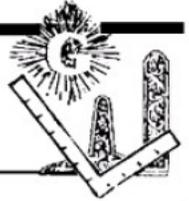




# The Master Mason



VOLUME CIV, Issue 3

March 2026

## The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

I want to begin by expressing how deeply proud I am of every Most Worshipful, Worshipful and Brother who contributed to making our recent Past Master's Night such a resounding success. The Third-Degree ceremony we conferred upon our newly Raised Brother Chris Sperry was truly memorable. It was one filled with passion, precision, and the genuine spirit of Brotherhood that defines our Lodge. Seeing so many Past Masters from our lodge and around our Masonic community step forward to fill the chairs and guide the work, alongside our current officers, was a powerful reminder of the continuity and strength of our traditions. Well done, Brethren, your efforts made the evening one to remember, and Chris, welcome once more to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

It was nice to meet and get to know our new Prospects at our 2nd official Progress/Prospect Night. We spent the first hour getting to know our prospective members. And after that we broke off into a focus group to work on the proficiency work. Looking forward, if you are a Prospect / EA / FC (or if you know one) I encourage you to circle March 30th on your calendar. You don't want to miss it.

For March, we are looking forward



Brandon Schoonover  
Worshipful Master



to a couple more Third Degrees. These are opportunities for us to continue building our Lodge family and passing on the light of Masonry to worthy Brothers. I encourage everyone to attend, support, and share in the fellowship that makes these evenings so special. Your presence strengthens the bond we share as a lodge and it makes an impact on the brother receiving the degree. If your cable tow permits, we can really use your help putting on these degrees. We need your help.

And on a lighter note, since so many of you enjoyed (or at least politely tolerated) my little penguin valentines joke at the February Stated Meeting, rest assured I have another one prepared for the March Stated Meeting. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us on the first Friday March 6th at 6 PM. I promise the joke will be worth the wait... or at least provide good material for the next round of brotherly ribbing!

Brethren, I am excited for our lodge. Our lodge is old, but it is storied. It is large, but it still feels tight knit. It is the bond we all share as Members. Brethren, as we push into the future I encourage you to come around, feel the excitement, find out how you can help, and leave your mark. There is always work to be done, and we love to have you here!

See you in Lodge!

Brandon C. Schoonover  
Master

## From The West

Greetings Brethren!

Spring is quickly approaching, which means it will soon be time for that annual spring cleaning. A time to open the windows, clean out the cobwebs, and beat out the rugs. As we dust and remove the cobwebs, we can ask ourselves, what part or parts of our Masonic lives have we

*(Continued on page 2)*

allowed to sit on the shelf too long and become covered in dust? Is it the use of one of the working tools? Is it one of the Principal Tenets, or could it be one of the four Cardinal Virtues? Masonry gives us a lot of tools to improve not only ourselves but also the world around us. But like all toolboxes, there are some tools used more than others.

We all have that favorite screwdriver. It might be too big or too small for the job, but we'll try it anyway. It's a great screwdriver it can mark wood before cutting, chip away a bit of paint, and even pretend that it's a hammer. And while it might be able to complete those jobs, there are better tools. Tools that were made for that purpose. Masonic tools are the same. We may encounter a Brother who needs one of the three Principal Tenets, using a twenty-four-inch gauge might help but is it the right tool?

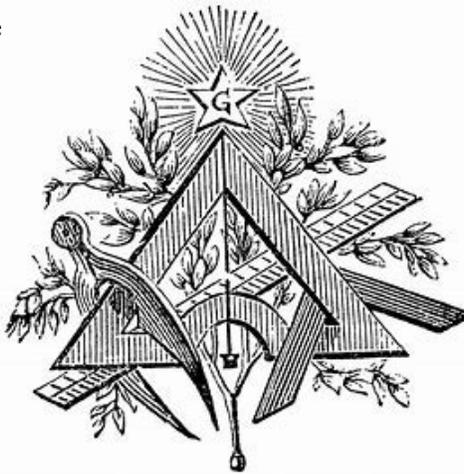
So, this spring, take out your working tools and reacquaint yourself with them. Are they being used for their intended purposes? Those often-used tools are probably doing double or triple duty. Ask a Brother how he uses one of those used less frequently. Maybe once they are all laid out and evaluated, they can be made into one handy dandy Masonic Multi-tool or Swiss Army knife. That most favored screwdriver will enjoy being put to its intended use.

See you in Lodge,

Paul Chouinard  
Senior Warden.



Brother Paul Chouinard  
*Senior Warden*



## From The South

Greetings brethren,

March has returned. It's beautiful to see all the changes Spring brings through the Great Book of Nature. The hills are becoming green and I'm feeling grateful how Nature blesses us with all the beautiful flowers adorning our city. There are even pink flowers blooming on the two trees flanking the entrance of our Scottish Rite Temple.

Soon we will be arriving at the Vernal Equinox, on March 20th, where there will be an equal amount of day time as night time. It's interesting to read about all the varied masonic interpretations of this equinox and the concept of duality. It is a sublime experience seeing this duality of strength and wisdom play throughout Masonry, as well as the beauty in the conversations we have and our bonding brotherhood. What a great mystery it is to contemplate the reason why the ancient masons erected their temples and cathedrals to align with this auspicious celestial event.

Hector Heredia  
Junior 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](mailto:secretary@sandiego35.org)

# 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

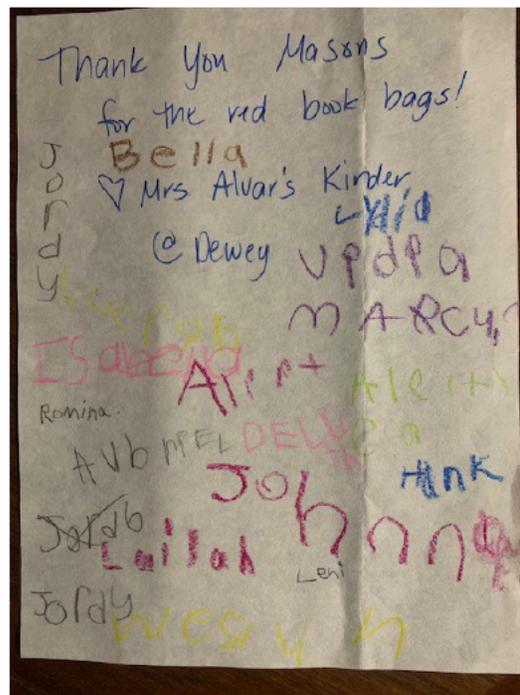
### RAISE A READER

#### PROGRAM LAUNCHES AT DEWEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On Monday, February 9, 2026, Past Grand Master Mel Stein & Betty were introduced as representing the GRAND LODGE OF MASONS OF CALIFORNIA and SAN DIEGO LODGE #35 in going from Classroom to Classroom presenting RAISE A READER "RED BAGS" to pre-K through second grade classrooms for a total of 8 Classrooms.

The teachers were extremely enthusiastic about the RAISE A READER Program and the children were very excited to receive their "RED BAGS and BOOKS" to take home.

The DEWEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL primarily serves Military Enlisted (E-5 and below) Families and represents part of 1084 Statewide Classrooms participating in the RAISE A READER Program. In the San Diego area, there are 53 Schools consisting of 200 Classrooms benefiting from this Masonic Community Philanthropic efforts.



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

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*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 .....  
 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**

**MARCH 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 – March 4th, 2026**

**Entrees:**

**Dessert:**

**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

## March 2026

2nd	Monday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
6th	Friday	6:00pm	Stated Meeting Dinner
		7:30pm	Stated Meeting
9th	Monday	5:30	Executive Meeting
		6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
13th	Friday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
16th	Monday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
20th	Friday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
23rd	Monday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
24th	Tuesday	6:00pm	OSI - 1° (2nd section)
27th	Friday	6:30pm	Officers Practice - 3°
30th	Monday	6:30pm	Progress Night

*The Master Mason*  
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John Goodloe, PM

Secretary (619) 296-0660

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