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Oak Plains Lodge F&AM #789's Vision Statement:

To create a strong and viable Lodge made up of men who have a strong desire to practice together the principles of Freemasonry, ensuring it becomes relevant to today's society while maintaining its high moral, social and charitable standards, thus making a positive difference in the quality of life in our community.

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From The East

Marshall Scott Henry - Master

Greetings from the West!

Summer has arrived along with triple digit heat. According to the National Weather Service, heat is one of the leading causes of weather-related fatalities each year in the United States, resulting in hundreds of deaths. That's why it's important to take precautionary measures and use good judgement to help protect you and your family for a safe summer. I hope all Brothers have a fun and safe summer. When going out this summer, please remember the

following tips:

Stay cool at home

- Check air conditioning. Make sure it is properly working and insulated. Installing weather-stripping on doors and windowsills as part of your summer home maintenance will help keep cool air in and hot air out.
- Cover windows, use drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers for any windows that receive morning or afternoon sun. This can reduce the heat entering your home by up to 80 percent.
- Use fans strategically, ceiling fans should run counter-clockwise to force room air down and make you feel cooler. Water from a spray bottle can help cool you down dramatically – as it evaporates off your skin, your body sheds the heat.
- Cook with small appliances, slow cookers and tabletop grills are good options over traditional ovens and stovetops to minimize heat.

Eating, drinking and scheduling exercise

- Drink plenty of water and other fluids. Don't wait to rehydrate until you're thirsty. Adults should drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water each day and may need more on hot and humid days.
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and carbonated drinks. These can lead to dehydration and increase the effects of heat illness.
- Eat meals that are well-balanced and light. Avoid high-protein foods, which increase metabolic heat and can add to water loss.
- Reschedule exercise. Avoid working out during the hottest part of the day. Check the weather forecast; if there's a heat advisory you may want to move your workout indoors.

Beware of heat-related illness

- Know the warning signs of heat exhaustion. Watch for breathing that is shallow and fast, headaches, dry mouth, pale or clammy skin, muscle cramps, tiredness, disorientation, sweating, passing out, nausea and vomiting. Seek immediate medical attention.

- Know the warning signs of heat stroke. Symptoms include dizziness, a high body temperature (above 130°F), red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating), unconsciousness, nausea, confusion, rapid, strong pulse and throbbing headache. Seek immediate medical attention.
- Be informed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more information on heat-related illnesses and first aid.

Monitor yourself and others

- Check regularly on high-risk people. Keep an eye out for infants and young children, people aged 65 or older, the mentally or physically ill, the overweight, and those who overexert during work or exercise. They are especially vulnerable in extreme heat.
- Never leave a person or a pet in a parked car. They can succumb to heat exposure very quickly. Also, be careful when entering a car in hot weather. Temperatures inside can reach 140°F to 190°F within 30 minutes on a hot, sunny day.
- Animals need shade and water. Pets can dehydrate quickly, so make sure they have plenty of fresh, clean water and a shady place to get out of the sun. Moderate their exercise and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.
- Stay in cool areas. The best place to be is inside with air conditioning. If you don't have air conditioning at home, many public places, such as libraries, shopping malls and movie theaters, are air-conditioned.

Don't be afraid to get out and enjoy the summer sunshine with your friends and family. Just be sure to be prepared, use common sense, and know when it's time to take a rest.

I would also like to close with a little Masonic education in the form of an article I recently read, it is titled, "Spirit of Masonry". I found it to be very well written and applicable in today's often turbulent climate. The author is unknown, but his words still reign true and I hope you enjoy it as well.

SPIRIT OF MASONRY

Outside of the home and the House of God there is nothing in this world more beautiful than the Spirit of Masonry. Gentle, gracious, and wise; its mission is to form mankind into a great redemptive brotherhood, a league of noble and free men enlisted in the radiant enterprise of working out in time the love and will of the Eternal. Who is sufficient to describe so benign? With what words may one ever hope to capture and detain that which belongs of right to the genius of poetry and song, by whose magic those elusive and impalpable realities find embodiment and voice?

With picture, parable, and stately drama; Masonry appeals to lovers of beauty bringing poetry and symbol to the aide of philosophy and are to the service of character. Broad and tolerant in its teachings it appeals to men of intellect, equally by the depths of its faith and its pleas for liberty of thought – helping them to think things through to a more satisfying and hopeful vision of the meaning of life and the mystery of the world. But its profoundest appeal, more eloquent than all others, is to the deep heart of man out of which are the issues of life and destiny. When all is said, it is as a man thineth in his heart whether life be worthwhile or not, and whether he is a help or curse to his race.

Here lies the tragedy of our race: Not that men are poor; All men know something of poverty. Not that men are wicked; Who can claim to be good? Not that all men are ignorant; Who can boast that he is wise? But that men are strangers!

Masonry is Friendship – friendship, first, with the great Companion, of whom our own hearts tell us, who is always nearer to us than we are to ourselves, and whose inspirations and help is the greatest fact of human experience. To be in harmony with his purposes, to be open to His suggestions, to be conscious of fellowship with Him – this is Masonry on its God-ward side. Then, turning man-ward, friendship sums it all up. To be friends with all men, however they may differ from us in creed, color, or condition; to fill every human relation with the spirit of friendship; is there anything more or better than this that the wisest and best men can hope to do? Such is the Spirit of Masonry; such is its ideal, and if to realize it all at once is denied us, surely it means much to see it, love it, and labor to make it come true.

Nor is the spirit of friendship a mere sentiment held by a sympathetic, and therefore unstable, fraternity, which would dissolve the concrete features of humanity into a vague blur of misty emotion. No; it has its roots in a profound philosophy which sees that the universe is friendly, and that men must learn to be friends if they would live as befits the world in which they live, as well as their own origin and destiny. For, since God is the life of all that was, is, and is to be; and since we are all born into the world by one high wisdom and one vast love, we are brothers to the last man of us, forever! For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, and even after death do us part, all men are held together by ties of spiritual kinship, sons of one eternal friend. Upon this fact human fraternity rests, and it is the basis of the plea of Masonry, not only for freedom, but for friendship among men.

Thus friendship, so far from being a mush of concessions, is in fact the constructive genius of the universe. Love is the Builder, and those who have done most to establish the City of God on earth have been the men who loved their fellow men. Once you let this spirit prevail, the wrangling sects will be lost in the great league of those who love in the service of those who suffer. No man will then revile the faith in which his neighbor finds help for today and hope for the morrow; pity will smite him mute, and love will teach him that God is found in many ways, by those who seek him with honest hearts. Once you let this spirit rule in the realm of trade the law of the jungle will cease, and men will strive to build a social order in which all men may have the opportunity "To Live, and to Live Well," as Aristotle defined the purpose of society. Here is the basis of that magical stability aimed at by the earliest artists when they sought to build for eternity, by imitating on earth the House of God.

Our human history, saturated with blood and blistered with tears, is the story of man making friends with man. Society has evolved from a feud into a friendship by the slow growth of love and the welding of man, first to his kin, and then to his kind. The first man who walked in the red dawn of time lived every man for himself, his heart a sanctuary of suspicions, every man feeling that every other man was his foe, and therefore his prey. So there was a war, strife and bloodshed. Slowly there came to the savage a gleam of the truth that it is better to help than hurt, and he organized clans and tribes. But the tribes were divided by rivers and mountains, and the men on one side of the river felt that the men on the other side were their enemies. Again, there was war, pillage, and sorrow. Great empires arose and met in the shock of conflict, leaving trails of skeletons across the earth. Then came the great roads, reaching out with their stony clutch and bringing the ends of the earth together. Men met, mingled, passed and repassed; and learned that human nature is much the same everywhere, with hopes and fears in common. Still there were many things to divide and estrange men from each other, and the earth was full of bitterness. Not

satisfied with natural barriers, men erected high walls of sect and caste, to exclude their fellows, and the men of one sect were sure that the men of all other sects were wrong – and doomed to be lost. Thus, when real mountains no longer separated man from man, mountains were made out of molehills – mountains of immemorial misunderstanding not yet moved into the sea! Barriers of race, creed, of caste, of training and interest separate men today, as if some malign genius were bent on keeping man from his fellows; begetting suspicion, uncharitableness, and hate. Still there is war, waste and woe! Yet all the while men have been unfriendly, and, therefore unjust and cruel, only because they are unacquainted. Amidst feud, faction and folly; Masonry, the oldest and most widely spread order, toils in behalf of friendship; uniting men upon the only basis upon which they can ever meet with dignity. Each lodge is an oasis of equality and goodwill in a desert of strife, working to weld mankind into a great league of sympathy service, which, by the terms of our definition seeks to exhibit even now in small scale. At its Altar men meet as man to man, without vanity and without pretense, without fear and without reproach; as tourists crossing the Alps tie themselves together so that if one slips, all may hold him up. No tongue can tell the meaning of such a ministry, no pen can trace the influence in melting the hardness of the world into pity and gladness.

The Spirit of Masonry! He who would describe that spirit must be a poet, a musician, and a seer – a master of melodies, echoes, and long far-sounding cadences. Now, as always, it toils to make man better, to refine his thought and purify his sympathy, to broaden his outlook, to lift his altitude, to establish in amplitude and resoluteness his life in all its relations. All its great history, its vast accumulations of tradition, its simple faith and its solemn rites, its freedom and its friendship are dedicated to the high moral ideal, seeking to tame the tiger in man, and bring his wild passions into obedience to the will of God. It has no other mission than to exalt and ennoble humanity, to bring light out of darkness, beauty out of angularity; to make every hard-won inheritance more secure, every sanctuary more sacred, every hope more radiant! The Spirit of Masonry! Aye, when that spirit has its way upon earth, as at last it surely will, society will be vast communion of kindness and justice, business a system of human service, law a rule of beneficence; home will be more holy, the laughter of childhood more joyous, and the temple of prayer mortised and tendoned in a simple faith. Evil, injustice, bigotry, greed and every vile and slimy thing that defiles and defames humanity will skulk into the dark, unable to bear the light of a juste, wiser, more merciful order. Industry will be upright, education prophetic, and religion not a shadow, but a real Presence, when man has become acquainted with man and has learned to worship God by serving fellows. When Masonry is victorious every tyranny will fall, every bastille crumble, and man will be not only unfettered in mind and hand, but free of heart to walk erect in the light and liberty of truth.

Toward a great friendship, long foreseen by Masonic faith, the world is slowly moving, amid difficulties and delays, reactions and reconstructions. Though long deferred, of the day, which will surely arrive, when nations will be reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, humane in the practice of wisdom; when no man will ride over the rights of his fellows; when no woman will be made forlorn, no little child wretched by bigotry or greed, Masonry has ever been a prophet. Nor will she ever be content until all the threads of human fellowship are woven into one mystic cord of friendship, encircling the earth and holding the race in unity of spirit and the bonds of peace; as in the will of God it is one in origin and end. Having outlives empires and philosophies, having seen generations appear and vanish, it will yet live to see the travail of its souls, and be satisfied – when the War Drum throbs no longer, And the Battle Flags are furled; In the Parliament of man, The Federation of the World.

Manifestly, since love is the law of life, if men are to be won from hate to love, if those who doubt and deny are to be wooed to faith, if the race is ever to be led and lifted into a life of service, it must be by the

fine art of Friendship. In-as-much as this is the purpose of Masonry, its mission determines the method not less than the spirit of its labor. Earnestly it endeavors to bring men – first the individual man, and then, so far as possible, those who are united with him – to love one another, while holding aloft, in picture and dream, that Temple of character which is the noblest labor of life to build in-the-midst of the years, and which will outlast time and death. Thus, it seeks to reach the lonely inner life of man where the real battles are fought, and where the issues of destiny are decided, now with shouts of victory, now with sobs of defeat. What a ministry to a young man who enters its Temple in the morning of life, when the dew of heaven is upon his days and the birds are singing in his heart!

From the wise lore of the East Max Muller translated a parable which tells how the Gods, having stolen from man his divinity, met in council to discuss where they should hide it. One suggested that it be carried to the other side of the earth and buried; but, it was pointed out that man is a great wonderer, and that he might find the lost treasure on the other side of the earth. Another proposed that it be dropped into the depths of the sea; but, the same fear was expressed – that man, in his insatiable curiosity, might dive deep enough to find even there. Finally, after a space of silence, the oldest and wisest of the Gods said: "Hide it in man himself, as that is the last place he will ever think to look for it." And so it was agreed, all seeing at once the subtle and wise strategy. Man did wander the earth, for ages, seeking in all the places high and low, far and near, before he thought to look within himself for the divinity he sought. At last, slowly, dimly, he began to realize that what he thought was far off, hidden in the "The Pathos of Distance, is nearer than the breath he breathes, even in his own heart."

Here lies the great secret of Masonry – that it makes a man aware of that divinity within him, wherefrom his whole life takes its beauty and meaning, and inspires him to follow and obey it. Once a man learns this deep secret, life is new, and the old world is a valley all dewy to the dawn with a lark song over it. There never was a truer saying than, the religion of a man is the chief fact concerning him. By religion is meant not the creed to which all men will subscribe, or otherwise give his assent; not that necessarily; often not that at all – since we see men of all degrees of worth and worthlessness signing all kinds of creed. No; the religion of a man is that which he practically believes, lays to heart, acts upon, and thereby knows concerning this mysterious universe and his duty and destiny in it. That is in all cases the primary thing in him, and creatively determines all the rest; that is his religion. It is, then, of vital importance what faith, what vision, what conception of life a man lays to heart, and acts upon.

At the bottom, a man is what his thinking is, thoughts being the artists who give color to our days. Optimists and pessimists live in the same world, walk under the same sky, and observe the same facts, Skeptics and believers look up at the same great stars – the stars that shone in Eden and will flash again in Paradise. Clearly the difference between them is a difference not of fact, but of faith – of insight, outlook, and point of view – a difference of inner attitude and habit of thought with regard to the worth and use of life. By the same token, an influence which reaches and alters that inner habit and bias of mind, and changes it from doubt to faith, from fear to courage, from despair to sunburst hope, has wrought the most benign ministry which a mortal may enjoy. Every man has a train of thought on which he rides when he is alone; and the worth of his life to himself and others, as well as its happiness, depend upon the direction in which that train is going, the baggage it carries, and the country through which it travels. If, then, Masonry can put that inner train of thought on the right track, freight it with precious treasure, and start it on the way to the City of God, what other or higher ministry can it render to a man? And that is what it does for any man who will listen to it, love it, and lay its truth to heart.

High, Fine, Ineffably rich and beautiful are the faith and vision which Masonry gives to those who foregather at its Altar, bringing to them in picture, parable, and symbol the lofty and pure truth wrought out through ages of experience, tested by time, and found to be valid for the conduct of life. By such teaching, if they have the heart to heed it, men become wise, learning how to be both brave and gentle, faithful, and free; how to renounce superstition and retain faith; how to keep a fine poise if reason between falsehood of extremes; how to accept the joys of life with glee, and endure its ills with patient valor; how to look upon the folly of man and forget his nobility – in short, how to live cleanly, kindly, opened-eyed, and unafraid in a sane world, sweet of heart and full of hope. Who says this lucid and profound wisdom of heart, and lives by it, will have little regret, and nothing to fear, when the evening shadows fall. Happy the young man who in the morning of his years makes it his guide, philosopher, and friend. Such is the ideal of Masonry, and fidelity to all that is holy demands that we give ourselves to it, trusting the power of truth, the reality of love, and sovereign worth of character. For only as we incarnate that ideal in real life and activity does it become real tangible, and effective. God works for man through man and seldom, if at all, in any other way. He asks for our voices to speak His Truth, for our hands to do his work here below – sweet voices and clean hands make liberty and love prevail over injustice and hate. Not all of us can be learned or famous, but each of us can be loyal and true of heart, undefiled by evil, undaunted by error, faithful and helpful to our fellow souls. Life is a capacity for the highest – an eager incessant quest of truth; a noble utility, a lofty honor, a wise freedom, a genuine service – that through us the Spirit of Masonry may grow and be glorified.

When is a man a Mason? When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage – which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as devine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself; and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins – knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds. When he has learned how to make friends and keep to them, and above all how to keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on the flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hands seeks his aid without response. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, and how to hope. When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song – glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

Fraternally,

M. Scott Henry, WM





From The West

Bro. David Meneley – Senior Warden

Greeting Brethren!

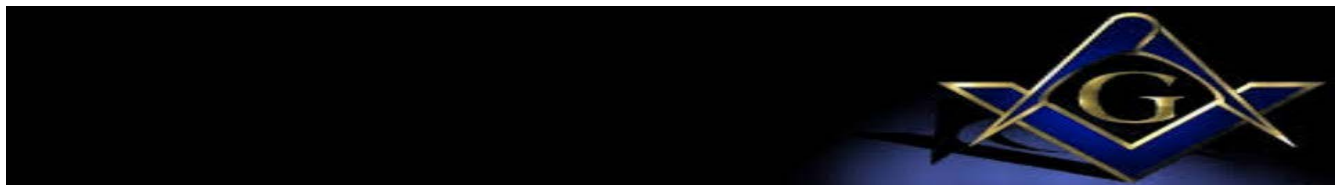
Well, June is here and the weather sure is warming up! Things around the lodge have been heating up as well. We have two 3rd degree on our calendar this month. This last Monday we raised Bro. Mike Perry with the assistance of the Shrine Past Master's Degree Team. The Past Masters performed an excellent degree as always. If you missed Bro. Perry's raising, you are not without hope, however. On Monday, June 26th we will be raising Bro. Eric Parker to the sublime degree of Master Mason. If you can attend, I would highly encourage you to come out and support our brother on this most important night. Of his masonic journey!

I can't believe this year is already half over. Where does the time go and why does it go so fast? Before we know what hit us, it will be 2018 and we will be starting a new Masonic year. As I prepare for next year, I can't help but get more excited as I think about our lodge and the direction we are heading. We have a young, engaged officers line, we are receiving new applications and are bringing brothers through their degrees. We also have brothers asking to be more involved in the lodge, if that means joining the Temple Board or becoming an officer. I feel we are in a very good place and have the potential to accomplish a lot next year.

In my last two articles, I presented my first two goals for next year, ritual excellence and more brotherhood events outside of the lodge. This time around I would like to hit on something I have seen in our stated meetings, but it has not been seen over the last couple of months. I am talking about Masonic education. I would like to see this very important part of stated meetings return. There is an unlimited number of books and papers that have been written about virtually every Masonic subject imaginable. We need to re-introduce this vast amount of knowledge into our lodge room. Remember Brethren, knowledge is power and is to be shared. Also, the point of Masonic education is to get us to think and learn, not to only be about subjects we all agree on. The more we hear the facts about all things Masonic, the more well-rounded Masons we become. Well Brethren, I think I am done with the soapbox for now, enjoy your summer, keep cool, and see you around the lodge.

Your Senior Warden,

Bro. David Meneley





From The South

Wor. William Brewer, PM – Junior Warden

“Masonry In The American Revolution”

by Charles S. Lobingier

Prelude: Just last month we celebrated Memorial Day and observed the fate of many of our departed, but especially of our fallen soldiers, with a variety of solemn ceremonies, I thought it appropriate to make this brief but historical mention of Masonry during our revolutionary war.

The American Revolution was the beginning of the long and distinguished heritage of the American Soldier. The Masonic connection to that struggle has been well researched and documented. Here I respectfully submit excerpts from an essay by Charles S. Lobingier entitled “Freemasons in the American Revolution”.

Brother Lobingier writes: “I am not prepared to say that the direct participation of American Masonic Lodges in our struggle for nationality was extensive. Still I cannot but feel that their indirect assistance was great and their actual participation at certain stages was determining”.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Masonic Lodges in America were few and feeble. The oldest of them had existed less than a few years and the membership was exceedingly small. But what was lacking in members was more than supplied in quality. The Freemasons of that period included the flower of colonial citizenship and their very fewness was a source of strength. In a small Lodge all could know and trust each other; all felt the need of absolute secrecy in deliberation of solidarity in action. Hence it is not strange that some of these colonial lodges became the centers of revolutionary propaganda.

ST. ANDREW’S LODGE – Foremost among these was the Lodge of St. Andrew at Boston. Founded in 1756 and chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1760, it began its career independent of English influence and just in time to share in the opening scenes of the war for independence. Joseph Warren was its Master, Paul Revere one of its early initiates, its secretary and later its Master. On its rolls were the names of John Hancock, and James Otis and many others who are now recognized as the leading characters of that eventful epoch. Almost every important movement in the patriotic cause in Boston, preceding and precipitating the Revolution, may be traced back directly or indirectly to St. Andrew’s Lodge. The famous “Sons of Liberty,” organized in 1765 to resist the enforcement of the Stamp Act, was but an offshoot of this Lodge; as was also the “North End Caucus” to which was committed the execution of some of the most daring plans of the patriots. Both of these organizations met at the Green Dragon Tavern which was owned and occupied by St. Andrew’s Lodge, and the members of the latter were leaders in the former. It was at this tavern that the historic Boston Tea Party was planned by Warren, Revere and other members of St. Andrew’s. In the days which followed it was Paul Revere of St. Andrew’s Lodge who earned the title of “The Patriotic Mercury” or “The Messenger of the Revolution.” On that memorable night before the battle of Lexington it was by order of the Master of St. Andrew’s,

Joseph Warren, that Bro. Paul Revere set out upon his famous ride to Concord to warn his countrymen of the foe's approach – a ride which had been immortalized by the magic pen of Longfellow who tells us that: "Through all our history to the last in the hour of darkness and peril and need the people will waken and listen to hear the hurrying hoof-beats of that steed and that midnight message of Paul Revere."

When at last the storm, which for years had been gathering, burst in all its fury, it was St. Andrew's Lodge which furnished the first great martyr to American liberty. Joseph Warren, Major General in the Continental Army, fell at Bunker Hill; and thus the lodge which had almost initiated the war gave up its Master in the battle which determined forever the supremacy of the American arms in Massachusetts.

OTHER PATRIOTIC LODGES – But there were other lodges which rendered valuable services in the war for independence. St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge at Boston, the older rival of St. Andrew's, furnished, in the person of its Deputy Grand Master Ridley, the engineer who planned the American fortifications at Bunker Hill. St. George's Lodge at Schenectady, N. Y., where many Revolutionary officers were made Masons, honored itself and the order by appropriating lodge funds for the support of the families of its members who had been taken prisoners. The intimate connection between Masonry and the patriotic movements is also shown by the growth of the order at this time; Master's Lodge alone, at Albany, received eighty-three new members during the historic year 1776.

MILITARY LODGES – But the most important service, after the Revolution was fairly launched, was rendered by the lodges formed in the Continental Army. There were ten of these, they were scattered among the camps from Massachusetts to North Carolina, and their growth was fostered and encouraged by their Commander-in-Chief, General Washington. Washington himself attended their communications frequently meeting with soldier brethren on leave and frequently as Master, sitting in the Oriental Chair, brought many a candidate to Masonic Light. It was in one of these lodges – American Union at Morristown, J.J. – that Lafayette is believed to have received his degrees.

It is difficult to overestimate the strategic value of these army lodges. In the first place they promoted fellowship and solidarity in the ranks and sympathy between officers and men. In an army where the humblest private might sit in lodge on a (the) level with the Commander-in-Chief there arose a spirit of self-sacrifice, mutual helpfulness and devotion – an esprit du corps – which no hireling soldiery could have. Where neither distinctions of/or rank were lost in the ties of brotherhood, even the sufferings of that terrible winter at Valley Forge might be made endurable.

Again, the prevalence of Masonry in the patriotic army insured secrecy in the plans of campaign and fidelity in their execution. Councils of war it is said were frequently held in the lodge room where their deliberations were under the double seal of Masonry and patriotism. Generals could entrust their dispatches to couriers who were brother Masons and feel certain that nothing would be divulged. Thus our eighteenth century brethren formed the strong arm of the Continental service. It is claimed that nearly every American general was a Mason; certainly the leading ones were. Even the allies, Lafayette, the Frenchman, and Steuben and Dekalb, the Germans, were members of the order. John Paul Jones, the founder of our Navy, is known to have petitioned St. Bernard's Lodge at Kirkcudbright, Scotland, and probably was a member.

OUR BROTHERS OF THE OPPOSING FORCES – But we must never forget that not all Freemasons of the Revolution were enrolled in the patriotic ranks – that they were numerous in the opposing army as well.

Peter Ross, the historian of the Grand Lodge of New York, records as operating during the war, in that state, was more than thirty British military lodges. And to the fact that Masons were actively engaged on both sides is due some of the most gratifying incidents of the war.

At the battle of the Cedars near Montreal, Col. John McKinstry, a Freemason, was captured by a band of Indians, allies of the British, whose chief was the celebrated Joseph Brand, also a Mason. In accordance with savage custom the prisoner was bound to a stake, brush was piled around him, and the torch was about to be applied, when Col. McKinstry gave Chief Joseph Brand the sign which Masons know the world around – the grand hailing sign of distress. Indian though he was, the chief recognized the sign and ordered the torture to cease, and he and his captive became fast friends for the rest of their lives.

Again, in 1779, Joseph Burnam, a Mason who was held by the British as a prisoner of war in New York City, escaped and sought shelter in the Green Bay Tree Tavern, kept by another Mason named Hopkins. This tavern served as a meeting place for St. John's Lodge, which was composed mostly of British officers. The fugitive was secreted in the tavern garret which was just above the lodge room. While he was reclining one night the planks, which formed the garret floor, gave way and precipitated the unfortunate guest into the center of the lodge in the very midst of its deliberations. The landlord, who was also the Tyler, was called upon for explanation, and he, like a good Mason, made a clean breast of the whole affair, whereupon the members of the lodge took up a collection for the fugitive brother, though he was an enemy in war, and assisted him in reaching the American lines across the Hudson River.

Another instance of Masonic magnanimity occurred when the brave Baron DeKalb, our German ally, was slain at the battle of Camden in 1780. Although he had crossed the Atlantic to take part in a quarrel that was not his, against the British, he was buried by them with both Masonic and military honors.

RECIPROCITY IN THE AMERICAN ARMY – These are illustrations which, thanks to Masonic teaching, reveal the foe in a better light than some are wont to think of him. Let us notice some expressions of the same spirit on the American side.

At the battle of Princeton, 1776, Captain William Leslie, a Mason and son of the Earl of Leven, of the British Army, received a severe wound. He was taken in charge by Dr. Benjamin Rush, the celebrated surgeon who was then on Gen. Washington's staff, but was found to be "past all surgery." He was also buried with Masonic and military honors and these facts were announced by Col. Fitzgerald, Gen. Washington's aide, who entered the British Camp for that purpose under a flag of truce. Later Dr. Rush erected a monument, which may still be seen, at Brothel Leslie's grave "as a mark of esteem for his worth and respect for his noble family."

Lodge Unity was a military lodge in the 17th foot of the British army. In 1779, while the regiment was engaged in a skirmish, the constitution and jewels of the Lodge were lost. They were returned by Col. Parsons, of the American Union Lodge, with a letter reciting that, "As Masons we are disarmed of that resentment which stimulates to undistinguished desolation. However, our political sentiments may impel us in the public dispute, we are still brethren, and (our professional duty apart) ought to promote the happiness and advance the weal of each other."

AT THE COURTS OF EUROPE – But after all it may be that Masonry's most effective service to the American cause was rendered not at home but abroad. We know that the aid of France was a powerful,

if not indispensable factor in the outcome of the war and that the sympathy of other Continental powers was advantageous. But why should these haughty monarchists of Europe look with favor upon the struggling republic of the New World? There seems to have been some mysterious influence which changed their once hostile attitude into one of friendship; and recent investigations have led to the belief that this influence was the Masonic order.

When Franklin, the Freemason, went to Paris to plead the American cause at the court of St. Germain, he naturally sought out the members of the fraternity. At the "Lodge of the Nine Muses", where he often attended, he met the intellect and statesmanship of the French capital, and it is believed that partly, at least, through these influences he was enabled to reach the ear of Louis XVI and secure for us the French fleet and army. This is believed to have turned the tide of the war in favor of the American cause at its darkest hour. Should we fail to grasp the full significance of this noble record; if we see in it only a source of pride and gratification we may be missing a great truth. It is all that but much more; for every page of this history imposes duty, obligation, and responsibility. If it be true, as the record seems to teach, that American nationality was largely brought about by Masons, and that to this end the best energies of the craft were devoted in the trying times of the Revolution; if our predecessors gave "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" to start the republic on its glorious career, surely we can best prove true to the traditions of American Masonry by continuing the work which they began. What possibilities for good government and high political ideals do these facts express; what a mighty leverage for civic progress and reform. And this is the highest lesson taught us as a craft by Freemasons of the American Revolution: To place patriotism above partisanship, to preserve and extend the free institutions of the republic, to maintain the honor and dignity of the nation at home and abroad, and thus to realize the lofty ideals of our eighteenth-century brethren, bequeathing them as a priceless heritage to generations yet unborn.

404th Masonic District – Stated Meeting Schedule

Oak Plains #789 – 3rd Monday	Bicentennial Daylight #830 – 3rd Tuesday	Natoma #64 -1st Thursday
Fellowship – 6:00 PM	Fellowship – 11:00 AM	Fellowship – 6:00 PM
Dinner – 6:30 PM	Lunch – 11:30 AM	Dinner – 6:30 PM
Meeting – 8:00 PM	Meeting – 1:00 PM	Meeting – 8:00 PM

Inspector of the 404th Masonic District: Worshipful Joseph Juelch

Worshipful Juelch would like to remind Brethren he is accepting gently used clothing to go to the Masonic Home. Please bring them to a stated meeting in July or contact him directly at 916-225-9486. He will deliver the clothes in August.

Temple Board

Carroll O. Dudley, III	President	WM M. Scott Henry, PM	Board Member
Wor. Gene Olson, PM	Secretary	Justin Rubsam	Board Member
Wor. Marvin Lean, PM	Treasurer / Building Mgt	Alex Vuckovich	Board Member

The Temple Board Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM

Sweetheart Corner

Sweethearts,

Should you ever need assistance, please call the Master of the Lodge, or Bro. Jeffrey Winch-Warren at 916-208-1628.

Youth Groups

My Brothers,

You are cordially invited (and encouraged) to attend the events of our very own Chapter of DeMolay, DeMolay meets for dinner every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. The 4th Wednesday is reserved for advisory council and the 5th Wednesday is game nights. All Masons are welcome to attend all events. All meetings start at 7:00 p.m..

On the 4th Saturday of every month, these young men show up to help our Temple Board and Oak Plains #789 perform the monthly clean up. They help mow, pull weeds and paint and any other duties that need to be completed. A huge thank you goes out to these boys!

Visitors

Oak Plains welcomed Bro. Ryan Reynolds, Senior Warden from Ventura Lodge # 214. Bro. Reynolds was in town for work and decided to come to dinner and a meeting. Welcome Brother!

Master Mason Birthdays

Please join us in congratulating each of the Brothers who are celebrating being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason for July, August and September, Congratulations Brothers!

July			August		
Name	Date Raised	Years	Name	Date Raised	Years
Adelardo Alvarado	07/28/2003	14	John Fitzpatrick	08/22/1994	23
James Comstock	07/22/2002	15	James Grier	08/09/1982	35
Gary Erickson	07/07/1969	48	Michaels Henry, PM	08/28/2000	17
David Groza, PM	07/11/2005	12	Daryl Mc Clusky, PM	08/26/1963	54
Victor Hernandez	07/28/2014	3	Mauricio Pasos	08/24/2015	2
William Hutty	07/01/2002	15	Karl Pineo	08/08/2016	1
			Justin Rubsam	08/31/2015	2
			Brian Thorogood	08/23/1979	38
September			September (continued)		
Name	Date	Years	Name	Date	Years
Randall Beck	09/24/1974	43	Michael Brown	09/24/1977	40
Warren Clothier, PM	09/21/1949	68	Gerald Hoff	09/13/1982	35
Denny Hudson, Jr.	09/13/2010	7	David Mc Reynolds	09/12/1983	34
David Menely	09/30/2013	4	Walter Miller	09/23/1959	58
Robert Parker	09/24/1948	69	Jeffery Wiech-Warren	09/23/2013	4

Charity

Masons 4 Mitts!

All aboard! Masons 4 Mitts is in full swing! Lets see if Oak Plains #789 can hit a Home Run! Sign on now to help the Sacramento Cyclones donate a baseball glove to a needy child! Please go to <https://www.masons4mitts.org/> to donate today!

Masons 4 Mitts is a baseball program that serves boys and girls ages 5-18 from more than 150 cities throughout the region. The kids learn teamwork, respect and self-confidence through this program, which also furnishes them with jerseys, hats, baseball equipment and tickets to select Giants games.

“Take me out to the ol’ball game” that is right, Oak Plains invites you our Brothers, Family and Friends and go to Masons Night in San Francisco on September 11th, 2017 at 7:05 PM. We will all board a Bus provided by Baja Limo Service at 3:00 pm at Oak Plains Lodge, travel down and back in a brand-new touring coach. Tickets are \$32.50 for the game and \$50 for transportation, \$82.50 Total, gratuity included. This is a smoking good deal and a worthy cause to support this great charity. Not to mention we get to go hang out with the rest of our brothers from around the state that will be in attendance. We have 54 seats available on the bus, so act now to reserve your seat! Please contact Bro. Mike Perry at (916) 622-7769 or pmike2351@gmail.com for tickets and information.

Oak Plains Lodge cordially invites you to join us and support **Masons 4 Mits at Masonic Night** at Giants Stadium!



San Francisco Giants vs LA Dodgers



Game time 7:05 pm

Game Seats \$32.50 – View Reserve infield 1st base side 3rd Tier

Bus Seats \$50.00 – Covers transportation to / from the game and Driver Gratuity
(We must have 54 passengers on the bus to receive the \$50 rate for the bus)

Total Cost \$82.50 – Must be paid in advance

Bus leaves Oak Plains Lodge #789, 3010 Becerra Way, Sacramento CA 95821

@ 3:00 pm and returns immediatly following the game

Ticket Deadline
1 August 2017

Bro. Pasos and Perry
Will be grilling food for
the tail gate:
donations accepted



Contact Bro. Mike Perry
(916) 622-7769
pmike2351@gmail.com



Transportation provided by BAJA Limo Service

Octoberfest 2017



October 21st 2017 5pm to 10pm

\$ 30 per person

Come enjoy great music, food and beer!

For tickets see brother Mauricio Pasos 916-218-9224

Come join us, All are welcome...

Octoberfest

Late September through October

The first Oktoberfest was held October 12, 1810, in honor of the marriage of Crown prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese von Saxony Hildburghausen. Since that time it has become, above all else, a celebration of German beer. The Lord Mayor of Munich, Germany, opens the first barrel, and the 16 day festival begins. Both citizens and tourists flock to the event, which is marked by folk costume parades in which brewery horses draw floats and decorated beer wagons through the streets. Oktoberfest celebrations modeled on the German festival are also held in cities throughout the United States.

July

Oak Plains Lodge 789, **Contacts, Dinners and Programs, Masonic Bithday, Officers, Holidays** in United States **Jul 2017 (Pacific Time)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Jeffrey Tucker -</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">William Hutty -</div>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	7pm - Officers	Independence Day	7pm - DeMolay	6pm - Natoma #64	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Gary Erickson -</div>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Hollis Brown -</div> 7pm - Officers	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">David Groza, PM -</div> 6:30pm - Temple				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	6:30pm - Dinner and 7pm - Officers 8pm - Stated	11:30am - Bicentenn	7pm - DeMolay			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">James Comstock -</div> 9am - Lodge Clean
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	7pm - Officers				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Abelardo Alvarado</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Victor Hernandez</div>	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

August

Oak Plains Lodge 789, **Contacts, Dinners and Programs, Masonic Bithday, Officers,**
Holidays in United States

Aug 2017 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 Jeffrey Tucker - Trestle Board	2 7pm - DeMolay	3 6pm - Natoma #64	4	5
6	7 7pm - Officers	8 Karl Pineo - Robert Barta - 6:30pm - Temple	9 James Grier -	10	11	12
13	14 7pm - Officers	15 11:30am - Bicentenn	16 7pm - DeMolay	17	18	19
20 6:30pm - Dinner and 7pm - Officers 8pm - Stated	21 John Fitzpatrick -	22 Brian Thorogood -	23	24 Mauricio Pasos -	25	26 9am - Lodge Clean
27 Michael Henry, 7pm - Officers	28	29	30	31	1	2

September

Oak Plains Lodge 789, **Contacts**, **Dinners and Programs**, **Masonic Birthday**, **Officers**,
Holidays in United States

Sep 2017 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Jeffrey Tucker -	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day 7pm - Officers		7pm - DeMolay	6pm - Natoma #64		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jack Veneables -	Richard Frost - 7pm - Officers	David Mc 6:30pm - Temple	Denny Hudson Jr. Gerald Hoff -			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	6:30pm - Dinner and 7pm - Officers 8pm - Stated	11:30am - Bicentenn	7pm - DeMolay	Warren Clothier,	Jeffrey Wiach- Walter Miller - 9am - Lodge Clean	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Randall Beck - Robert Parker -	7pm - Officers	Michael Brown -				David Meneley -