

# ☉ THE TRESTLEBOARD ☉

ACALANES-FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480 ✦ LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA ✦ MAY 2006

## From the East

Brethren,

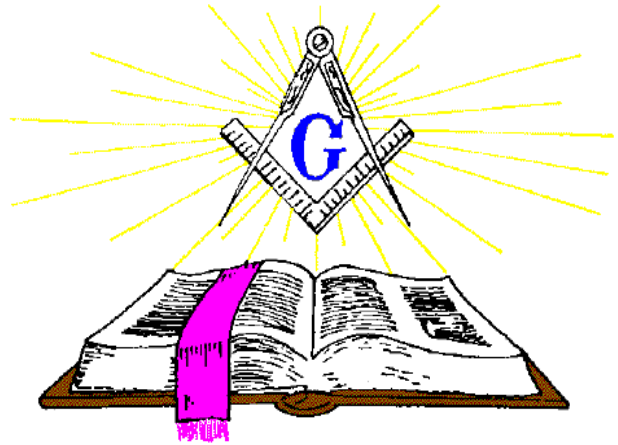
As I write the first message this year as Master of the lodge, let me begin by expressing the honor I feel in being elected to serve as such. Generally a lodge is defined as a "certain number of Masons duly assembled." In the case of our lodge, it is a certain number of extraordinary Masons and to be granted the privilege of leading such a lodge is in my opinion more rewarding than any other Masonic calling.

The lodge is grateful to **Worshipful V.O. Hughes** for his continued leadership in planning the Day at the Races, which was held in March. More than 50 members and friends turned out for this event, which proves to be a big success each year and we look forward to another fine day at the races in 2007!

We were so delighted at the April Stated Meeting to have among us our treasurer **Brother Stephen Galop**. As many of you know, Brother Stephen moved to Georgia more than two years ago and though he is thousands of mile away, he continues to act as treasurer of the lodge and the hall association. The physical distance between is not a hindrance at all. Through the use of the Internet – and on occasion express mail - our lodge finances and records are in excellent order. At each Stated Meeting we receive a complete finance report prepared by Stephen and he submits all of the vouchers to be paid by the lodge. This is not only the sign of changing time, but the sign of very dedicated brother.

Our good **Brother Roger Poynts** is arranging our Stated Meeting Dinner on Tuesday, May 2. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Contact our secretary to make reservations. Brother Roger has agreed to chair of Stated Meeting Dinner Committee this year and we are very grateful to him for this. Let's show Roger how much we appreciate his effort, and how much we enjoy fellowship at the lodge by making our reservations now.

The lodge officers will confer two second degrees in May. First we will pass **Brother Benny Rodriguez** on May 16. Brother Benny was initiated in August and has been working diligently with his coach, **Brother Franz Chavez**. Brother Benny will deliver his proficiency on May 2. **Brother Ryder Brose** will be passed on May 23.



He has been duly prepared by his coach, **Brother Brad Rupert**, and will deliver his proficiency the night he is passed. Both degrees will begin at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the degree.

While you've got your calendar out, keep in mind that the June Stated Meeting will be the Roll Call Meeting. Wear your original white apron and we will all pay tribute to our initiation in to Freemasonry. Also on July 15 we will join the other lodges in our district for a Summer Barbeque at Worshipful Brother Tim Wood's residence in Livermore. We expect more than 200 brothers and their families for this event. You won't want to miss it!

For our brothers who live out of the area – we are interested to know how you are and what you're doing. Please write a letter or email me and tell us about your life or share some thoughts on Freemasonry. We'll publish your comments in the upcoming Trestleboards so that the brethren can enjoy it.

Also, if you know of brother who is ill or in need, please contact our chaplain, **Brother Bryan James**. He will follow up and give a full report to lodge.

There's plenty of opportunity for fellowship in May – I hope to see you (or hear from you) soon!

Fraternally,

Allan Casalou  
Master

## Coming Events

### Second Degree

**Tuesday, May 16 - 7:00 PM**

Join us as we confer the Second Degree of Masonry on Bro. Benny Rodriguez. Refreshments will be served following the degree.

### Second Degree

**Tuesday, May 23 - 7:00 PM**

Come spend the evening with us as we confer the Second Degree of Masonry on Bro. Ryder Brose. Refreshments will be served following the degree.

### Roll Call Meeting

**Tuesday, June 6 - 7:00 PM**

Please come to lodge for our annual roll call meeting, and be sure to wear your own white lambskin apron.

### Summer Barbeque

**Saturday, July 15**

Worshipful Bro. Tim Woods is planning a summer barbeque at his home in Livermore. More details to come.

## Charitable Giving Report

Acalanes-Fellowship has built a legacy of giving, and we're proud to say we're continuing that tradition in 2006. As many of you know, our lodge was recently recognized by the Grand Lodge of California as one of the top 12 lodges in the state for charitable contributions to the Masonic Charities. And we're clearly not resting on our laurels.

So far this year, 34 of our brethren have made contributions to the Masonic Charities, bringing our total fundraising to more than \$3,537 for the fiscal year to date. That's a higher total of donations than our lodge had last year at this time, although it's still less than half of our total contributions for all of last year. So we still have more work to do.

This year, let's make it a point to beat our own record by setting an ambitious, but achievable, goal. Let's set our sights on raising at least \$7,500 with more than 62 contributing members.

As you all know, our Masonic Homes and Masonic Outreach Services provide essential health care services to our aging brethren and widows, as well as needy children, who would otherwise go without. Those services are made possible by **your contributions**. So please, give what you can.



## Know Your Officers

In this new monthly series, we'll introduce our 2006 officer corps. Let's kick things off with our newest officer, our Junior Steward.

### Larry Strohmeyer Junior Steward



Larry Strohmeyer joined Acalanes-Fellowship in December of 2004, shortly after his son, Robert, was raised as a Master Mason.

After graduating with a business degree from the University of Idaho, where he played for the Vandals football team, Larry served in the United States Navy and then began a career as a sales and marketing manager. Throughout his career, Larry worked for some of the world most notable food companies, including Carnation and Nabisco, and also helped establish national marketing programs for smaller natural foods companies, such as Fantastic Foods and Yves Veggie Cuisine.

Larry married his college sweetheart, Sally, and together they moved to Huntington Beach, California, where Sally worked as a teacher during Larry's term in the Navy. Later, they moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where they adopted their son, Robert, before moving on to Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona, and then Danville, California, where they live today.

Despite his busy career, Larry found time to coach his son's baseball teams, serve his university as national president of the alumni association, and remain an active member of the Vandal Boosters, which supports the school's fine athletic programs.

Today Larry is retired, and Sally is resisting the temptation to retire from her career as a resource specialist in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. In addition to being our Junior Steward, Larry also serves as a member of our Hall Association, assisting in the management of our lodge facilities. His positive attitude, friendly demeanor, and sincere commitment to the fraternity make him a pleasure to serve with, as all of his fellow officers will attest. If you haven't had the opportunity to get to know Larry, be sure to introduce yourself at the next lodge function.



## Third Degree Anniversaries for May

George Affolter	5/19/53
Roy Beitelschees	5/17/52
Eric Besag	5/15/99
Michael Brown	5/19/90
Umberto Celestre	5/9/49
Serge Chemla	5/19/86
George Constantouros	5/25/66
Leo Delanney	5/26/50
William Dibbern	5/21/91
Stephen Galop	5/23/98
Roscoe Griggs	5/27/58
Vernon Ivey	5/19/53
Mark Johnson	5/18/96
Lawrence Mc Laughlin	5/16/81
Boris Minzyk	5/21/70
John Mulhall	5/3/97
Jeffrey Nott	5/30/78
Roger Poynts	5/15/01
Marc Rice	5/25/54
Frederic Schachtman	5/24/66
Franklin Shoffner	5/25/64
Thomas Thompson	5/7/66
Ralph Willits	5/11/46
Richard Young	5/1/76