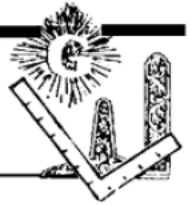


# The Master Mason



VOLUME CIV, Issue 2

February 2026

## The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

What a truly memorable evening we shared at our 2026 Annual Dinner! The event was a resounding success, filled with warm fellowship, delicious food, and the unmistakable spirit of brotherhood that defines our Lodge. It was a fitting tribute to honor our Junior Past Master, Wor. Eric Fuller, for his dedicated leadership and service to our lodge. The room was full of laughter and appreciation for the year he walked us through, and I think we all left feeling proud of our Masonic family. A special thank you goes to our outstanding officers and all the brothers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the evening so enjoyable. Your efforts from planning to coordination and hospitality, created an unforgettable night for everyone, especially for Wor. Fuller.

Looking ahead, I am personally thrilled about the upcoming First Degrees Friday Jan 30th and Tuesday Feb 2nd! (Note: I am writing this in late Jan so these events may have already passed). It is always a profound privilege to welcome new brothers into our ancient and honorable fraternity. These ceremonies remind us of the timeless lessons of Freemasonry and the joy of seeing brothers begin their Masonic journey. I encourage you to attend if your schedule permits,



Brandon Schoonover  
Worshipful Master



let's welcome our new brethren and set the right expectations for them as they embark on their travels.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our Past Master's Night, a 3rd Degree for Bro. Chris Sperry on February 20th! This is a tradition where our Past Masters take center stage, leading our work, and strengthening our bonds. If you are a Past Master of San Diego Lodge No. 35 and interested in participating—whether by occupying a station, assisting in the ritual, or simply

joining us in fellowship; please reach out to Myself, Wor. Eric Fuller or Wor. Christian Moreno at your earliest convenience. They will be coordinating the details and would love to hear from you. We will be hoping to host practices, to shake the rust off our Past Masters on Feb 6th and Feb 9th, so please plan on attending those if you can. For all Master Masons, your presence will make this night even more meaningful for all of us.

Finally, Feb 23rd Progress Night, we will hold an informal evening for all our lodge prospects, Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts. We will spend the first hour in fellowship, followed by break out session where our Deacons will lead our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts through their respective work. All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are strongly encouraged to attend, to make progress on your masonic journey.

Brethren, these are exciting times for our Lodge. Let us continue to support one another, uphold our obligations, and build on the strong foundation we share.

See you in Lodge!

Brandon C. Schoonover  
Master

## From The West

Greetings Brethren!

This year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of San Diego Lodge 35! If those founding brethren came attended our February Stated meeting, how much would they recognize? How much would they find foreign or new? Our meeting format is probably very similar. But what about our ritual?

Ritual is that cement that binds all Masons. It is what allows us to visit other jurisdictions and understand what is happening. Visiting other jurisdictions also allows us to return home and share what we have experienced.

The experiences we have in Masonry stay with us forever. Many of those experiences are because of our Ritual. For Masons, ritual can take two forms: spectating or performing. Our experiences as spectators are also of two types: candidate or sideliner.

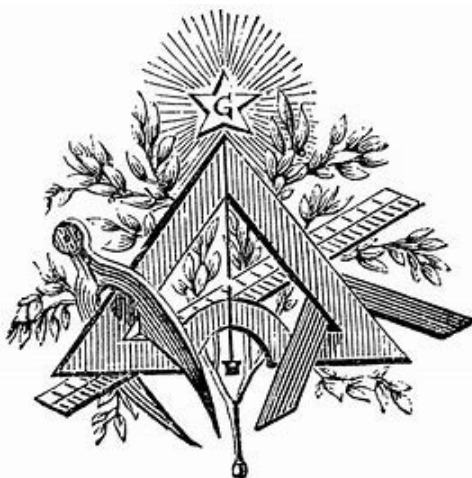
As a candidate, we experience the ritual from the inside. The ritual is done to and for us. It becomes our responsibility to understand the lessons that are being imparted.

When we are sideliners, we experience ritual from a different perspective. We know the story, understand the lessons and can re-experience our own time as the candidate.

However, for the candidate, the most important part of the ritual are the performers. Each role in the ritual is important. The candidate



Brother Paul Chouinard  
Senior Warden



may not realize the many roles until later. Usually that occurs once our role shifts from candidate to sideliner.

Performing a role in the ritual can be very demanding. Understanding the floorwork, understanding the dialogue, but most importantly understanding the meaning of the work.

A lot in society has changed in the last 175 years. To those founders of San Diego Lodge 35 a lot may be

different in the Lodge, but they can still recognize that San Diego Lodge 35's ritual remains true to the meaning of Masonry.

See you in Lodge,

Paul Chouinard  
Senior Warden.

## Hiram Award Committee:

As your Senior Warden, I am the Chair of the Hiram Award selection committee. If you would like to be part of the committee this year, just let me know.

## Lodge 35 Polo Shirts

This year San Diego Lodge 35 has polo shirts! If you are interested in purchasing one let me know your size. The cost will be \$50. Any money left over from the cost of the shirt and embroidery will be donated to Dewey School. I will close the orders on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Did this article pique your interest? Are you curious about the ritual work and what it takes to perform it? Let us know! Practices are always open to the brethren, so long as you are at least the degree of the work being done.*

Please see the Last page of the Trestle board for Officer Contact info

## To Families, Wives/Widows and Caregivers

Should the person to whom this newsletter is addressed be ill or in some difficulty, please contact the Lodge Secretary at (619) 296-0660 or email him at: [secretary@sandiego35.org](mailto:secretary@sandiego35.org)



Brother Hector Heredia  
*Junior Warden*

## From The South

Greetings Brethren,

Thank you to those who attended the first degrees of the year. I'd like to congratulate our new candidates again on their admission into our ancient and honorable fraternity. I encourage you to continue attending these degrees. The more you work on your proficiencies and experience the rituals, the more you'll learn about the craft. Welcome!

### **The Temple of Living Stones.**

By Lawrence M. Greenleaf.

The temple made of wood and stone may crumble and decay,  
But there's a viewless Fabric which shall never fade away;  
Age after age the Masons strive to consummate the Plan,  
But still the work's unfinished which th' immortal THREE began;  
None but immortal eyes may view, complete in all its parts,  
The Temple formed of LIVING STONES, -the structure made of hearts.

'Neath every form of government, in every age and clime;  
Amid the world's convulsions and the ghastly wrecks of time, -  
While empires rise in splendor, and are conquered and o'erthrown,  
And cities crumble into dust, their very sites unknown, -  
Beneath the sunny smiles of peace, the threatening frown of strife,  
Freemasonry has stood unmoved, with age renewed her life.

She claims her votaries in all climes, for none are under ban  
Who place implicit trust in God, and love their fellow man;  
The heart that shares another's woe beats just as warm and true  
Within the breast of Christian, Mohammedan or Jew;  
She levels all distinctions from the highest to the least,  
The King must yield obedience to the Peasant in the East.

What honored names on history's page, o'er whose brave deeds we pore.  
Have knelt before our sacred shrine and trod our checkered floor !  
Kings, princes, statesmen, heroes, bards who square their actions true,  
Between the Pillars of the Porch now pass in long review;  
O, Brothers, what a glorious thought for us to dwell upon, -  
The mystic tie that binds our hearts bound that of WASHINGTON!

Although our past achievements we with honest pride review,  
As long as there's Rough Ashlars there is work for us to do;  
We still must shape the LIVING STONES with instruments of love  
For that eternal Mansion in the Paradise above;  
Toil as we've toiled in ages past to carry out the plan, -  
'Tis this;- the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man !

See you in Lodge!!!

Hector Heredia  
Junior Warden



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let The Sun Shine



**Richard Bauersfeld**  
**Michael Thomason**  
**James Helt**

*To add names to the list, please contact the Secretary. His number is listed in the last page.*

Contact the Secretary for addresses and phone numbers.

## MEMBER NEWS

In January we had our Annual Dinner honoring our new Junior Past Master, Worshipful Eric Fuller. Below we can see his campsite for the evening, as well as him receiving his new Past Master Apron. Congratulations Worshipful Fuller!



## February Birthdays

1	Joe	Davis PM	13	Aaron	Garofano	22	John	Tenwolde
7	John	Kirchner	17	Alexander	Adams Jr.		Karl	Kail V
	Edward	Chapin	18	Michael	Weyel	23	Thomas	Crellin Jr.
	Francisco	Gregorio		William	Duty	24	Bernard	Klapow
9	Zachary	Perez	19	James	Field EA	26	Evan	Mc Mullin
11	Ortega	St. John		Eison	Brown	27	Roy	Peich
	Ralph	Bryan	21	Richard	Bullard PM	28	David	Jacobs

# MEMBER NEWS

Let us look as well to the future as we do our past. On January 30th and February 2nd the Lodge initiated three new Brothers: Jason La Rocca, Guillermo Gonzalez, and Charles Willets. Congratulations to these new Brothers, may your masonic journey be illuminating and joyous!



**San Diego Lodge No. 35, F. & A. M.**  
 1561 Camino del Rio South  
 San Diego, CA 92108-3522

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



***Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth***

**2026 LODGE OFFICERS**

Master..... Brandon Schoonover (Rhiannon).....  
 Senior Warden ..... Paul Chouinard (Carie).....  
 Junior Warden ..... Hector Heredia .....  
 Treasurer..... Melvyn Stein, PGM (Betty).....  
 Secretary..... John Goodloe, PM (Diane).....  
 Assistant Secretary Mark Doubleday, PM (Kim).....  
 Chaplain ..... Gary Creason, PM (Mia).....  
 Senior Deacon..... Ray Flores .....  
 Junior Deacon ..... Aaron Garofano (Neha).....  
 Marshal..... Christopher Bodo.....  
 Senior Steward..... Richard Payn .....  
 Junior Steward ..... TBD.....  
 Musician ..... Christian Moreno, PM.....  
 Tiler..... Chuck Makray.....  
 Lodge Ambassador Richard A. Fisher (Connie).....  
 Lodge Ambassador Jay Sener IV, PM (Cindy).....

***For your convenience...***

Inspector, 925th: Roberto Reyes, PM (Ressa) .....  
 Officers' Coach: Mark Doubleday, PM (Kim).....  
 Assistant Officers' Coach: Christian Moreno, PM.....  
 Junior PM: Eric Fuller (Kelli).....  
 Editor: Christian Moreno, PM.....  
 San Diego Lodge No. 35 Office .....(619) 296-0660  
 San Diego Lodge No. 35 Office (Reservations).....(619) 296-4821

San Diego Lodge No. 35 Website: <http://www.sandiego35.org>  
 San Diego Lodge No. 35 email: [secretary@sandiego35.org](mailto:secretary@sandiego35.org)

**STATED MEETING and DINNER  
 FEBRUARY 13TH, 2026**

**\*\*ATTIRE: COAT & TIE\*\*  
 (TUXEDOS FOR OFFICERS)**

**Dinner at 6:00 pm  
 By Reservation - \$25.00**

**Make or Cancel Reservation with Secretary by  
Noon – February 11th, 2026**

**Entrees:** Meat Lasagna, Chicken Parmesan, Grilled  
 Vegetables, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Bread Sticks

**Dessert: Tiramisu**

***Food from Ranch Catering*  
 Stated Meeting at 7:30 pm**

Dessert served following the Stated Meeting  
 and the ladies' activity — TBD (approximately 8:45 pm).

# Calendar Of Events

## February 2026

2nd	Monday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
6th	Friday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
9th	Monday	5:30pm	Exec Meeting
		6:30pm	Officers Practice
10th	Tuesday	6:30pm	1° Proficiency
13th	Friday	6:00pm	Stated Meeting Dinner
		7:30pm	Stated Meeting
16th	Monday	-	DARK
20th	Friday	7:00pm	PMs 3° Degree (Sperry)
23rd	Monday	6:30pm	Progress Night
24th	Tuesday	6:00pm	OSI
27th	Friday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°

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