

Palo Alto Lodge No. 346 F. & A. M.

Trestle-Board

VOLUME 2018, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

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Greetings Brethren,

After our delayed January meeting we are back on schedule for the first meeting in February. I hope everybody enjoyed the break and has started into a great 2018.

We will hold a double second degree on Tuesday February 27, for brethren **Sree Vaddi** and **Prashant Khandelwal**. I would also like to encourage you to attend other lodges degrees which we will post on the calendar.

As we are embarking into the new year we have secured a lease for La Comida to commence their lunch program in late summer. We are aware this will mean a lot of traffic but also put our lodge and facilities into the limelight of Palo Alto City and serving our elderlies. It is a great way to give back to the community.

In addition we are finalizing our activity in local charity with supporting out East Palo Alto schools through a donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley.

As one of one of our past Masters, **Worshipful Sinsuat Andang** so eloquently put, and which I am most grateful about:

"Masonry is considered an educational institution as we are concerned with building good men better. We, as Speculative Masons, have also a role in the realm of education. We are concerned with people. We deal with people; we educate people, purposely not for building cathedrals but developing their characters and leadership, to be better men and citizens of our country. This is the objective of the program we will be implementing - to assist our youth to develop their characters and make them better men and citizens through going with a joint venture with the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula and Brentwood School of Palo Alto."

Freemasonry teaches us to practice charity, control our desires, spread the morality in day to day working of life. The practice of charity in masonry is of utmost importance being one of the most important cardinal virtues for brotherly love, relief and moral truth. Words won't suffice but actions will be what we all will be judged on. Robert Farley: "Charity is a blessing- chance to serve others. Think of the service you may render, not of serving self alone, think of happiness of others and in this you will find your own!"

Fraternally,

Michael Stillger

Master 2018





Around the Pillar

by Senior Warden Rod Creason, PM

Masonic Etiquette (Part I of 2)

Learn the Do's and Don'ts of Masonic Etiquette

Masonic Etiquette, for the most part, is merely good manners and respect for your lodge, its members, its Worshipful Master and the convention of Freemasonry, in general.

Unfortunately, Masonic Etiquette ...or Blue Lodge Etiquette, (as it is called in the United States) is largely unpublished as well as unspoken, therefore, up until now, it has been more difficult to learn its rules and nuances.

You may study ritual work, degree work, floor work and know all Masonry's glorious history, Masonic symbols, jewels, etc. but there is very little written about how to comport yourself so you do not look foolish or be regarded as disrespectful.

Some are small things, and some are not, but your Lodge conduct is continually on display.

Few Masonic mentors include a list of proper Lodge behavior, as they have learned it, themselves, incident-by-incident, and usually learned by them after their having made an error and being kindly informed by another member as to the correct Masonic etiquette of the situation.

CONFORMING TO MASONIC ETIQUETTE

Over time, and by watching others, members conform themselves to exhibit proper Masonic etiquette behavior to learn lodge customs.

As a newly Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft or Master Mason, it is expected that you will exhibit the proper decorum and propriety in observance of the formal requirements which govern behavior in polite societies... BEFORE someone takes you aside to explain your errors...or you wouldn't be reading this.

RULES OF MASONIC ETIQUETTE

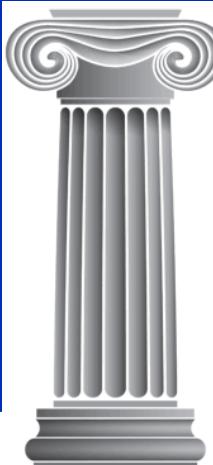
THE MASTER'S AUTHORITY:

During his term in office, the brother who has been elected as Master is the most powerful member of the Lodge. He also shoulders all of its many responsibilities.

The Worshipful Master has the authority to:

1. Rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time.

2. Decide what can and cannot be discussed. Should a brother believe that the Master is arbitrary, unjust or unfair or is acting in an illegal manner, he can appeal to the District Deputy Grand Master.



Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Rod Creason, PM

Masonic Etiquette (Part 1 of 2) (Continued)

If that officer agrees that the appeal is a valid one, he will forward the complaint to the Grand Master.

If, however, that brother insists on speaking after the Master has ruled that he is out of order, he may be committing a Masonic offense.

Courteous brethren accept the requests made by the Master to serve on various committees such as the examination committee, the investigation committee and other duties, as determined by the Lodge's needs.

The following items are not Masonic offenses, They are simply a lack of Masonic Etiquette...or in other words, considered to be "bad form" or bad manners.

So... Let's begin:

I. WALKING BETWEEN THE ALTAR AND THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Brethren do not pass between the Altar and the East when the lodge is open.

Why? As a courtesy to the Master, it is necessary that the three Great Lights which shine their eternal light and wisdom upon the Master to help him govern the lodge should never be in shadow, not even for a millisecond, during the processes of an initiation or degree work.

2. SITTING IN THE EAST:

Brethren do not take a seat in the East without an invitation... even if all other seats are full.

Why? While all Brethren within a tiled room are equal to one another, and the officers are servants of the brethren, all lodge officers have worked and studied long and hard for their lodge.

It is, therefore, the Master's prerogative to recognize this devotion and their loyalty by inviting distinguished visitors or a special member whom the Master wishes to honor to sit with him in the East.

In other words, if you were in church, synagogue or mosque and the pews were full, would you go up and sit beside the Pastor, Rabbi or Imam (Muslim Priest)?

3. ALWAYS FULLY DRESSED:

Brethren do not enter their Lodge room either without their apron nor while putting on that apron...not even the tying of its strings.

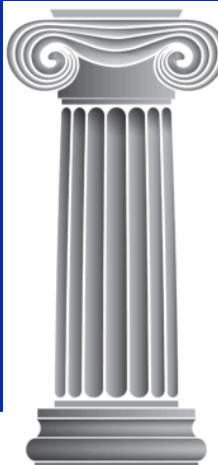
Why? In respect to the formalities of their Lodge, officers expect that the Brethren will have the courtesy to enter it fully dressed and ready for the labor.

They should not have to wait for a member to be fully "dressed", even just tying or adjusting their apron, to salute that member. It is expected that you will be properly and entirely dressed when you pass by the Tiler and enter your lodge room.

Continued on pages 6,7,8 and 9



A Masonic trestle board is a design board for the Master Workman (Architect) to draw his plans and designs upon to give the workmen an outline of the work to be performed. In today's terms, we might call it a blueprint.



The Corinthian Column by Junior Warden Robert Lott, PM

Freemasonry and Secrecy

People sometimes refer to Freemasonry as being a “Secret Society” In one sense the statement is true. Any social group or private business is “secret” in the sense that its business meetings may be open only to its members. In Freemasonry, the process of joining is also a private matter, and its members are pledged not to discuss with non-members certain parts of the ceremonies associated with the organization.

Freemasonry does have certain handshakes and passwords, customs incorporated into later fraternities, which are kept private. They are means of recognizing each other-- necessary in an organization which spans the entire world and which encompasses many languages.

The tradition of using handshakes and passwords was very common in the Middle Ages, when the ability to identify oneself as belonging to a building or trade guild often made the difference in getting a job or in obtaining help for yourself and family. Today, Freemasons make the same pledge to every member that he will be offered assistance if he, or his family, ever requests it.

The Corinthian Column by Junior Warden Robert Lott, PM

Freemasonry and Secrecy (Continued)

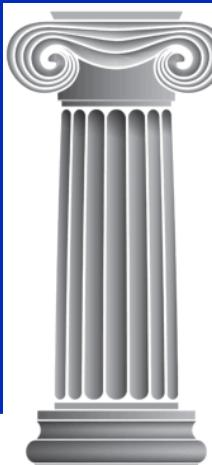
Freemasonry can't be called a "secret society" in a literal sense. A truly secret society forbids its members to disclose that they belong to the organization, or that it even exists. Much of the Masonic ritual is in books called "Monitors" that are widely available, even in public libraries. Most Freemasons wear rings and lapel pins which clearly identify them as members of the fraternity. Masonic lodges are listed in public phone books, Masonic buildings are clearly marked, and in many areas of the country Masonic lodges place signs on the roads leading into town, along with civic organizations, showing the time and place of meetings. In terms of what it does, what it teaches, who belongs, where it meets, there are no secrets in Freemasonry! It is a private fraternal association of men who contribute much toward the public good, while enjoying the benefits of the brotherhood of a fraternity.

**Fraternally,
Rob Lott, PM
Junior Warden**





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Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Rod Creason, PM

Masonic Etiquette (Part 1 of 2) (Continued)

4. STAND WHEN YOU SPEAK:

No man sits while speaking in the lodge room, no matter if he addresses an officer or another brother.

Why? All lodge activity is based on each man in the lodge as being a servant of the Brethren. This includes the Worshipful Master and his officers.

While the man, himself, who has been elected Worshipful Master does not gain any special honor, personally, as the Worshipful Master, it is to the Worshipful Master as the Master of the Lodge that a member stands to address.

It is simply a form of respect ...and no different than attending a shareholder's meeting or a City Council meeting.

It is expected that if you wish to address the audience, you will stand so all may see who is speaking.

5. TALKING:

"Side" talk while a degree is being conferred is considered bad manners.

Why? The lodge room is a Temple of the Great Architect of the Universe. The brethren within are working to make the best ashlar (stones) for His spiritual temple.

Just as it is impolite to talk in a church, synagogue or mosque service, so it is improper to distract the officers, the workers in the degree or the candidate.

Talking without asking to do so shows irreverence for the proceedings. God's house is not for social conversation within the lodge room. It is for worship and learning the lesson of the day which is being taught.

Unless you have requested of the Master to speak, silence is the rule. This also means no whispering.

HOW? If you have something of interest to say, raise your hand. When the Master recognizes you, you must stand up, and be recognized by the Master to speak. To address the brethren, you should say:

"Worshipful Master, Right Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Wardens and Brethren".

If the Most Worshipful Master is in attendance, you should say:

"Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful, Right Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Wardens and Brethren.

Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Rod Creason, PM

Masonic Etiquette (Part 1 of 2) (Continued)

6. SPEAKING:

If you wish to offer a predetermined motion or matter for discussion, advise the Master beforehand.

Why? Advising the Master before the meeting that you intend to bring up a specific motion or a matter for discussion is an important courtesy.

You may, indeed, do it without advising him in advance, but the Master may have plans of his own for that meeting, for which your proposed motion or discussion may not easily fit into the allotted time frame.

As a courtesy to him, his work, and his dedication to the members, it is best to ask him privately, beforehand, if he will be able to recognize you to speak your purpose. This saves "face" for both of you.

You will not publicly be refused and he will not have to seem disagreeable or arrogant in his refusal of your motion. If you wish to speak, (see number 6.)

7. OBEY THE GAVEL:

You must immediately obey the gavel.

Why? Failure to immediately obey the gavel is a GRAVE DISCOURTESY and VERY poor Masonic Etiquette.

The Master is all powerful in the lodge and his word is final.

He can put or refuse to put any motion.

He can rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time.

He can say what he will, and what he will not, permit to be discussed.

Brethren who think him unfair, arbitrary, unjust, or acting illegally have redress.

The Grand Lodge can be appealed to on any such matter. However, in the lodge, the Master's gavel, which is his emblem of authority, is supreme.

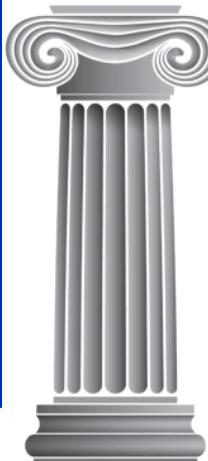
When a brother is rapped down, he should obey at once, without any further discussion. It is VERY bad manners to do otherwise. In fact, it is perilously close to the line between bad manners and a Masonic offense.

Masonic etiquette decries anyone who does not obey the gavel.

Continued on pages 8 and 9



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Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Rod Creason, PM

Masonic Etiquette (Part 1 of 2) (Continued)

8. TURNING YOUR BACK:

Never turn one's back on the Master to address the lodge without first receiving permission from the Master to speak.

Why? Any debates that are in motion must be conducted using proper Masonic etiquette. One always stands to order when addressing the chair.

Customs differ in various jurisdictions as to the method of salute, however some salute should always be given when addressing the Master.

Two brethren, both on their feet, simultaneously arguing a motion, who are facing each other and ignoring the Master is unacceptable.

9. SALUTE:

Some lodges (not all) offer salutes to the Master. Each of the brethren will salute the Master when they enter and when they leave their Masonic Mother lodge room or any other Masonic lodge room.

Some lodges offer salutes to the Senior Warden.

Why? The Masonic etiquette of saluting the Master is your renewed pledge of fealty and service. It is your public display of decorum before all other brothers of your obligation.

It shows your courteous respect for all that the Master stands for and shows that you acknowledge his authority.

Salutes should reflect your heart-felt respect for all that for which he stands.

The salute to the Master is your pledge of honor and service, your publicly shown obligation. A lazy, sloppy or improper salute is to be Masonically impolite and, thus, to exhibit poor Masonic etiquette.

Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Rod Creason, PM

Masonic Etiquette (Part 1 of 2) (Continued)

10. BALLOTING:

Do not enter or leave the lodge room during a ballot.

Why? It is discourteous to leave the lodge room during a speech, during a degree, etc.

There are several natural periods, such as at the end of one section and before the next begins, or when the Master puts the lodge at ease until the sound of the gavel. Then, and only then, you may leave the lodge without being considered rude.

It is Masonic Etiquette that all brethren are expected to vote when requested to do so.

Failure to cast your ballot not only results in your failure to share in your duties, but is in direct disobedience of the Master's request.

From The Masonic Lodge of Education

Fraternally,

Rod Creason, PM

Senior Warden



Events and Announcements

Stated Meeting Dinner – Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Our January 2018 Stated Dinner will be held on Tuesday February 6th.

Please join us from 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

Stated Meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

\$15 for the dinner, payable by cash or check or online (on our website or app)



Happy Birthday Brethren!

- **Fred G. Knauss**
- **Liviu Tudor**
- **Clifford Yip**
- **Michael E. Squibb**
- **Glen A. Wildman II**
- **Russel S. Yuill**

The Worshipful Master extends you greetings and invites you to join us at our Stated Meeting for your complimentary Birthday Dinner!



February 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Schedule of Events: |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 02/05 PAMTA |
| 4 | 5 <i>PAMTA</i> | 6 <i>Stated Meeting</i> | 7 <i>OES</i> | 8 | 9 | 10 | 02/06 PA346 Stated Meeting |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 02/07 OES |
| 18 | 19 | 20 <i>OAM San Jose 10</i> | 21 <i>OES</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 | 02/20 OAM at San Jose Lodge No. 10 |
| 25 | 26 <i>GW Club</i> | 27 <i>2nd Degree Conferral</i> | 28 | | | | 02/21 OES 02/26 George Washington Club 02/27 PA346—2nd Degree Conferral |

March 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Schedule of Events: |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | - 03/05 PAMTA |
| 4 | 5 <i>PAMTA</i> | 6 <i>PA346 Stated Meeting</i> | 7 <i>OES</i> | 8 <i>OAM South Valley</i> | 9 | 10 | - 03/06 PA346: Stated Meeting |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | - 03/07 OES |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 <i>OES</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 | - 03/08 OAM at South Valley #187 |
| 25 | 26 <i>GW Club</i> | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | - 03/21 OES - 03/26 GW Club |

2018 Officers' Association Meeting Schedule

(Dinner 6:30, School of Instruction 7:30)

| Date | Day | Hosting Lodge | Instruction | Inspector |
|----------|-----|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| FEB 20th | TUE | San Jose #10 | 1st Degree | Valdez |
| MAR 8th | THU | South Valley #187 | Annual Chicken Feed & G.M. Visit | Campbell |
| APR 24th | TUE | Palo Alto #346 | 2nd Degree | Hink |
| May 30th | WED | WG-Fraternity #399 | 3rd Degree / 1st Section | Valdez |
| JUN 14th | THU | Mt. Moriah #292 | 3rd Degree / 2nd Section | Hink |

2018 Lodge Officers

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Worshipful Master | Michael Stillger | wm@paloalto346.org |
| Senior Warden | Rod Creason, PM | sw@paloalto346.org |
| Junior Warden | Robert Lott, PM | jw@paloalto346.org |
| Treasurer | Chuck Grech, PM | tr@paloalto346.org |
| Secretary | Ralph Nikolaus, PM | sec@paloalto346.org |
| Chaplain | Fred Beckner, PM | ch@paloalto346.org |
| Senior Deacon | Raj Naidoo, PM | sd@paloalto346.org |
| Junior Deacon | Blake Hajek | jd@paloalto346.org |
| Marshal | Don Groshart, PM | mar@paloalto346.org |
| Senior Steward | Sina Tabesh | ss@paloalto346.org |
| Junior Steward | Tony Teo, PM | js@paloalto346.org |
| Tyler | Larry Fama, PM | ty@paloalto346.org |





Palo Alto Lodge No. 346 F. & A.M.

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info@PaloAlto346.org

<http://www.PaloAlto346.org/>

The Palo Alto Lodge Trestle-Board :

The only publication from the lodge that reaches all its members. These publications are a framework to instruct, plan, and alert all members to the events and happenings of the lodge.

Vision Statement: We are committed to attracting men of honor, integrity, dedication, and a pleasant bearing, who strive for self-improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in the community, while preserving the history and ritual of the institution.

Keep Your Contact Information Current:

Notify the secretary promptly of any change of address.

Please report any cases of Sickness and Distress to the Lodge, or the Master. Contact us if there are any changes in receiving the trestle-board, or if you wish to be taken off the mailing list.

Palo Alto Lodge No. 346

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