Leaders *influence others to action* or inaction by getting people to agree on what are the most important things to be done. Managers, on the other hand, are more likely to care about *how things are done*. Put another way, **managers** are people who do things right, and **leaders** are people who do the right thing. We find so many more

managers than leaders, don't we? It's somehow easy to find someone will to tell others *how* to stack up blocks, but more difficult to find someone who can get people to *want* to stack the blocks.

We need to be leaders through our behavior. The main aim of leadership behavior is to influence an organization's member's actions, because it is through the behavior of the brothers that Masonry's goals are attained.

Have you ever observed dogs in a pack? A leader will always emerge from the group... always. And it isn't always the biggest or noisiest, either. One will have the innate energy that the others will sense. The pack will not remain leaderless. Often, there will be more than one, and leadership will be contested, but eventually be settled. It happens throughout the natural world. One will



always take the lead. So why is it so difficult to find a leader in a group of people sometimes?

Our fraternity has always taken pride in the leaders that have been part of both history and Freemasonry. We write of their exploits and brag of their affiliation. We venerate their memory and look to their examples. But too often we forget the very lessons those great men were taught by Masonry and which helped form them into leaders.

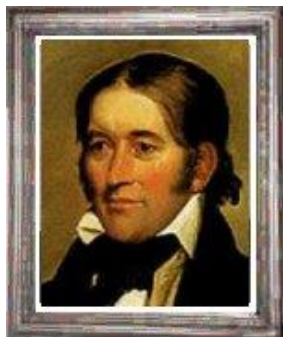
So ask yourself... Does the next generation of Masonic leaders begin with you?

Please keep in mind what Memorial Day is about, and remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols

Famous Mason: Davy Crockett, Frontiersman, Congressman, Patriot, Freemason



David "Davy" Crockett (August 17, 1786 – March 6, 1836) was a 19th-century American folk hero, frontiersman, soldier and politician. He is commonly referred to in popular culture by the epithet "*King of the Wild Frontier*". He represented Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives, served in the Texas Revolution, and died at the Battle of the Alamo.



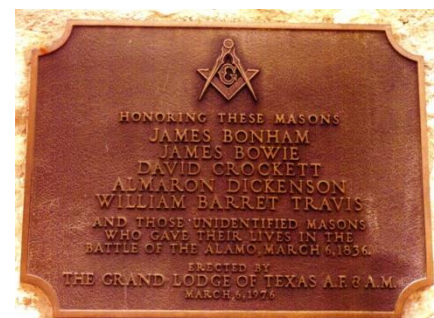
Crockett grew up in East Tennessee, where he gained a reputation for hunting and storytelling. After being made a colonel in the militia of Lawrence County, Tennessee, he was elected to the Tennessee state legislature in 1821. In 1826, Crockett was elected to the U.S. Congress, where he vehemently opposed many of the policies of President Andrew Jackson (a

brother Freemason), most notably the Indian Removal Act. Crockett's opposition to Jackson's policies led to his defeat in the 1830 elections. He won again in 1832, and then narrowly lost in 1834, prompting his angry departure to Texas (then the Mexican state of Tejas) shortly thereafter.

In early 1836, Crockett took part in the Texas Revolution and was killed at the Battle of the Alamo in March. Among the defenders of the Alamo were our Masonic Brothers James Bonham, Jim Bowie, David Crockett, Almaron Dickenson and Col. William Barrett Travis.

Crockett became famous in his own lifetime for larger-than-life exploits popularized by stage plays and almanacs. After his death, he continued to be

credited with acts of mythical proportion. These led in the 20th century to television and movie portrayals, and he became one of the best-known American folk heroes. He was portrayed on film by brother Fess Parker and Brother John Wayne. Interestingly, the only times Brother Crockett has been portrayed on film have been by brother Masons.



As we think back in history, we need to remember the sacrifices that were made not only by our ancestors, but also by some of you – that we might have the privilege to live in a free country and be assured that we will be able to pass these freedoms on to our families – and that our sons, grandsons, and generations to come will be able to enjoy Freemasonry and the teachings and principles that go with it.

When you consider that the word “free” in Freemasonry does not mean cheap, easy, or without payment, then it is definitely our duty to pass on to the future generations the wonderful teachings of our fraternity.

We made a commitment to a way of life when we became Masons, and it is definitely our duty to make our payments on that commitment. There are a lot of young men out there who do not like what they see or what they are witnessing in their communities and country. Today, more than ever, our Masonic way of life is needed.



Masonic Education – Lodge Member Planning

One of the more puzzling things for an incoming (or sitting) Master to do is to project his Lodge's need for new members – how many is the correct number for the budget and health of the Lodge. I have taken it from the aspect of a college football/sports team and applied it to a formulation. In college (or high school) sports, there is a progression of players beginning with new entrants (freshmen) through matriculation (seniors). A coach has to look at his current players and determine his recruitment needs in order to fill all the positions needed for a successful team. If he is losing a quarterback, does he have anyone in the pipeline to move into the position? Is he devoting his time to developing replacement players? Are other schools poaching his staff? A good coach looks to what his team's needs are to be filled two or three years out.

A Masonic Lodge has the same considerations. We have traditionally used the progressive line with men moving up through the ranks and becoming a Past Master. Without new entrants into the Craft or compatible Master Masons affiliating from other lodges, a lodge creates a "death spiral" of recycling the same men through the pedestals and stagnating, or worse, attrition of members due to burnout, apathy, negativity and so forth.

Often, we get wrapped up in trying to re-energize "rusty trowel" Masons and will spend considerable time and effort with little return on that investment of time and effort. I assert that a lodge should work with new members on the direction of the lodge and if the rusty ones wish to get on the cart, they will.

Another consideration is the optimal lodge size for the community and demographic. A lot of study has been done by the California Grand Lodge on this and they have determined that

smaller, more intimate lodges are more effective at maintaining the lodge than the mega-lodge, where you aren't familiar with the members and lose the intimacy and bonding that goes with anonymity. Larger lodges require a larger team size to function well.

So, with those considerations in mind, how does a current or incoming Master determine his new member goal? In my discussion of this with another sitting Master, he inquired what formula I used to come up with my goal for the current year.

There are a number of considerations that have to be taken into account when trying to make that determination.

1. What is the current population of your Lodge and what is the breakout of the members? Of the total membership, how many are local? Of the local members, how many are capable of being active members (Can they still drive? Are they in assisted living? Are they available on Lodge night? Are they good men that you want active in the lodge? etc.).
2. Considering the available population of the membership role, are there planned or assumed losses due to health, job status, family situation, relocation, retirement, or other factors? Those loss assumptions may seem a little cold, but it must be unemotionally considered when targeting new member accessions.
3. What is the correct team size you need to operate the lodge in a healthy manner (not over-burdening anyone or depending on the Superman Syndrome)? How many holes are there in the current officer line, if any? Of the



current active population, can the holes be filled? Is there an Officer Coach? Is there a functioning Hall Association, with mutually excluded positions? Team size needed will vary based on the capabilities of the lodge members.

4. Do the expenses of the lodge get met by the number of dues-paying members?

Steps:

Determine Available Population

- Current membership minus non-local members, minus non-capable members = Available Population

Determine Target Population

- Available Population minus known or assumed losses = Target Population

Determine Active Team Size needed

- Officer positions plus committee chairs, plus coaches, plus side-liners

Determine Attrition of new members

- Assume an attrition rate of 20% for new members entering Freemasonry for various reasons (spouse, wrong idea, church issues, etc.)

Calculation for Yucca Valley lodge:

Current Membership = 46
 Non-local members = 21
 Non-capable members = 8
 Available Population: $46 - 21 - 8 = 17$
 Assumed losses = 4
 Target Population: $17 - 4 = 13$
 Team Size Needed: 18
 Officers = 12
 Others = 6

Team Size minus Target Population = Deficit

Team size needed: 18

Target population: 13

Deficit = 5

Deficit times 20%, rounded up = 1

Total needed: 6

This is a *logical* method of targeting new membership rather than a strict algebraic equation! There are too many unknowns to make it mathematical. However, the logical sequence used here should focus the thoughts of a new or incoming Master and allow him to create a program to achieve a healthy flow of members and prevent the death spiral experienced by so many lodges.



						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Yucca Valley Stated Mtg 5:45 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Open Mtg 	6	7 YV Breakfast 8-10 AM YV Lodge 
8 Mother's Day 	9 Oasis of Mara (OM) 6:00 Dinner 7:30 Stated Mtg 	10 OM Degree Officer Practice 6:30 pm	11	12 YV Third Degree Practice 6:30 pm	13	14
15	16	17 OM Degree Officer Practice 6:30 pm	18	19 YV Degree/Officer Practice 6:30 pm	20	21 Officer's School of Instruction @ Palm Springs Lodge
22	23	24 OM Degree Officer Practice 6:30 pm	25	26 Public Schools Night 6:00 pm Music 7:00 pm Presentation and Refreshments to follow	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day 	31 OM Degree Officer Practice 6:30 pm				
				May Birthstone: 	Taurus 	Gemini 





Yucca Valley Lodge #802 Officers 2022

Grand Master of the State of California	Most Worshipful Jeffery M Wilkins PM	
Worshipful Master	TC Dowden PM	(435) 531-3573
Senior Warden	Vacant	
Junior Warden	Rob York	(760) 327-5567
Treasurer	Darin Sanden PM	(760) 620-3421
Secretary	DJ Ross	(760) 676-6084
Chaplain	Vern Monroe	(760) 799-1297
Senior Deacon	Vacant	
Junior Deacon	Josh Stevens	(760) 501-1753
Marshal	Spiro Zafirov	(442) 307-3943
Senior Steward	Joey Buice	(775) 303-8051
Junior Steward	Mike Neiiendam	(951) 452-8023
Tiler	Roger Sherwin	(760) 366-2424
Officer's Coach	Daren Sanden PM	(760) 620-3421
Inspector 830th Masonic Dist	Thomas Johnson PM	(760) 362-2492

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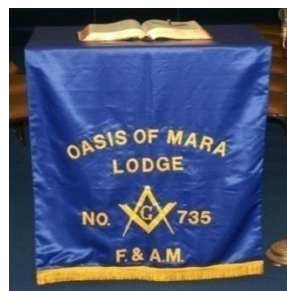
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Oasis of Mara #735 Lodge Officers 2022

Grand Master of the State of California	Most Worshipful Jeffery M Wilkins PM	
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Senior Warden	Vacant	
Junior Warden	Sammy Jones, Jr.	(760) 367-2575
Treasurer	Vacant	
Secretary	Steve Leazer PM	(760) 367-7631
Asst Secretary	Mike Gibson	
Chaplain	Vacant	
Senior Deacon	Bob Coghill	(760) 255-0269
Junior Deacon	Vacant	
Marshal	Vacant	
Senior Steward	Jose Landeros	
Junior Steward	Vacant	
Tiler	Vacant	



May Yucca Valley Birthdays

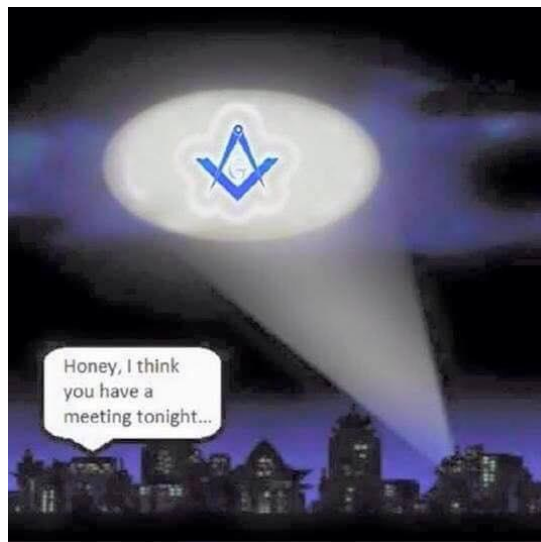
Sean	Clay	PM	5/4
Vernon	Monroe		5/7
David	Bell		5/18
Mark	Tiffany		5/21

May Yucca Valley Masonic Birthdays

Christopher	Bateman	5/8/1990
Mark	Tiffany	5/17/2005
Stephen	Leazer	PM 5/20/1974
Gerald	Schultz	5/23/1972
Robert	York	5/25/2017

50!

**It's not
about "having" time.
It's about making time.
If it matters, you will
make time.**



**YUCCA VALLEY
MASONIC LODGE**

PO Box 686
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THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols