

JANUARY 2025

NO. 01

WWW.BLYTHE-NEEDLES473.COM

BLYTHE NEEDLES LODGE 473



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FROM THE EAST

END-OF-YEAR LODGE MESSAGE

Worshipful Jeff Gatchell

Happy New Year, Brethren! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. As we fly into 2026, there are some important items that need to be highlighted:

First, there WILL be a stated meeting along

with a dinner on Wednesday 1/7. Worshipful Munar will be providing a Filipino fare, which we've had at a previous dinner, and which was very good (we ran out!). Please come prepared to give a minimum donation of \$10 pp. If you are truly struggling, come anyway and one of us will help you with that. Family and friends are encouraged to attend. Anyone that wants to assist with setting up the dining room, please come by 4 and you can bring your suit if you want to change in the library beforehand. It saves you a trip home to





change. 6pm dinner, 7pm meeting (CA time).

Next, we will be having a “Closed” Installation on Saturday, 1/10 at 1pm CA time. This is something we have not done since I’ve been here, but it means that only masons will participate. There won’t be the need to come down hours before to open the lodge since it won’t be a public event. Having said that, it should not last any longer than a regular meeting, so you’ll still have most of your Saturday to do your own thing. We open, we install, and we leave! There WILL be a Master of Ceremonies, a Chaplain, and an Installing Officer per usual. PLEASE COME!

Lastly, we will be announcing a date shortly after the 1st that we will be scheduling a first degree for our newly elected brother to begin his masonic journey. We will need to again start knocking off the rust so that everyone feels confident about their role in the degree. As you know, the more we have at practice, the more productive they are. Dates for those will be in the calendar and/or by texts.

The officers for 2026 are listed in this issue in case you aren’t aware of who is slated to be where. Thanks everyone for stepping up once again!

See you soon,
Jeff Gatchell
Worshipful Masterv

FROM THE WEST

A MESSAGE OF UNITY AND GOODWILL

Senoir Warden Sutton Miller

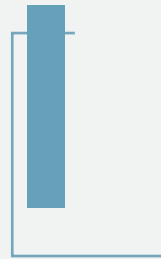
Brethren,
One of the great strengths of our Fraternity is the understanding that each of us contributes in different ways and in different seasons of life. Some are able to give time and labor, some offer guidance and experience, and others support the Lodge quietly but faithfully in ways not always seen. All of these contributions matter, and all are valued.



As we continue our work together, it is important to speak openly and honestly about the well-being of our Lodge. Like many organizations, our operating costs have steadily increased over the years, while our income has remained largely unchanged. At present, our finances are just enough to keep our doors open, leaving little room for growth, unexpected expenses, or long-term planning. With that in mind, we are asking the Brethren to consider how each of us might help support the Lodge moving forward. This may come in the form of fresh ideas and participation in meaningful fundraisers, or, for those who are able, through voluntary financial contributions to help strengthen our foundation. No single



path is expected of every Brother — rather, this is an invitation for shared responsibility, offered according to one's ability and circumstance.



Our obligations remind us that when we are able, we should give due regard to the summons of a just and legally constituted Lodge. For our able-bodied and local Brethren, regular attendance at stated meetings is one of the most meaningful ways to support the Lodge. Your presence, voice, and participation allow us to benefit from your ideas, your experience, and your counsel — all of which are vital as we work through the challenges and decisions before us.

It is also important to share that Lodge dues have not been increased since 2016. While a vote on a dues increase must take place prior to our Lodge going dark in June, so it may be properly submitted to the Grand Lodge before the Annual Communication in the fall, this topic will be discussed thoughtfully and openly in the months leading up to that time. These conversations are not entered into lightly, but with the understanding that maintaining our Lodge for future generations requires careful planning and honest dialogue today.

To our Brethren who may be less active, know that you are missed, and your presence — in whatever way you are able — strengthens us. To those whose years and experience have shaped this Lodge, your wisdom and continued connection remain invaluable, regardless of the form they take. Each Brother stands on the level here, united by a common purpose and a shared obligation to the Craft we love.

Together, through open hearts, open minds, and mutual respect, we can ensure that our Lodge remains strong, stable, and worthy of those who came before us — and those who will follow after.

Fraternally,
Brother Sutton Miller
Senior Warden

Fellowship

2026 OFFICER LINEUP

JEFF GATCHELL	WORSHIPFUL MASTER
LARRY WUERTZ	SENIOR WARDEN
MIKE PRESLEY	JUNIOR WARDEN
KEVIN CRAIN	SECRETARY
STU RYAN	TREASURER
ZACH BUSH	SENIOR DEACON
JARED RUSK	JUNIOR DEACON
SAL BELTRAN	SENIOR STEWARD
TIM WADE	JUNIOR STEWARD
TERRY ALDRIDGE	MARSHALL
JIMMY RYAN	TILER
SUTTON MILLER	CHAPLAIN

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 7	DINNER & STATED MEETING 6PM
JANUARY 10	DINNER & STATED MEETING 6PM
1ST DEGREE PRACTICE NIGHTS	TBD
1ST DEGREE CONFERRAL	TBD