

MASONIC

Blythe-Needles

Trestleboard

ISSUE 2-24



FEBRUARY TRESTLEBOARD

From the East

Words by **Worshipful Jeff Gatchell**

Brothren,

2024 is now well under way, and I hope things are going well for you and your families. If you're having any difficulty, hold on to your faith, and remember that God is good. Things will improve! Being that this is 'Sweetheart's Month,' honor your sweetheart in the manner that they deserve - not only this month but all year long!

We continue to have good participation on our practice nights. Again, these are on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the 2nd and 4th week of each month. The 1st week on Wednesdays are the stated meetings, and the 3rd week on Wednesdays is Officer's school of Instruction. What is so enriching for me is that I see real and

steady progress by our continuing to hammer out the work, similar to what many of our dearly departed brethren did in years past. I believe it is paying off! All of the above events begin at 7pm CA time. For stated meetings, we normally have a dinner at the lodge an hour before at 6pm.

I want to give thanks to those who attended our Installation of Officers last month. We had a good turnout, in excess of 40. Ted and Cindy Morris made the trip down from Lake Havasu which was great. There were four brothers from Coachella #476, and one from Temecula. Also a shout-out to Worshipful George Thomas, Worshipful Stuart Ryan, and Worshipful Thomas Johnson (Oasis Lodge in 29 Palms).

These gentlemen served as the Installation team, and they performed flawlessly. The Lyons sisters did their usual great job on the meal, as well as the room prep and post clean-up. We were able to have a great dinner without breaking the bank. Thanks also to brother Beltran and his lovely wife Diana for providing a very unique dessert. As they say, it takes a village!

I anticipate having a 1st Degree soon, and maybe even a 2nd or two. If you are in the officer line, PLEASE locate your cipher, open it, and begin studying the appropriate parts that you may have. If you start early and put time into it, your anxiety will be less - trust me! Waiting until the last minute is never a good idea in this and so many other endeavors.

We are also in the planning stages of an event at our local trap and skeet club, similar to what we've done previously. We had a few brethren from out of town as you may recall (if you were there of course), and Bill Mueller, who runs the place has agreed to host us. A great rib eye meal with fixings and shooting! It will be during the afternoon on a Saturday, in the coming weeks. I'll get the word out when we get a date locked in. And one last thing, the Colorado River Fair is next month (14th - 17th) and we have a sign up sheet at the Lodge for the coverage we always do at the Exhibit building. Let's get it filled. We need 4 persons each day. Different times are available.

Looking forward to seeing many of you again very soon!

On the Level,

Jeff Gatchell
Worshipful Master

Exploring the Scottish Rite

A Brief History and Overview

Words by **Stuart Ryan**

Exploring the Enigmatic History of the Scottish Rite:

The Scottish Rite is a fascinating branch of Freemasonry, known for its elaborate degrees, rich symbolism, and profound philosophical teachings. Its history is as enigmatic as its rituals, tracing back to centuries-old roots in Europe and evolving into a global organization with millions of members.

The origins of the Scottish Rite are shrouded in mystery and legend. While some trace its roots to 18th-century France, where a group of Masonic lodges began conferring additional degrees beyond the traditional Craft degrees, others believe its origins stretch back to Scotland and even ancient Egypt. The earliest

documented evidence of the Scottish Rite comes from the 1750s, with the establishment of the “Council of Emperors of the East and West” in Paris.

The Scottish Rite experienced significant development and expansion throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In the United States, Scottish Rite Freemasonry flourished under the leadership of influential figures like Albert Pike, who played a pivotal role in organizing its degrees and rituals. Pike’s “Morals and Dogma”, published in 1871, remains a seminal text for Scottish Rite Masons, exploring the philosophical underpinnings of its teachings.

During the 19th century, the Scottish Rite spread rapidly across Europe and the Americas, attracting members of diverse backgrounds (cont)

politicians, intellectuals, and business leaders. Its emphasis on morality, brotherhood, and personal growth appealed to many seeking spiritual enlightenment and fraternal fellowship.

At the heart of the Scottish Rite are its degrees, which form a hierarchical system of initiation, each conveying moral, philosophical, and symbolic teachings. The degrees are organized into several bodies or “chapters” with the most commonly conferred being the 4th through the 32nd degrees. The 33rd degree is honorary and bestowed upon Masons who have made significant contributions to the fraternity.

Symbolism plays a central role in Scottish Rite ritual and philosophy, with allegorical narratives, symbolic tools, and architectural symbols used to impart moral lessons and esoteric knowledge. The Scottish Rite degrees draw inspiration from a variety of sources, including biblical stories, classical mythology, and ancient mystery traditions, weaving together a tapestry of symbolism and meaning.

In the modern era, the Scottish Rite continues to thrive as a global fraternal organization, with thousands of active members in countries around the world. While its membership numbers have fluctuated over the years, the Scottish Rite remains committed to its core principles of brotherhood, charity, and moral virtue.

Today, Scottish Rite Masons engage in a variety of philanthropic activities, supporting charitable causes, educational scholarships, and community outreach programs. Beyond its ritual and ceremonial aspects, the Scottish Rite fosters a sense of camaraderie and mutual support among its members, who come together in lodges and chapters to study, reflect, and advance the principles of Freemasonry.

The history of the Scottish Rite is a testament to the enduring appeal of Freemasonry and the timeless wisdom contained within its rituals and teachings. From its obscure origins to its present-day prominence, the Scottish Rite has left an indelible mark on the landscape of fraternal organizations, inspiring generations of Masons to seek truth, pursue virtue, and strive for the betterment of themselves and society.

Sincerely,
Stuart Ryan PM, VM
Inspector 834th Masonic District

February Calendar

blytheneedleslodge@gmail.com

Feb 2024 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7pm - Stated Meeting @	7pm - Coachella Second	9	10
11	12	7pm - Candidates Coach	14	7pm - Candidates Coach	16	17
5pm - Scottish Rite -	19	20	7pm - Monthly OSI	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

Join Us!

<http://blythe-needles473.com/events>

Helpful Links

Blythe-Needles Website:

<http://blythe-needles473.com>

Purpose: To serve at a central location for all calendar events, updates, and lodge news for the Blythe-Needles Lodge.

California Grand Lodge Website:

<https://freemason.org>

Purpose: The grand lodge website functions as the central online presence for Masonry in the State of California. It can be used as a resource to answers questions fields about masonry, find additional articles for education and to keep track of Masonic events taking place in your region and state.

iMembers Website:

https://member.freemason.org/users/sign_in

Purpose: You can use your iMembers account to monitor calendar events at the local and state level. You can also manage dues, donations and find Masonic education. If you need assistance with creating an iMembers account please contact the lodge secretary Kevin Crain.