

BLYTHE/NEEDLES

Trestleboard

December 2023



RUSK STUDIO PRODUCTS

The Holidays & Elections

With the holiday season upon us there is much work to do and much to look forward to.

Words by **Jeff Gatchell**

From the East,

I can't believe it's the holiday season already! Where has the year gone? Our next Stated meeting will be Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm, CALIFORNIA TIME.

A Temple Board meeting will take place about 30 minutes prior to the Stated. The attire for the stated meeting is business attire minimum black suit and tie. We will also have a dinner of some type beginning at 5:30. A modest \$10 per

person donation to help defray the cost is appreciated. Officer elections will be conducted, which will form the framework for next year's line.

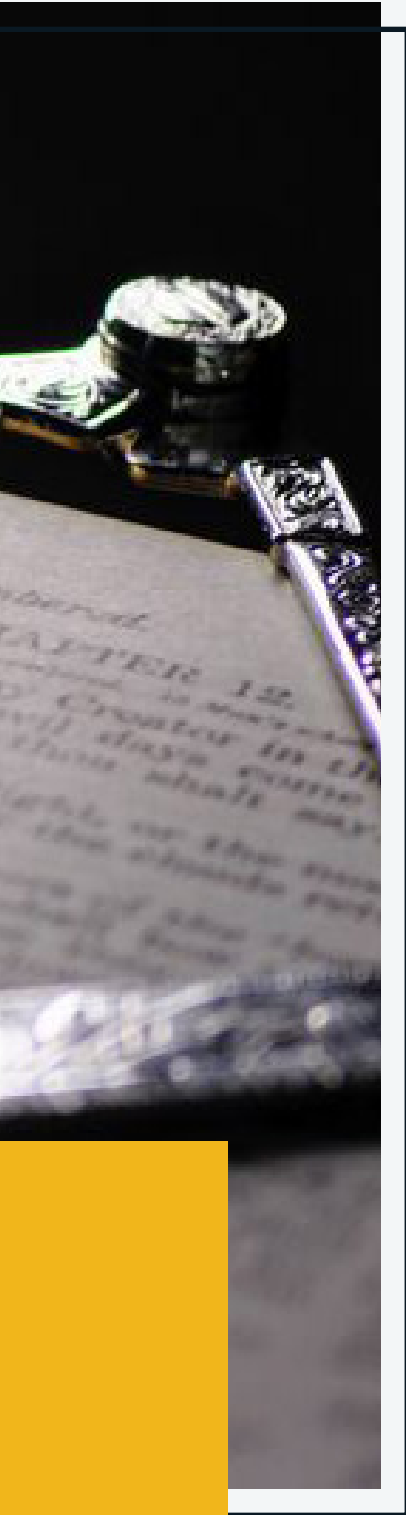
Installation will be Saturday, January 6th at 2 pm at the Lodge. Please plan on attending this annual event in support of your 2024 officers. Tuxes are mandatory for officers.

I believe we have put together the (contd pg4)



The continued building of our organization requires all hands.





(cont'd pg 3) makings for a fairly active 2024. There is way too much to list in this message, so you will have to rely upon the calendar (which of course you can print out and tape to your refrigerator!) in the Trestle Board to stay informed. A reminder that the web address is blythe-needles473.com. Scroll down to "Trestle Boards" and click on whichever month that you want to read.

Also remember that you can use the i-members app to access all you need to know about this Lodge, but also an abundance of topics regarding Masonry in general.

And lastly, some financial advice for any of you that has a bull that can't stop charging..... take away his credit card!

With brotherly love,

Jeffery Gatchell

Jeff Gatchell

'Interim' Master

LODGE DRESS GUIDELINES

Masonic tradition informs us of preferred dress in different rituals, meetings and gathering that we may attend in our masonic service. A times the prescribed articles are to teach us and place us in the same stations as previous masons have done from the acient time up to present day. Other standards of dress may progress as time moves forward. An instance is that it is quite socially acceptable to wear a hat indoors. I have even seen this social norm ignored in churches on Sunday!

Find below requested dress for different common scenarios:

Stated Meetings: Pants, coat & tie or theme of the month

Special Events: TBD by the Master

Degrees: Tuxedo or theme of degree

Hiram Award: Tuxedo

Golden Veteran Award: Tuxedo

Inspector's Official Visit: Tuxedo

Summer Wear: Pants, coat & tie or approved lodge shirt.

As we seek to set outselfs apart from other individuals and society at large, let us hold dear the standards of professional dress and tradition that matches the special and sacred occasions in which we are called to participate.

With Brotherly Love,

Stuart Ryan

Stuart Ryan, Inspector

Reflecting on the Work

May we all be blessed during the holidays as we look forward with praise to the grandmaster of the universe.

Brothers,

Fall has finally arrived in our valley. The holiday season is fully upon all of us and our families. I say family's because, I have one. It is us, our blue lodge in this town. The Fall season many times is a measuring gauge to reflect on what we have done and accomplished in the previous 11 months. Many may reflect and say that without modern technology you have not accomplished much.

I feel we have. We survived the question- When will you close your doors or be absorbed into the collective masonic Idea of that which is now what seems to be norm if we let it. I am proud of what has happened. (cont. 8)



A Time for Reflection



“Dedicated masons continue to answer the call.”

Michael Presley

Several degrees done, full quorum stated meetings and candidates advancing, a rekindling of friendships from the past with other lodges. The accomplishments go on and on. Several dedicated masons continue the work and other brother masons answer the call when needed. It's beautiful, brotherly and accomplishes our obligations we conform to.

I can report to my family one day in the eternities that I happily did my part to carry the work on. Can you imagine

working this hard to learn this work and then not sharing our talents for the betterment of the whole. Sorry I can't. May we all be blessed during the holidays as we look forward with praise to the grandmaster of the universe. Having our brethren in mind. Giving thanks for all that we have and blessed to serve.

With Brotherly Love,

Michael Presley

Mike Presley,

THE MEASURE OF A TRUE MASON

Remember Why You Joined The Call

Words by **Stu Ryan**

My Dear Brothers,

As the Holidays fast approach, I wish to take this time to thank to Brethren who over the past year have lead this Valley, your hard work is appreciated. By the time this article comes out, elections will be upon us, it is hoped that the new year and new line of officers will bring new and exciting things to our Valley.

I am thankful for the leadership who has paved the way for our future. Enjoy your families not just during the holidays but year round. The upcoming year

is planned to include activities which bring family and friends together. Support my line volunteer where you can, you did join to sit at home and do nothing. Support with small contributions to you Valley, (small can be as little as your face in the lodge).

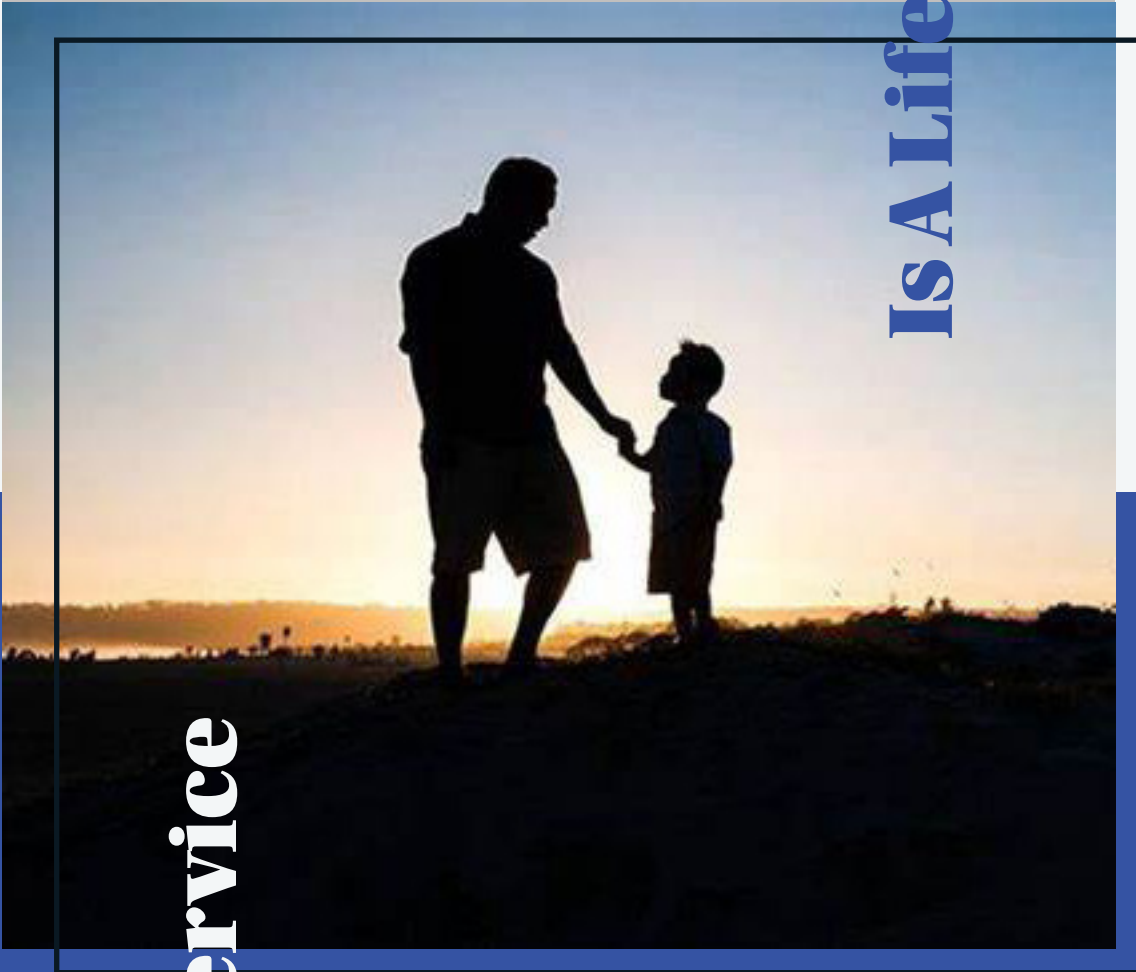
Happy Holidays and I ask take a minute and read this article I found than ask yourself what kind of Mason you are.

Respectfully,

Stuart Ryan

Stuart Ryan, Inspector

A Life of Service



Is A Life Well Lived

“I find joy in meeting young members like yourself”

Inspectors Message

The Measure of a True Mason

A young Master Mason decides to talk with a long-time brother about Freemasonry. The elder brother is a past master, a Hiram Awardee, a former Officers' Coach, and Lodge Inspector. Despite many body aches and pains, he still drives himself to the lodge to attend stated meetings, degree conferrals, and other lodge functions. As a young lodge officer, his Masonic ritual floor work was faultless. His delivery of memorized lines as a Master during lodge openings, closings, and degree conferrals was spotless.

As an installing officer, his performance was the envy of others. He makes people feel the sanctity of Masonic funeral ceremonies with his impeccable presentation. His delivery of perambulations, obligations, lectures, and charges was flawless. He is one of the best, if not the best, Officer Coaches and Inspectors who ever served in those positions in his lodge.

You have chronic pains in your legs and back, which are aggravated by long periods of sitting and standing. Why do you still attend lodge activities?," asked the young Mason.

"I really love our Masonic fellowship. I find enormous joy in meeting our other brothers, especially the young members like you in the lodge. My pain medications keep the pain away while I am driving to the lodge until I get home. My wife is now in Heaven with our Creator. Our two daughters have their own families now. I am now living alone in a senior housing unit. This lodge, my mother lodge, is my family now."

"As a long-time member, can you say all Masons are better men?"

“As you know, only God is perfect. We are all imperfect. All of us are subject to temptations and make mistakes. So, my answer is, no. I cannot say all Masons are better men. However, I believe a man who decides to be a Mason has all opportunities and means to be a better man. I have met men who joined the fraternity for the wrong reasons, but later changed and became better men.”

“When you say, ‘for the wrong reasons,’ what do you mean?”

“There are men who join because they think Freemasonry can give them many benefits. Others, out of curiosity. They think Freemasonry will help them in their business, social, and political lives. Some even join because they think Freemasonry can help them get out of a traffic ticket.”

“Since you have been a Mason for almost all your adult life, what do you think is the measure of a true Mason? Is it the ability to perform rituals correctly and the ability to deliver lectures, obligations, charges, prayers, or perambulations flawlessly?”

“Being able to perform Masonic rituals correctly and deliver memorized speeches flawlessly are good assets to have as a Mason, especially if you are a lodge officer. However, I do not think those abilities are the measure of a true Mason. I believe the measure of a true Mason is if other men followed your footsteps and became Masons because of what they see in you. The way you live your life, the way you treat others, especially those who are lower in rank or social status. If you help those who have no way of paying you back. If your friends, co-workers, business associates, and family members joined the fraternity because of what they see in you, to me, you are a true Mason. However, there is a big problem if not even one of your friends, co-workers, or sons who know you are a Mason, asked you about Freemasonry. I believe you better take a good look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself whether you are living your life as prescribed in the obligations, lectures, and charges you have memorized and deliver so flawlessly.”

“Wow! That is awesome. Worshipful Sir, thank you so much for sharing your thoughts with all of us.”

Local Masonic Officers

Grand Master
G. Sean Metroka

Grand Lecturer
Rick Lawlor
(209) 365-3697
rlawlerx5@softcom.net

Div. Asst. Grand Lecturer
Vick Ropac PM
(951) 850-2319
honorropac@msn.com

Inspector 834th Masonic District
Stuart J. Ryan (Stu) PM, 32 deg
(760) 272-5757
PO Box 557
Blythe, CA 92225

Blythe-Needles Lodge 473
Worshipful Master
Jeff Gatchell PM
(760) 547-7427
gatche@aol.com
Stated Meeting: First Wednesday
Monthly
Dark: June, July, Sept.

Coachella Lodge 476
Worshipful Master
Mert Gayler PM, 33 deg
(760) 221-4812
mgayler@aol.com
Stated Meeting: First Thursday
Monthly

Officer Coach for Blythe-Needles
Mike Presley PM
(760) 408-4518
mspresley55@hotmail.com

Officer Coach for Coachella
Clint Atherton PM, 32 deg
(741) 392-2571
clintatherton@me.com

Icti bea per nati optatia ips an. Quaep

Reflecting on the Work

May we all be blessed during the holidays as we look forward with praise to the grandmaster of the universe.

My Brothers,

The schedule for the District Officer's School of instruction is attached, as well as the tentative agenda for each school for the upcoming year, through the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge.

This year, due to the attendance issues we have had, the SOI's have been moved to the third Wednesday of the month for Blythe and the Third Thursday of Coachella. Commencing January 1, 2024. Quarterly SOI's will begin March on the Fourth Saturday of the month.

Lodge Officers and Officers Coaches are REQUIRED to attend the District SOIs, per CMC. (cont 16)



That said, however, I recognize that work and family can shorten our cable tow and impact our availability to attend. When that happens, let me know, so that I can maintain accurate records of attendance, which I must do for reporting purposes. (I must remind you that you agreed to serve in your position, as such you committed to the master to attend all meetings and Schools of instruction, it is your responsibility to speak with me if you cannot attend). We can all find reasons not to attend lodge or SOI's, how about finding reasons to attend. The Master of your Lodge counts on a good showing to SOI's and Officers coach nights. SOI's are for reviewing the work that the Officers Coaches teach.

In addition to our District SOIs, officer's coaches are invited and encouraged to attend Division ISI's with the District Inspector and the Assistant Grand Lecturer, the Officers coach is expected to attend in the absences of the inspector. The Division SOI schedule is incorporated into the District SOI Schedule accompanying this letter.

I also maintain a more up to date Google Calendar for the district, with degrees, special meetings, and other events. It is more up to date, and has more information included then the attached SOI calendar.

I highly encourage Lodge Masters and Executive Committees to review this online calendar prior to scheduling events and degrees to avoid double booking events in the district. Do so will encourage attendance at lodge events for all the lodges! Masters should communicate with each other and encourage attendance and assistance to each others lodge.

Reminder that only the Inspector and Officers' Coach may have an open ritual in the lodge, for instruction of work, proctoring during degree. Inspector can authorize use in a case-by-case situation should a brother unfamiliar with a chair be asked to fill in. (Medical issues will be at Master and Inspectors discretion)

Lastly, for Officers qualifications for the 2025 Masonic Year, all officers must be qualified by November 1 st , 2024, for December Installation, and December 1 st , 2024, for a January Installation. Officer's Coaches must check off the ritual work prior to making an appointment for qualification, as well as advise me that their officers are ready to be qualified. The requirements for qualification are as follows and have not changed currently. (Subject to change by Grand Lecturer)

Senior Deacon

- Opening alter work all 3 degrees
- 1st Degree Prayer
- Staircase Lecture
- 3rd Degree, 2nd section prayer
- Qualified to give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft & Master Mason Degrees

Junior Warden

- 1st Degree Opening/Closing
- 1st Degree Obligation
- Master's Lecture
- Qualified to give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft & Master Mason Degrees
- Any one of LMCP Courses

Senior Warden

- 2nd Degree Opening/Closing
- 2nd Degree Obligation
- Master's Lecture
- Qualified to give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft & Master Mason Degrees
- Any two of the LMCP Courses and Hall Association Management Courses

Master

- 3rd Degree Opening/Closing
- 3rd Degree Obligation
- Master's Lecture
- Prayer at the Grave
- Master's Congratulations
- Floor Work for the above Ritual
- Qualified to give the Senior Deacon's work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft & Master Mason Degrees
- Remaining LMCP Courses

I am but a telephone call or email away my brothers. My number is (760) 272-5757 and my email is sjryan3@frontier.com. You can call or email me anytime. If I do not answer please leave a message and I WILL call you back!

This document will be stored on imembers in the lodge vault for the entire Masonic Year. This is to ensure that if one loses their copy or requires another one, it can be obtained.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,

Stuart Ryan

Stuart J. Ryan, Inspector

December Events

Dec 6 - 5:30PM
Stated Dinner

Dec 6 - 7:00PM
Temple Board/Stated Meeting

Dec 21 - 7:00PM
OSI

Dec 25 -
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec 27 - 7PM
Executive Officers Meeting

834th Masonic District
 School of Instruction Schedule
 2024

Blythe-Needles Stated Meeting: First Wednesday monthly except June, July, September 7pm

Dinner 6pm

Blythe-Needles Officers Coach Night: 2nd Tuesday & 2nd Thursday 7pm

Coachella Stated Meeting: First Thursday monthly 7pm

Dinner 6pm

Coachella Officers Coach Night: Thursdays

Officer's Dress: (Remember to wear your Lodge name tags)

Stated Meetings:	Pants, Coat and tie or theme of the Month
Special Events:	TBD by the Master (official Events Tuxedo)
Degrees:	Tuxedo or Theme of Degree
Hiram Award:	Tuxedo
Golden Veteran Award:	Tuxedo
Inspector's Official Visit:	Tuxedo
Summer Wear:	Pants, Coat and tie or approved lodge shirt (designated by Worshipful Master)

Date/Time	Host & Location	Attendees	Topic
January 6, 2024 1400 hours/2pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason & Guest Welcome Line Officers required	Installation Of Officers
January 17,2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First Section First Degree
January 18 th , 2024 1900 hours/ 7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First Section First Degree

January 20 th , 2024 0800 hours	Ontario Lodge 301 1025 N Vine Ave Ontario Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	Second half of third degree
February 2 nd & 3 rd 2024	Irvine Ca	Secretary and Treasurer Retreat	
February 17 th 2024 0800 hours	Evergreen lodge 259 5801 Chicago Ave Riverside, ca	Inspectors and Coaches	Ritual Conference
February 21, 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required.	Reception of Grand Officers
February 22, 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Reception of Grand Officers
March 16 th , 2024 0800 hours	Hemet San Jacinto lodge 338 150 Lauren St. Hemet Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	3 rd Degree Master Mason School of instruction
March 20 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Second Section First Degree
March 21 st , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Second Section First Degree
March 27 th 2024 0800 hours/8 am	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required Both Lodges are needed	Cornerstone Ceremony Palm Springs Air Museum Grand Master Reception
April 17 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First Section Second Degree
April 18 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First Section Second Degree
April 20 th , 2024 0800 hours	Big Bear Lodge 617 385 Summit Blvd Big Bear Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	Full Third Degree
May 11 th , 2024 0800	Phoenix Rising Rialto lodge	Inspectors and Coaches	second half Second degree
May 15 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Second half Second Degree

May 16 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Second half Second Degree
May 17-18,2024	Indian Wells	Master and Wardens retreat	
May 19 th , 2024 0800hours/8am-1800 hours/6pm	Oasis of Mara 735 72495 Larrea Ave TwentyNine Palms	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required Recommended lodge participation	Meet and Greet Grand Master
June 15 th , 2024 0800 hours	Upland-Mount Baldy Lodge 419 611 N 3 rd Ave Upland Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	2nd deg opening
June 17 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	2nd Deg opening
June 18 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	2nd Deg opening
July 20 th , 2024 0800 hours	ROTW Lodge 711 26012 HWY 189 Twin Peaks Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	1 st deg
August 17 th , 2024 0800 hours	Temescal Palms lodge 314 2313 S Main St. Corona Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	2 half third deg
August 21st, 2024 1900hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Second Section Third Degree
August 22 nd , 2024 1900hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required.	Second Section Third Degree
September 14 th , 2024 0800 hours	Hemet Lodge	Inspectors and Coaches	Installation, Balloting and Flag
September 18 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required.	Installation, Balloting and Flag
September 19 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Installation, Balloting and Flag
September 20-22,2024	Irvine Ca	Inspectors	Inspectors retreat
October 11, 2024 1800 hours/6pm-2000 hours/8pm	Hemet San Jacinto lodge 338	All Mason Welcome	125 Anniversary

	150 Lauren St. Hemet Ca		
October 12, 2024 0800 hours	tba	Inspectors and Coaches	Grand Lodge opening
October 12, 2024	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Masons	Feast of Tishri
October 16 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First half third Deg
October 17 th , 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required.	First half third Deg
October 25-26, 2024	Grand Lodge Ca	All Masters, Past Masters, Wardens	Annual Communications
November 19, 2024 1900 hours/7pm	Blythe Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	Calendar planning for 2025
November 21, 2024	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca.	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required.	Calendar planning for 2025