Washington Lodge No. 20 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

Volume 169 • Issue 07 | Bridge to the Future | July 2020

From the East: Wor. Jared Yoshiki

Happy July to you my brothers. I hope you had a wonderful Fourth of July albeit somewhat subdued under these circumstances. I know many of us would have rather enjoyed BBQ with family and friends, but these are unusual times for sure.

While this Fourth may have been different than most, it does give us time for reflection to truly marvel at the founding of this country and the many sacrifices those who came before us gave to ensure its survival.

I hope that instills some form of hope for our Fraternity and your Officers that we are committed to bringing back our Lodge stronger than ever when Public Health Orders are lifted. I wish I had better news at this moment in that regard, but unfortunately, the Grand Master has maintained his order to suspend Masonic events. While I know many of us (including myself) are missing the Lodge, I do feel our hiatus protects each one of us from injury.

Your Officers have also started to think about the plans for the future - including preparing for their qualifications for their next chairs should that be allowed to happen. I am confident your Officers are more than ready to ascend to their next roles. I will help them in any way that I can to ensure are successful in their Masonic journeys.

These conversations do center around the probability that an election for next year's officers may not be possible. It also includes the thought of freezing the current line of Officers until further guidance regarding Stated Meetings, the conferral of Degrees and Lodge Public Health criteria are figured out and addressed for our unique circumstances. As these plans begin to solidify, your Officers and I will be sure to let you know and to keep you apprised of all our options. If you have suggestions, I welcome your comments.

There are two items that do want to bring to your attention. The first is our charitable work with Raising a Reader and Masons4Mitts. Both of these drives are moving forward and this pandemic and economic recovery is definitely proving problematic with both of them. I hope you will feel free to contact Brother **Creston Whiting-Casey** for more information about these initiatives and how you can get involved.

The second item is with regard to Masonic Relief. I have put together a list of some of our more elderly Brothers who may need some assistance. Our Master Chef **Bob Taylor** has offered to prepare ready cook meals for some of our Brothers who may not have the ability to cook or shop for themselves. If you are in need of some assistance or would like to be included on this list, please let me know ASAP via phone at (916) 761-3519 or email at (wln20wmaster@gmail.com).

Finally, if you are in need of financial assistance due to the economic downturn of COVID-19 and with the recent orders to slow down the opening of public spaces, the Grand Lodge's Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund is here to help you. Visit freemason.org to locate how the California Masonic Foundation can help you.

I wish you and your families all the best of health and hope you are keeping safe.

I wish we could all be in Lodge hanging out, but we will all get through this together.

From the West

Bro. Francisco Marques • Senior Warden

"We transform from helplessness." These powerful thought was bestowed on us by Wor. **David H. Cameron** in one of his many writings as Master of Washington Lodge No. 20 about nine years ago. This invaluable instruction could not be more appropriate and relevant today – the era of coronavirus, protests, riots and chaos.

Watching the newscast these days feels more and more like deliberately diving into your worst nightmares and fears. For every piece of information you receive, there are at least 10 others "proving without a doubt" the exact opposite, regardless of your choice of channel, website or radio station.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have all been barraged by conflicting messages – in part because the whole world is dealing with a new and still poorly understood virus and in part because politicians and scientists deliver conflicting advice. That is particularly true in our country, where – even as we celebrate our 244th anniversary of our Independence – this multinational pandemic has somehow morphed into a "bubbled" political issue – and we increasingly reject information that doesn't match our leanings as we label things away.

What in the world is true these days? As speculative Masons and philosophers, we master that Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue or moral excellence, and because no one really wants to live in error and falsehood, especially in regards to the meaning of our own lives, we endeavor to become true and lawful Brothers. We are, after all, Seekers of Truth.

But rumors, misinformation and outright falsities – some intentionally disseminated – have also flourished in the current cauldron of confusion. These circumstances may leave some of us feeling helpless and vulnerable, like there's nothing we can do but wait for the worst.

Such, however, should not be the case! Sometimes in anxiety-producing situations, it can make a big difference to feel like you're taking action to help. In fact, there are plenty of actions you can take to relieve those around you, particularly our Brethren in Freemasonry, and yourself – and to feel like you are really making a difference. Even in the face of shelter-in-place orders, there is a lot we can do – including some acceptable reasons to leave home and give our spouses a deserved break. Here are several ways to help others – and yourself.

• **Give blood, if you can.** Or spread the word about the need for donations if you are not able to give.
• **Donate to the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund** at www.freemason.org
• **Donate to and volunteer at the Shriners Hospital for Children** at 2425 Stockton Blvd 95817.
• **Help people who shouldn't leave home.** See Wor. **Yoshiki**'s article about Master Chef **Bob Taylor**'s initiative.
• **Help young children in need.** Support our Masons4Mitts and Raising a Reader programs. See page one.
• **Locate and donate gear to help health care workers.** You can help protect people who are taking care of COVID-19 patients, and patients receiving care for any reason. Medical supplies you may have in your garage or basement could help prevent the spread of the virus.
• **Give to a food bank.** Visit www.rivercityfoodbank.org and learn how to donate and volunteer.
• **Help yourself and others practice patience, kindness and understanding.** This is uncharted territory for all of us, from health care workers to first responders to teachers to neighbors.

We should ever remember, Brethren, that it was the wisest of Kings, Solomon, who adeptly advised us that when human strength and wisdom fail, Divine Assistance will always be available through the medium of prayer.

When in doubt… **pray!** Do not hesitate to invoke the blessing of God for this is possibly one of the greatest and most important undertakings we will ever enter upon. We shall "rebuild" our Temple, reopen the gates to our Lodge rooms, restore order and harmony, and rejoice in peace and good fellowship together.

Until we meet again… be well, stay safe.

From the South

Bro. Russ Tomas • Junior Warden

Happy 4th of July! The birth of our country's independence. On that day 244 years ago, a few men signed a document that would forever change the world. Did you know that John Adams, the signer from Massachusetts, believed July 2nd to be the true date of American independence? He went so far as to turn down invites to 4th of July events. Five years after the signing, Massachusetts became the first state to make it an official state holiday.

Early Americans viewed the 4th of July as cause for celebration. It is supposed to be a festival and celebration for our country. Two years after the signing a Freemason by the name of George Washington (you may have heard of him) issued double rations of rum to his soldiers in celebration of the anniversary. One could say the tradition lives on.

Fireworks have been used to celebrate the 4th of July since 1777 during the first organized celebration in Philadelphia. Since this newsletter is coming out after the 4th, we all saw and heard the celebrations. Understandably, many didn't appreciate neighbors using fireworks. Although I didn't appreciate their early usage (a few weeks prior to the 4th), I did partially enjoy the night of the 4th. Without a large official fireworks display and the lack of travel options, many chose to celebrate at home. Watching the videos online and seeing the night sky light up did fill me with a sense of pride for our country. We still have a lot of work ahead.

Why is Freemasonry important to the 4th of July? For starters, five of the men on the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence were believed to be Freemasons. At least nine of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons. The gentleman I mentioned above, George Washington, was an active member of Freemasonry, and later became the first president of our country. He served as Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 in 1788.

One example of a relationship between the Declaration of Independence and Masonry is in our ritual. As Freemasons, we are taught and continue to "meet upon the level." In Lodge, from the Worshipful Master in the East to the newest Entered Apprentice, we are all equal. The same could be said of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Freemasonry wasn't so much about the men who first came together and created our country. More importantly, it was the principals of Freemasonry that helped to create it.

Washington Lodge No. 20

Mission Statement

To practice and promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences.

Through Masonic principles and tradition, and by the outward expression of these through its fellowship and compassion, Washington Lodge No.20 Free & Accepted Masons provides ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self in an environment that contributes to the enrichment and betterment of its members, mankind, and its communities.

JULY

Member Birthdays

05 •	Richard F. Lacoy	MM
06 •	Christopher E. Hamilton	MM
07 •	Jon R. Isaacson PM	PM
09 •	Reynold A. Porterfield PM	PM
11 •	Robert L. Cole	MM
13 •	David P. Kelley	MM
13 •	Todd A. Ravencroft	MM
15 •	Mark G. Friesen II	MM
17 •	Andrew P. Wilson	MM
18 •	Richard S. Golden	MM
18 •	Maury M. Hicks	MM
18 •	Wesley E. Jackson	MM
21 •	Richard A. Wilson PM	PM
23 •	Albert C. Lazare	MM
29 •	Thomas L. Ansell	MM

Master Mason Anniversary Dates

08 •	Floyd R. Tritt	38 Years
08 •	Daniel J. Dailey PM	25 Years
10 •	Nico E. Montero	6 Years
16 •	Michael A. Contreras	6 Years
18 •	Frederick C. Janson	7 Years
22 •	Joshua J. Pane	25 Years
22 •	Jerry B. Livingston-Joy	22 Years
23 •	Joshua A. Djubek	11 Years
24 •	Jason Z. Sibbring	6 Years
25 •	John H. May PM	52 Years
25 •	David C. Hall PM	35 Years
28 •	Jonathan A. Hunn-Broadnax	9 Years
29 •	Alexander C. Chompff	10 Years

WLN20 on SOCIAL MEDIA

Lodge App
www.washingtonlodge20.org/apps-1

Facebook
www.facebook.com/WashingtonLodgeNo20/

Twitter
www.twitter.com/washingtonno20

Instagram
www.instagram.com/washingtonlodge20/

YouTube
www.youtube.com/channel/UCEvUvpbyDMTOqF_Yuhuay9g

Washington Lodge No. 20
2020 Officers

Master: Jared Yoshiki

Senior Warden	Francisco Marques
Junior Warden	Russ Tomas
Treasurer	Eric Hixson • PM
Secretary	Jesse Solis-Jacques • PM
Chaplain	Richard Wilson • PM
Assistant Secretary	Prezell Harris
Senior Deacon	Nick Johnston
Junior Deacon	Mauro Lara
Marshal	Creston Whiting-Casey
Senior Steward	Marty Buff
Junior Steward	Matt Mason
Tiler	Floyd Tritt

Officers Coach	Luis Montero • PM
Head Candidates Coach	Richard Wilson • PM
Inspector 414th District	Michael Woo • PM
Ambassador	David Freeman
Junior Past Master	Jesse Solis-Jacques • PM
Treasurer Emeritus	D. Ed Entrican • PM

Jared Yoshiki, Worshipful Master
WLN20WMaster@gmail.com
(916) 761-3519

Jesse Solis-Jacques • PM, Secretary
WLN20Secretary@gmail.com

Washington Lodge No. 20
www.washingtonlodge20.org
1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

The Washington Lodge No. 20 Trestle Board

Francisco Marques, Editor
WLN20editor@gmail.com

David Freeman, Grammarian

Important Update from the Grand Master

As we begin a new summer month, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across our state. Over the past week, California has set daily records for new coronavirus infections–more than 7,000 on June 23 and more than 8,000 on June 30. As of today, more than 240,000 cases and 6,000 deaths have been reported in our state.

This sobering news has prompted me to remind us all that on March 18, I directed that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in California until further notice from me. That directive remains in effect today.

While some government restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic have been relaxed, California and nearly all counties continue to prohibit or significantly limit non-essential gatherings. California Department of Public Health directives still prohibit all professional, social and community gatherings. The state notes that these gatherings pose an especially high danger of transmission and spread of COVID-19.

In light of this information, my March 18 directive remains in effect in all respects: there shall be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in the state until further notice from me.

• My directive continues to include all Masonic Organizations and Youth Orders.

• My directive continues to apply to both indoor and outdoor gatherings.

My March 18 directive also outlined a special procedure for lodges regarding their payment of essential lodge bills that cannot be reasonably deferred. This special procedure also remains in effect until further notice from me.

Thank you for your continuing dedication to the craft and diligence in complying with my directive. I will update you again as soon as warranted but certainly by the first week of August. Until then, stay safe and best wishes this holiday weekend.

Sincerely and fraternally,

John E. Trauner

JOHN E. TRAUNER
Grand Master
Grand Lodge F&AM of California

DISTRESSED WORTHY BROTHER RELIEF FUND

DO YOU NEED MASONIC RELIEF DUE TO COVID-19?

Masonic Outreach Services is here to help those who find themselves in need due to COVID-19. Relief includes emergency financial assistance, case management, and information and referral services.

Learn more at masonichome.org

Or call (888) 466-3642 to speak with Masonic Outreach staff

Masonic Homes of California

Telehealth: Help Wherever Your Family Needs Us

If a young person in your life is struggling with behavioral, educational, or emotional challenges, we can help – no matter where you live in California.

Through new telehealth services, the Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF) offers professional consultation services over a secure video connection for parents, couples, families, and youth.

To learn more about telehealth, contact inquiries@mcyaf.org or (877) 488-6293.

Find out how MCYAF's professional therapeutic services help families thrive at **mcyaf.org**.

MASONIC CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES
Integrated Therapeutic Services

iMember 2.0 is now live!

On July 1, the Grand Lodge of Masons in California released a new, intuitive, web-based member management system called **iMember 2.0**. This new platform includes sought-after upgrades including:

• A digital dues card
• A private, social feed that will replace the current Lodge App
• Lodge locator for more than 30 jurisdictions, including California
• Lodge & District calendars
• Masonic Education resources
• For lodge leaders, the platform includes easy-to-understand member dashboards, communications tools like email, robocalls, and mail merges, and easy processes for updating member and lodge data, document storage, and more.

Please note that our WLN20 Lodge App is no longer accessible.

There are two ways to learn the new system: Learn-at-your-own-pace and guided training.

iMember 2.0 is available to all members!

Visit www.freemason.org for training and to access the system.

Additionally, new functionality will roll out over the course of the next several months, including online dues and events payments, and opt-in affinity social groups across lodges.

As part of this upgrade, the contents and functionality of the Member Center on freemason.org were transitioned to this new platform on July 1.

WLN20 encourages you to use the training to try out the new platform. If you have questions, please email Member Services at memberservices@freemason.org or call (415) 776-7000.

Enjoy!

WASHINGTON LODGE No. 20 F. & A. M.
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

ATTRACT WHAT YOU EXPECT • REFLECT WHAT YOU DESIRE • BECOME WHAT YOU RESPECT • MIRROR WHAT YOU ADMIRE

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SACRAMENTO MASONIC TEMPLE
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA • 95814
www.washingtonlodge20.org