



# T R E S T L E B O A R D

Newsletter of Washington Lodge No.20

February 2012

Live the Masonic Values

Our 161st Year

## From the East: Worshipful Master Joseph Dongo



Our warmest congratulations to Bros. Derek Waterman who received his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree last month, David Aguilar who was initiated Entered Apprentice early this month and William Cameron who was just raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Regardless of your degree, this is a milestone in a lifelong journey. We expect you to get and remain involved in the life of the lodge through its many activities which you can be part of for your personal growth, the growth of the lodge, and that of your brethren.

A new position has been created this year which we hope will continually add to our common stock of knowledge and understanding. Brother Jed Van Wagner is now our "Orator" and will be presenting a short talk at our Stated Meetings.

If, in your readings and research, you come across a good or compelling paper, please send it to Brother Jed Van Wagner at [store5171@theupsstore.com](mailto:store5171@theupsstore.com) or just mail it to Washington Lodge No.20 at, 1123 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814.

The paper needs to be short, less than 10 minutes reading time. The paper may or may not be your own. It may answer some of our doubts, confirm some of our beliefs, or shed a different light to something we may already know. It may excite our curiosity to know more or ignite some discussions among ourselves. But always, please tell us the source of your information. I know many of you have tons of such papers, please share it for our common good.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, we initiated a Fraternal Fellowship with some Masonic learning combined with pool and other fun games. Thanks to Brother Alex Chompff, Chairman of this event. We will be meeting each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. This is intended to bring together all lodge members, regardless of degree, in a relaxed atmosphere to have fun, socialize, and to get to know each other better. At the same time assist others in their proficiencies and Masonic education. Additionally, this offers a platform for prospects to meet our members in a casual setting. So, bring in your friends and co-workers, whether or not they show any interest in Freemasonry when we meet again on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm in the Billiard Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

Our brethren from Concord Lodge No.117 will be joining us on Stated Meeting Dinner to break bread. With your recommendations, minor changes have been made to ensure that the "Cordon Bleu" Committee has enough food for all attendees while we continue to be good stewards of our resources by preventing waste. So, when reservations are made at least two (2) days in advance, the meal is \$5.00, \$10.00 **without** a reservation. Any "**no show**" will cost \$5:00 as well as any late cancellation. Reservation and cancellation should be made no later than two (2) days prior to the dinner. Washington Lodge Ladies will continue to have a free meal covered by the Lodge. Reservation and cancellation can be made 24/7 by phone at [\(888\)828-4476](tel:8888284476), by email at [dch3887@gmail.com](mailto:dch3887@gmail.com), or at the lodge website [www.washingtonlodge20.org](http://www.washingtonlodge20.org). (Continued on page 4)

## Washington Lodge #20 2012 Officers

**Master: Joseph K. Dongo, PM**

Senior Warden	Juan C. Faranda
Junior Warden	Daniel J. Dailey
Treasurer	Eric W. Hixson, PM
Secretary	Jon R. Isaacson, PM
Chaplin	Richard A. Wilson, PM
Senior Deacon	Brian C. Schoenborn
Junior Deacon	Joseph D. Basham
Marshal	Alexander C. Chomppf
Senior Steward	David C. Huez
Junior Steward	Joseph S. Goode
Tiler	Floyd R. Tritt
Officer's Coach	Eric Hixson, PM
Candidate's Head Coach	Alexander C. Chomppf
Officers Coach Emeritus	Ray W. Lenau, PM
Inspector District 414	Bill Miklos, PM
Masonic Lawn Board	Richard Pullen, PM
Masonic Lawn Board	Dave Freeman
Ambassador	Dave Freeman
Orator	Jed Van Wagner

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### *Adopt-A-Freeway Program*

*Cancelled this month*

*Litter Removal on Freeway 244: On & Off  
Ramp I-80 at Auburn Blvd.*

*Meet at Del Paso Park, corner of Park Road and  
Auburn Blvd ( near the Ramp.)*



## From the West

Juan C. Faranda, Sr. Warden

My brethren, greetings from the west with much love and respect.

I'm very proud to be in the West this year. I know it is going to be a challenge, and a lot to learn, but I feel very confident that with all the support from all of you, my brethren, it will be a lot easier. We are lucky to have such a fine line of dedicated Officers. I'm proud to serve with each of you and look forward to make this year a success.

Our Worshipful Master has many good ideas, is so enthusiastic and very positive that it is contagious. The Officers' Handbook is a good example of his great ideas, with it we all know what to do. I look forward to many degrees this year and again congratulations to our new line.

My warmest congratulation go to our newest Master Mason, William Cameron and his proud father, Worshipful Junior Past Master David Cameron. Last Thursday night he was a very happy and proud "papa". It was a very nice third degree among friends and good masons. It was very warm to see father and son, both good people and good Masons. I have no doubt that in a near future Brother William Cameron will follow in his father's steps. I hope to live long enough to see it. I would also like to congratulate Brother David Aguilar, who began his journey as an Entered Apprentice.

This month we had two degrees, and as Senior Warden, I had the great honor to practice what I have studied for quite a while and attained the confidence necessary to do a good ritual, and prepare for next year. With a lot of work, practice, and help, I hope to be elected to the big chair. I have a lot to learn this year, some rough edges to smooth and personal improvements to make. I will improve! My dear Brethren please give and direct me, I will accept any criticism, and, I promise not be offended. To the contrary, it will help me! As we teach in masonry, a "good man, can become a better man"!



### Stated Meeting

Thursday, February 2nd, 2012

5:00 PM Social

6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Stated Meeting

RSVP by January 31st, 2012

(888) 828-4476

"Waste Not, Want Not"



# From the Editor

Victor U Sanchez

My Brethren, as you can see from the format of the front page, there are some changes coming to our Trestleboard. We will be trying to set up our edition to be more friendly and easier to read. Understanding that we only use four (4) pages to try to get our Lodge's message to each and everyone of you, I try not to get too wordy. It would be nice to expand our publication to include more information, such as birthdays, anniversaries, memorials and the like, it is difficult to get our hands on such information. If you have an idea on how to go about finding that information, please let me know.

I am happy to be a part of the Education Committee and look forward to becoming very involved in this new endeavor. If you remember one of my few editorials, I made a point of pushing for the education on Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft members. Time and time again I found myself asking the question, what was that all about? Or, why do we do that? Now, with the formation of this committee, members can come to these education/learning nights and share companionship, experiences and history with each other AND bring new members into our family. Bravo!

As mentioned by Master Dongo, let us all look for and share articles with our Brethren at Stated Meetings. I will try to publish those articles in the following month's edition of the Trestleboard to share with our Brethren who could not attend the Stated Meeting.

During this month, more so than other months, we need to share our brotherly love with each other and our significant others. Remember those whom we hold dear and near to us, those who have gone before us to prepare our way, and He whom we acknowledge as our Maker. Take a few minutes and make that phone call you have been putting off. Share a family story with your children or write to that special person who has been on your mind. Remember the person who encouraged you to take that first step, to "hang in there", and to take the next step. The person without whom we might not be whom we turned out to be.

### Lodge Activities

Feb 2nd	Stated Meeting
Feb 8th	Masonic Education & Social
Feb 9th 1 <sup>st</sup>	Degree: Ted Vergis
Feb 16th	Double 2nd Degree: Casey Creston Whiting & Eric G. Young II
Feb 22nd	Past Masters Night & 3rd Degree - David Cameron
Feb 28th	Ofcr. School of Instruction



# From the South

Daniel J, Dailey, Jr. Warden

January has been a busy month for the Brethren of Washington Lodge #20. Under the mentorship and guidance of Master Dongo, we have seen an increase in the tempo of our activities and more importantly, a surge in attendance at Stated Meetings and degrees. The newly installed officers have settled into their assignments and have begun taking on the challenges and rewards of their new roles and responsibilities. It is very rewarding to see brothers not in the line, and brothers in the line working to learn the work of the officers in other chairs as they further their Masonic education and dedication to Washington Lodge #20.

It is also rewarding to see continued interest in men asking to become Masons and taking the first step in Masonry by asking the recommendation of a friend to be made a Mason. In January we had two such candidates seek membership. Brother David Humberto Aguilar was initiated on January 12, 2012. Welcome to Washington Lodge #20 and the fraternity of Freemasonry! In February we will initiate Mr. Ted Vergis.

On January 19, 2012, Washington Lodge #20 raised Brother William David Cameron to the sublime degree of Master Mason. We were assisted with this degree by some of the best ritualists in Masonry; Worshipfuls Ray Lanau, Matt Ernst, David Allmuth, and John Knox made this a memorable event for all. Our thanks to all of you.

Who is the Tiler?

Brother Floyd Tritt



I know a lot of you have seen me at most of the lodge events, especially at the Stated meetings and at most of the degree ceremonies. My name is Floyd Tritt, and I am the Tiler at Washington 20. I was asked, some years ago, by a Master, if I would be willing to be the Lodge Tiler. I agreed and have been here ever since that day.

I was born in Newcastle, PA, I think, and moved to Sacramento sometime between 1940 and 1945. I worked as an Inspector at Blue Diamond and retired in 1999. I enjoy retirement and collecting old cars and I am a member of the Shriners Classic Car Club.

I think I was raised to the degree of Master Mason in 1982. Over the years, I have met many great people at Lodge and know that, had I not become a Mason, I would not have met you! I want all of you to help make 2012 a great Masonic year for this Lodge and together we can meet the challenges 2012 might put in front of us.

## How Will They Recognize Us? Thoughts on Shibboleth

Source: The Short talk Bulletin

*Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim; and the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You are fugitives from Ephraim, you Gileadites in the heart of Ephraim and Manasseh." Then the Gileadites took the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. Whenever one of the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" When he said, "No," they said to him, "Then say Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth", for he could not pronounce it right. (Judges 12:4-6)*

One evening in your Masonic career you heard the Senior Deacon tell you the story of Jephthah in the Book of Judges. He explained how the men of Ephraim could not pronounce the word "shibboleth" properly because their native language did not have the "sh" sound. Anyone who could pronounce "shibboleth" properly was a friend. Shibboleth is more than a Masonic word. Shibboleth entered the English language to mean: a distinguishing mark or characteristic.

The lesson shibboleth teaches is important within our Fraternity. Most people recognize us by the rings we wear on our hands or the lapel pins we put on our sports jackets. The persons outside our Craft feel our Fraternity is quaint at best and demonic at worst. They have heard about U.S. presidents and signers of the Declaration of Independence who made their obligations at an altar of Freemasonry. They may have watched a program on television alleging secrets and power we do not have. The information flying through the air waves does not tell who Freemasons really are and what we value most.

So how will people recognize us for who we really are? How will they know if we can say "shibboleth" properly? This takes more than grips, words, and ritual knowledge. Think back to your obligations as Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. We solemnly promised and swore to care for the widows and orphans of worthy brother Masons. We declared we would hold ourselves to higher standards than society holds itself to. These values are the true meaning of shibboleth in our day and place.

Society has become self-centered and greedy. We say "harmony being the support of all institutions." Leaders in any line of work learn one of their main duties is "conflict management." Conflict management means handling problems between people in such a way that the larger group can get its work done. *Resolving* the conflict, addressing hurt feelings, and repairing broken relationships is not necessary if the group can get on with its work.

We, as Free and Accepted Masons pledged ourselves to live by a moral that valued hard work, care for our families and treating others as they should be treated. What kind of world would this be if people recognized us as Masons by our actions, instead of our rings? What kind of society would we have if we created harmony in our work as well as doing our tasks and putting food on our tables? Shibboleth, the thing that makes us distinct as a group does not have to be a word. It is our work, our play, and our attitude toward our neighbors.

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### From the East, continued

Thanks to the Lodge Trustees, Bros. David Huez and Scott Goode for faithfully observing this stewardship. Along the same line, our Trestleboard expenses amounted to a whopping \$6,450 last year; for printing and handling and shipping only. Some of you already receive our newsletter by email. Not only do you receive it as soon as our Editor, Brother Sanchez releases it, but it helps us save money for other urgent programs. We thank you for that. We are running on a very tight budget and for those of you who have an email address, it would help the Lodge tremendously, and our finances, if you would go paperless. Please email our Secretary, Worshipful Jon Isaacson at: [secretary@washingtonlodge20.org](mailto:secretary@washingtonlodge20.org) and let him know to email you the Trestleboard, **remember**, you can always print it at home! If however, you do not have an email, no action is needed on your part and you will continue to receive your Trestleboard as before.

Our Past Masters will be honored on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at our **Past Masters Night**. Please mark your calendar and make sure you don't miss this event, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree following the dinner.

Our "Officers Handbook" has been finalized. It has been made available to the Officers and it is our hope that it gives a better understanding of our respective duties, while being our working tool and road map as we make progress on the Officers line. It is crafted so that at term, not only each function of the lodge can be covered by several people, but also, each Officer can cover many if not all the lodge functions. This is the sign of a healthy lodge, poised to sustain enduring growth and vitality. This is the distant shore we have in sight as we embark together on this issuing Masonic year's journey.