



The Master Mason



VOLUME CIV, Issue 1

January 2026

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

For my article this month I have decided to share my speech from installation with hopes that those who maybe could not attend installation could have a chance to read it. I hope you enjoy:

For those of you who may not know much about me and may be curious, my road to the East was in fact pretty quick. But my Masonic story began long ago, not with a brother, but with my father.

My dad was raised in 1985 at Phoenix Lodge No. 178 in San Bernardino. He never sat in an officer's chair. Life as a police officer and, later, as a single father raising five children didn't leave room for that. But he lived the principles every single day. He taught me to love God, that a man's word is all he has, and that you should treat the person cleaning the floors with the same dignity you give the CEO.

Three years ago he laid down his working tools far too soon. But tonight I feel he is here. Dad, thank you. Everything I try to build is built on the foundation you gave me. I hope tonight I make you proud.

For 2026, my theme for our lodge is simple, but it carries the weight of who we are and who we must strive to become:



History .: Tradition .: Excellence .:

Brandon Schoonover
Worshipful Master

History - Tradition - Excellence

History

In 1851 eight men gathered in a small pueblo town called San Diego and opened the first Masonic lodge south of Los Angeles and west of the Rockies. They knew they wanted to create something that would outlast them. 175 years later, that desire is still being fulfilled by us.

Tradition

Our membership rolls read like a who's-who of San Diego's past:



judges, mayors, war heroes, and builders of this city. It seems like more Grand Masters have come from our lodge than from almost any other lodge in California. Ritual excellence, brotherly love in action, and an unbroken line of aprons passed from one generation to the next - that is our tradition. It is not a museum piece. It is a living trust, and we are its current trustees.

Excellence

History without forward motion is what... nostalgia?

Tradition without improvement simply becomes stagnation.

Excellence is the engine that pushes our history and tradition into our future.

It is on us: every officer, every member, every brother in this room... to refine ourselves, to sharpen our ritual, to strengthen our charity, to equip and mentor the next generation, and to leave San Diego Lodge No. 35 stronger than we found it.

To the officers of this lodge, my partners in this year's great endeavor, let me remind all of us, myself first, of the duty now resting on our shoulders. The foundation of this lodge was laid firm and immovable by men perhaps better than us. But foundations are meant to be built upon, not admired from a distance. This year we will build: boldly, faithfully, and together.

We will honor our history by knowing it.

We will protect our tradition by living it.

We will achieve excellence by demanding it, of ourselves first, and then of one another, always in the spirit of brotherly love.

Brethren, this is our lodge. This is our year. And when we turn the page into the next year, let it be said that the brethren of 2026 did not merely keep the lights on, we turned the light up brighter than ever before. May we stand on the shoulders of our past masters and the titans of history who sat in these chairs before us. May we honor their tradition with our ritual excellence. And may we remember that solemn passage from our volume of sacred law, that "he that endureth until the end, the same shall be saved."

See you in Lodge!

Brandon C. Schoonover
Master

From The West

Greetings Brethren!

We always remember the place where we grew up. A place of memories. Some good, some bad, and even some great. It is a place where we learned about ourselves, where we formed beliefs and behaviors that would shape who we are today. That place may be different from the place we were born and it may even be more important to our growth and maturation. For many it is a place that we move away from as we mature and return



Brother Paul Chouinard
Senior Warden



to infrequently if at all.

For a great number of Masons in San Diego, San Diego 35 is the place they grew up. But, they have, for varied reasons, moved on to different Blue Lodges or into the appendant bodies. And for a variety of reason, these Brothers rarely return to Stated Meetings or special events.

Coming back to Lodge may resurrect memories, just like returning to where we grew up. The memories

that were the cause of moving away. But upon returning we can see those places and events through more seasoned and experienced lenses. Sometimes this returning allows us to better understand why things are done a certain way. Sometimes it just makes us more confused.

Returning also means that we may have to interact with a person or persons who were not always kindest or most helpful. In situations like this, there is always hope that there will have been positive change in our absence. This hope is not often realized either on our part or that of others. In each degree, Masonry teaches us the importance of accepting each other as we are. And understanding the roles we play in our relationships inside and outside of the Lodge.

The New Year offers an opportunity to come back to the Lodge, meet the new officers, and reestablish a place within the Brethren. If it has been a while, there may be some familiar faces but also a lot of new ones. New Brothers who are interested in you, your views, and your experiences in Masonry.

So, I invite you back to San Diego 35. As always, Stated Meeting is the first Friday of the month (except February and July this year when it is the second Friday). Dinner at 6:00pm, Lodge at 7:30pm. You can come for one or come for both. Whichever you choose, the Lodge will be happy to see you!
See you in Lodge,

Paul Chouinard
Senior Warden.

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



Brother Hector Heredia
Junior Warden

From The South

Greetings Brethren,

I want to thank our brethren for electing me to be Junior Warden of our Lodge and for permitting me the opportunity to learn from the lessons accompanying the duties of

this station. I also want to thank Worshipful Eric Fuller for his exemplary leadership. He has truly displayed our masonic virtues and true brotherly love. I hope he continues to visit our lodge to be an example for our new brethren.

For "here we meet as brethren to learn to know and love each other. Here we greet each other gladly, are lenient to each other's faults, regardful of each other's feelings, ready to relieve each other's wants. This is the true religion revealed to the ancient patriarchs; which Masonry has taught for many centuries, and which will continue to teach as long as time endures." "Charity bids us think the best (of our brothers), and leave what we know not to the Searcher of Hearts; for mistakes, suspicions, and envy often injure a clear fame; and there is least danger in a charitable con-

struction,"

"Charity is the great channel," it has been well said, "through which God passes all his mercy upon mankind. For we receive absolution of our sins in proportion to our forgiving our brother... God himself is love; and every degree of charity that dwells in us is the participation of the Divine nature."

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him." - Morals & Dogma

Just some interesting quotes from Morals and Dogma. I'm still learning myself but I'm glad to have you all as Brothers on this journey together.

See you in Lodge!!!

Hector Heredia
Junior Warden



Officers of San Diego Lodge No. 35

Worshipful Master : Brandon Schoonover

Senior Warden : Paul Chouinard

Junior Warden : Hector Heredia

Treasurer : Most Worshipful Melvin B. Stein, PGM
Assistant Secretary : Worshipful Mark Doubleday, PM

Secretary : Worshipful John Goodloe, PM
Chaplain : Worshipful Gary Creason, PM

Senior Deacon : Ray Flores
Marshal : Christopher Bodo

Junior Deacon : Aaron Garafano
Senior Steward : Richard Payn

Musician : Worshipful Christian Moreno, PM

Tiler : William "Chuck" Makray

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.

To the Celestial Lodge Above



Name: Wilbur "Bud" Huntsinger
Born: July 8, 1932
Raised: April 13, 1971
Died: December 11, 2025

Name: Arthur Boyd Jr.
Born: January 17, 1945
Raised: June 30, 1994
Died: December 19, 2025

Soft And Safe To Thee, My Brothers, Be Thy Resting Place

January Birthdays

1	Bahnam	Thomas	7	Quan	Gu	22	Steven	Garsson
	Michael	Linton		Christian	Moreno, PM		Daniel	Berman
2	William	Hunt	11	Jim	Gale	24	Raul	Luna
	Dustin	Rath		Ruben	Gutierrez	25	John	Coffey
3	William	Crook	14	DeWitt	Dudley	28	Fulgencio "Jojo"	Quimpo, PM
5	Nelson	Murray	18	Everett	Whitbeck, EA	30	Kevin	Morris, PM
7	Michael	Dainer	21	Brandon	Schoonover	31	Joselito	Domingo, EA

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

STATED MEETING and DINNER JANUARY 9TH, 2026 **ATTIRE: COAT & TIE** (TUXEDOS FOR OFFICERS)

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

Make or Cancel Reservation with Secretary by
Noon – January 7th, 2026

Entrees: Pork Tenderloin w/Apple Stuffing, Lemon Chicken, Herbed Red Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Garden Salad, Rolls & Butter,

Dessert: Cherry Pie

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

January 2026

2nd	Friday	-	DARK
5th	Monday	6:00pm	Officers Org Meeting
9th	Friday	6:00pm	Dinner
		7:30pm	Stated Meeting
12th	Monday	5:30pm	Exec Meeting
		6:30pm	Officers Practice
16th	Friday	6:00pm	Annual Dinner
19th	Monday	-	DARK
23rd	Friday	6:30pm	Officers Practice 1°
26th	Monday	6:00pm	OSI
30th	Friday	7:00pm	1° Conferral

The Master Mason
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John Goodloe, PM

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