

# Blythe-Needles

ISSUE 25-1

## January 2025



TRESTLEBOARD

**From the East**

# Happy New Year!

**Exciting Growth and Plenty of  
Progress in the Brotherhood**

Words by **Jeff Gatchell**

Brethren,

I hope that your 2024 was a good year, and that 2025 will be even better!

I wish to extend a thank you to all of you for being members of #473, but a special thanks to those of you who went above and beyond in terms of actively participating in our events. I do realize that several of our brothers live out of the area, so it is understandable why we never see some of you. Just know that you are missed, and we are always here holding down the fort, and would love for you to drop in if and when you can!

On Saturday, January 4th at 2pm

California time, we will be having our annual installation of officers here at the lodge. We always look forward to this as it gives us the opportunity for fellowship and visiting with other family members that we don't see all that often. We have chosen to have a early dinner catered by our local Chipotle, which should more than satisfy everyone's appetite. Speaking of officers, I will list them, as well as the 2025 Committees. If you are not listed on one and would like to be, please let me know. I look forward, and am honored to once again serve as Master for this year. It takes all of us to make it work so please stay active as

# 2025 Lodge Officers and Committees

## 2025 OFFICERS

Master - Jeff Gatchell  
Senior Warden - E. Sutton Miller  
Junior Warden - Mike Presley  
Secretary - Kevin Crain  
Treasurer - Jared Rusk  
Chaplain - Richard Morrow  
Senior Deacon - Terry Aldridge  
Junior Deacon - Zachary Bush  
Marshall - Jimmy Ryan  
Senior Steward - Sal Beltran  
Junior Steward - Tim Wade  
Tiler - Danny Dill

## Audit Committee

Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Senior Deacon

## Charity Committee

Master of the Lodge  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Secretary  
Past Master

## Scholarship Committee

Master of the Lodge  
Junior Warden  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Past Master

## Membership Committee

Master of the Lodge  
Senior Warden  
Secretary  
Past Master

## Executive Committee

Master  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Secretary  
Past Master

much as you're able. There is strength in numbers, and the more of us the better. So many service clubs throughout the country are struggling - let's not be one of them!

With brotherly love,  
Jeff Gatchell

# Embracing the New Year

Brethren,

As we step into January, the start of a new year, it is a fitting time to reflect on the values that unite us as Masons. While the world around us often highlights differences, within the walls of our Lodge, we focus on what binds us together—our shared principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Freemasonry has always been a place where men of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences come together on common ground. In our Lodges, we meet “on the level,” setting aside the distinctions of the outside world to work in harmony toward a shared purpose.

This unity, built on mutual respect and understanding, is the cornerstone of our fraternity.

Harmony is one of the pillars that sustains the Lodge. It allows us to build bridges where others might see divides and it strengthens the bonds of brotherhood. As we navigate this new year, let us strive to extend that harmony beyond our Lodge walls. In our interactions with one another and the world around us, let us focus on finding shared goals and fostering understanding, even

amidst differing perspectives.

The work we do as Masons—both within the Lodge and in our daily lives—is a testament to the power of collaboration and unity. Together, we remind the world that peace and understanding are not lofty ideals, but achievable goals when approached with open hearts and minds.

As we celebrate this new beginning, may we carry forward the spirit of common ground and harmony, continuing to build a better world, one act of kindness and understanding at a time.

Fraternally,  
Sutton Miller  
Junior Warden



# **A Freemason's Year-End Greeting**

A Freemason's Year-End Greeting,

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the journey we have walked together in the spirit of brotherhood, charity, and truth. May the lessons of the Craft continue to guide our hearts and minds in the coming year.

May we ever seek light in the darkness, build stronger foundations in our communities, and continue to strive for the betterment of ourselves and those around us. As Masons, let us remember that our bond is not only in our words, but in our actions.

Wishing you a prosperous, fulfilling, and harmonious New Year. May peace and brotherly love reign in your life and in the hearts of all those you hold dear.

Fraternally yours,  
Stu Ryan PM/VM 32° Hiram  
Inspector of the 834th  
Masonic District  
Blythe-Needles 473

# EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

**Lodge Repairs, Community Engagement and  
2025 Preparations.**

Words by Jared Rusk

Brothers,

Exciting work has been taking place for the Blythe-Needles Lodge. Members of the lodge recently attended the Streets of Blythe Holiday Festival to raise awareness about the local philanthropic work of our lodge. The event was successful with many community members contacted. A special thanks to Brother Sal Beltran, Sutton Miller and Jeff Gatchell for their dedication to the cause. Photos are below.

A Building Improvement Grant was awarded to our lodge. While our building remains well cared for and in good overall shape, several capital intensive projects have crept up over the years. The lodge recieved appromately \$11500.00 for general improvements. Bids were taken and work is already under way to update air conditioning in the secretaries office, reconditioning the storage room directly off of the lodge room, and improving the fitment of the exterior door in that same area. Come by to say hello and see lodge improvments!

The Blythe-Needles Scholarship continues to grow. Excellent connections have been made between the lodge and the Palo Verde Unified School District. High school counselors at the local Palo Verde

High School stand ready to distribute the scholarship application for graduating seniors this coming spring. Please direct any seniors you may know to ask for an application to apply for the scholarship.

The mission continues to move forward brethren. This year we have have initiated two new members and raised three members to Masters Masons with two of those brothers returning there third degree proficiency. The upcoming year will also be busy. We anticipate at least 3 more Master Mason proficiencies in short order with Fellowcraft proficiencies also expected to be returned before spring. Join us, we miss working with you!

Sincerely,  
Brother Jared Rusk



# January Events

blytheneedleslodge@gmail.com

Jan 2025 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 2pm - Blythe-
5	6	7	8 7pm - Blythe-	9	10	11
12	13	14 7pm - Blythe OCN	15	16 7pm - Blythe OCN	17	18 8am - Inspectors
19	20	21	22 7pm - Blythe	23	24	25
26	27	28 7pm - Blythe OCN	29	30 7pm - Blythe OCN	31	1

## Join Us!

Officer Installation Blythe-Needles Lodge  
 Stated Meeting Blythe-Needles Lodge  
 Montly OSI Blythe-Needles Lodge  
 Officer & Candidate Coach Nights

January 4th 2PM  
 January 8th 7PM  
 January 22nd 7PM  
 Jan 14, 16, 28 & 29 7PM