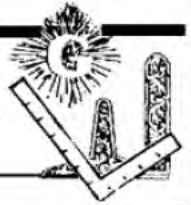




# The Master Mason



VOLUME CIV, Issue 5

May 2026

## The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

As we turn the page into May and feel the warmth of longer summer days and brighter skies, I find myself filled with genuine excitement for the summer season ahead.

There is something truly refreshing about the energy that summer brings: time for fellowship, reflection, and renewed focus on the work of our Craft. Whether it's enjoying a well-earned break with family, traveling, or simply gathering under the San Diego sun, I hope each of you finds moments of joy and restoration in the coming months.

It is with great pleasure that I extend heartfelt congratulations to Br. Grey and Br. Patton on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Your journey through the degrees and your commitment to our ancient and honorable Fraternity is a credit to both of you and to San Diego Lodge No. 35. Well done, my Brothers! I am looking forward to seeing where your masonic journeys take you.

As we move forward, I want to extend a warm and sincere invitation to all brethren: find your place in supporting the Lodge. Masonry thrives when every Brother contributes according to his time, talents, and interest. There are many ways to get involved:



Brandon Schoonover  
Worshipful Master



- Serving as an officer (now or in the coming year)
- Helping with our stated meetings—whether greeting visitors, setting up, or assisting with the work on the floor
- Joining one of our many active committees
- Helping mentor/coach our candidates
- Raising Money for Masons4Mitts

No contribution is too small, and every hand that helps keeps our

Lodge vibrant and welcoming. If you have been waiting for the right moment to step forward, let this be your gentle nudge from the East. Myself, our Senior Warden and committee chairs stand ready to welcome you and show you how your unique skills can make a real difference.

Don't forget to mark your calendars:

- June 20<sup>th</sup> – Scottish Rite All Masonic Picnic – Admiral Baker Park (RSVP on Scottish Rite website)

- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – San Diego Lodge No. 35 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Tickets to go on sale in May)

**Brandon C. Schoonover**  
Master

## From The West

Greetings Brethren!

Welcome to May! It is hard to believe that summer is almost here again. As we know, time is relative. Sometimes it seems to move quickly, sometimes more slowly but it is always moving at the same pace. One second, minute, hour, day at a time. There is a lot of talk around the concept and practice of mindfulness. But what is mindfulness? In the simplest of definitions, it is a directed focus of mind on the very instant or moment in time that is being experienced. It is not being

*(Continued on page 2)*

concerned with anything that happened in the past or anything that might occur in the future.

Some examples are when eating, turn your attention to the meal itself, the tastes, textures, temperatures. Those details of the meal are often lost in the haste of eating or focusing on anything other the meal. There are many teachings instructing not to dwell on the past or be anxious about the future. Just focus on the here and the now. It's a wonderful thought but at times very impractical. It's not very helpful when driving in fact it can be dangerous. And there are times when planning for the future is a must.

To help us be mindful, Masonry gives us both the twenty-four-inch gauge and the common gavel. The working tools of the Entered Apprentice. One to manage time and the other to clear our thoughts. Using them together, time is set aside to clear the mind and focus. Taken literally, the common gavel forces mindfulness. Without a focus on the moment, the operative Mason could end up striking his thumb or missing the intended mark and thereby ruining the stone. For the speculative Mason, mindfulness can begin with a simple meditation. Sitting comfortably and counting breaths. Simple counting inhale and exhale, one. Inhale and exhale, two and so on. If a thought enters that space, acknowledge it and return to counting. Becoming more mindful in everyday life can have a calming, stress reducing effect. Although time will continue to move along, being mindful makes each moment an

opportunity to figuratively slow down and take a breath. When the world seems to be spinning out of control, mindfulness helps to slow down and appreciate the moment. See you in Lodge,

**Paul Chouinard  
Senior Warden.**

### **From The South**

Greetings Brethren,

I've learned so much from Freemasonry's tools, lessons and principles. Applying these to my life has changed its course entirely. In awe of this ancient institution, I read the Regius Poem which is the oldest Masonic document dating around 1390. It is a poem presenting a legendary history of geometry and the operative mason's craft. It traces their origin with Euclid in ancient Egypt, followed by its transmission to England during the reign of King Athelstan who was a devoted patron. The poem recounts this history as follows:

*"In Egypt he taught it full wide,  
In divers lands on every side;  
Many years afterwards, I understand,  
Ere that the craft came into this land.  
This craft came into England, as I you say,  
In time of good King Athelstane's day;  
He made then both hall and even bower,  
And high temples of great honour,  
To disport him in both day and night,  
And to worship his God with all his*

*might.  
This good lord loved this craft full well,  
And purposed to strengthen it every del, (part)  
For divers faults that in the craft he found;  
He sent about into the land*

*After all the masons of the craft,  
To come to him full even straghtfe,  
(straight)  
For to amend these defaults all  
By good counsel, if it might fall.  
An assembly then he could let make  
Of divers lords in their state,  
Dukes, earls, and barons also,  
Knights, squires and many mo,  
(more)  
And the great burgesses of that city,  
They were there all in their degree;  
There were there each one algate,  
(always)  
To ordain for these masons' estate,  
There they sought by their wit,  
How they might govern it;"*

This is followed by a series of Articles and Points which governed the behavior, training, wages, and ethics of medieval stonemasons for centuries. I recommend reading this beautiful historic poem. It concludes with:

*" Well this book to know and read,  
Heaven to have for your mede.  
(reward)  
Amen! Amen! so mote it be!  
So say we all for charity."*

**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.

# ALL MASONIC PICNIC

In Celebration of

## 250 years of the U.S.A.

June 20th, 2026 - Admiral Baker Park  
Free Admission - Free Food - Freemasonry

Please RSVP at: [scottishritesandiego.org](http://scottishritesandiego.org)

## May Birthdays

2	Charles	Willets EA	15	Antonio	Romano PM	24	Colin	Vassall
3	Gregory	Galloway		Tudor	Sabie	25	Rodney	Hatley
4	Nicholas	Schwartz EA	16	Abelardo	Parra PM		Chris	Patton
5	Sid	Bandak	17	Khalid	Cota	25	Joshua	Rawson
	Carey	Hawkins		Paul	Reeb Jr.	27	Enoch	Aggrey EA
6	David	Diaz PM	18	Andre	Gamrasni EA		Mark	Doubleday PM
	John	Harris Jr.	19	Mark	Banuet		Kenneth	Hauer
8	Thomas	Baransky		Gary	Creason PM	29	Scott	Corlett EA
	William	Lopez	21	Kenneth	Webb		Kenneth	McMillen PM
10	William	Cafcules	23	Esequiel	Sanchez PM	30	Brandon	Gilbow
12	Edwin	Reed	24	Michael	George			

**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 .....(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  
 MAY 1ST, 2026**

**\*\*ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL\*\*  
 (LODGE POLO FOR OFFICERS)**

Dinner at 6:00 pm  
 By Reservation - \$25.00  
**Make or Cancel Reservation with Secretary by  
 Noon – April 29th, 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

## May 2026

1st	Friday	6:00pm	Stated Meeting Dinner
		7:30pm	Stated Meeting
4th	Monday	6:00pm	Officers Practice
8th	Friday	6:00pm	Officers Practice
11th	Monday	5:30pm	Exec Meeting
		6:00pm	Officers Practice
15th	Friday	6:00pm	Step-Up Review
18th	Monday	6:00pm	Progress Night
22nd	Friday	-	<b>DARK (Memorial Day)</b>
25th	Monday	-	<b>DARK (Memorial Day)</b>
29th	Friday	-	<b>DARK (SR Spring Class)</b>

*The Master Mason*  
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 San Diego CA 92108-3522

[secretary@sandiego35.org](mailto:secretary@sandiego35.org)

John Goodloe, PM

Secretary (619) 296-0660

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