



TRESTLEBOARD
Salinas Masonic Lodge
F&AM #204

November 2015



Salinas Masonic Lodge F&AM #204 2015 Officers



Master
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Secretary
Treasurer
Chaplain
Senior Deacon
Junior Deacon
Marshall
Senior Steward
Junior Steward
Tyler
Officers Coach
Inspector

Thomas Crompton, P.M (Nanci)
Dennis Smith, P.M (Sun)
Jonathan Wong (Ana)
David Isaac, P.M (Karen)
Andrew J. Bonfield
John Williams, P.M (Lan)
Jamcee Castro
Mark Washburn
Orlando Jimenez
John Mungia
Michael Chasen (Carli)
Ron Wilmoth, P.M (Doris)
Samson Mante, P.M (Julia)
B.J. McCuiston, P.M



FROM THE EAST

Brethren and Friends,

I attended the 166th California Grand Lodge Convocation in San Francisco along with Worshipful John Williams, our chaplain and our Senior Steward, John Mungia from October 9th through the 11th. Excellent meetings. The events at our October Stated Meeting were both well attended and outstanding. A good dinner and good fellowship. Many thanks to our Senior Warden, Dennis Smith, Senior Deacon, Jonathan Wong and the stewards committee, who planned and presented a delicious Dinner with all the Trimmings for our stated meeting dinner.

Worshipful Jon Pariser, PM continues to heal from his serious traffic collision in Wyoming. He is convalescing now at home. Prayers for Jon's health and quick recovery.

Please try to make it to our November Stated Meeting. We will enjoy a light repast of salad and pizza and then a very important Stated Meeting during which we will elect our slate of Officers for the ensuing masonic year.

In addition to this, on December 1, 2015 we will have the honor to initiate a new mason into our lodge, Mr. Edsel Salindo. Brother Jonathan Wong, Junior Warden, will be officiating in the East so please try to attend and support him in his first experience acting as Master of a Lodge. We need to have a lot of these in the coming years to keep Masonry in Salinas alive. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Officers and Candidates: Worshipful Sam Mante, PM. Officers Coach and I are both available just about any time for our candidates and our upcoming officers to learn their ritual. Keep up the hard work so we can be ready for 2016.

We have had some interest from non-members in joining our Lodge. They have been invited to the next stated meeting dinner and I encourage all members who see a new face to greet them and get to know them. We are always seeking new membership applications so if you know of a likely candidate, please invite him to a dinner so we can get to know them too.

And always remember, "Tuesday Night is Lodge Night!"

Fraternally,

Thomas C. Crompton, PM

Master of Salinas Lodge #204





FROM THE WEST

Our very beloved brother Dennis Smith and his lovely wife are enjoying themselves on vacation. He will be back in time for the stated meeting in December.

Travel well Worshipful brother Dennis!!!

Dennis Smith, P.M

Senior Warden





FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren and friends,

I am ecstatic to have the opportunity this year to sit in the East and initiate a new candidate into the craft. I hope to make my masonic mentor's and the coaches who have coached me proud. This is an exciting time for the lodge as we have emphasized all year round, "keeping the lodge alive". And as the season's change and plants and animals go dormant due to the weather, let us not forget that, this always leads to a new bloom of life that is not only rejuvenated but grows to become something bigger and better. This is us, we will grow!

I use this analogy with our lodge as we have seen dormancy in the growth of our lodge but here we are in November with a new candidate. Let's make this memorable and use this to initiate a potential new brother the right way. Soon our emphasis will change from keeping the lodge alive to how do we find time to initiate every new applicant. This is the pendulum swing that we've been waiting for to swing in our direction. Let's make sure we groom, grow, and teach our new candidate what Masonry is all about: brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Many thanks to Worshipful Tom for his quick switch of aprons from the Master's apron to the kitchen apron this past stated meeting. Both Dennis and I were out and were unable to handle kitchen duties. And from what I hear, it was a fantastic stated meeting. Great to hear.

There is quite a bit for all of us to learn in our respective chairs and future chairs. Let's continue working hard and lending a helping hand if possible. Keep up the great work and let's keep the momentum going!!! Masonry is alive and well and I thank each and every one of you for all that you do.

Let's keep at it

Fraternally,

Jonathan Wong

Junior Warden





Masonic Education:

(This excerpt was taken from www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com. Great site on anything Masonic including education)

Unfortunately, Masonic Etiquette ...or Blue Lodge Etiquette, (as it is called in the United States) is largely unpublished as well as unspoken, therefore, up until now, it has been more difficult to learn its rules and nuances.

You may study ritual work, degree work, floor work and know all Masonry's glorious history, Masonic symbols, jewels, etc. but there is very little written about how to comport yourself so you do not look foolish or be regarded as disrespectful.

Some are small things, and some are not, but your Lodge conduct is continually on display.

Few Masonic mentors include a list of proper Lodge behavior, as they have learned it, themselves, incident-by-incident, and usually learned by them after their having made an error and being kindly informed by another member as to the correct Masonic etiquette of the situation.

CONFORMING TO MASONIC ETIQUETTE

Over time, and by watching others, members conform themselves to exhibit proper Masonic etiquette behavior to learn lodge customs.

As a newly Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason, it is expected that you will exhibit the proper decorum and propriety in observance of the formal requirements which govern behavior in polite societies... BEFORE someone takes you aside to explain your errors...or you wouldn't be reading this.

RULES OF MASONIC ETIQUETTE

THE MASTER'S AUTHORITY:

During his term in office, the brother who has been elected as Master is the most powerful member of the Lodge. He also shoulders all of its many responsibilities.

The Worshipful Master has the authority to:

1. Rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time.
2. Decide what can and cannot be discussed. Should a brother believe that the Master is arbitrary, unjust or unfair or is acting in an illegal manner, he can appeal to the District Deputy Grand Master.

If that officer agrees that the appeal is a valid one, he will forward the complaint to the Grand Master.

If, however, that brother insists on speaking after the Master has ruled that he is out of order, he may be committing a Masonic offense.

Courteous brethren accept the requests made by the Master to serve on various committees such as the examination committee, the investigation committee and other duties, as determined by the Lodge's needs.

The following items are not Masonic offenses, They are simply a lack of Masonic Etiquette...or in other words, considered to be "bad form" or bad manners.

So... Let's begin:

1. WALKING BETWEEN THE ALTAR AND THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Brethren do not pass between the Altar and the East when the lodge is open.

Why? As a courtesy to the Master, it is necessary that the three Great Lights which shine their eternal light and wisdom upon the Master to help him govern the lodge should never be in shadow, not even for a millisecond, during the processes of an initiation or degree work.

2. SITTING IN THE EAST:

Brethren do not take a seat in the East without an invitation... even if all other seats are full.

Why? While all Brethren within a tiled room are equal to one another, and the officers are servants of the brethren, all lodge officers have worked and studied long and hard for their lodge.

It is, therefore, the Master's prerogative to recognize this devotion and their loyalty by inviting distinguished visitors or a special member whom the Master wishes to honor to sit with him in the East.

In other words, if you were in church, synagogue or mosque and the pews were full, would you go up and sit beside the Pastor, Rabbi or Imam (Muslim Priest)?

3. ALWAYS FULLY DRESSED:

Brethren do not enter their Lodge room either without their apron nor while putting on that apron...not even the tying of its strings.

Why? In respect to the formalities of their Lodge, officers expect that the Brethren will have the courtesy to enter it fully dressed and ready for the labor.

They should not have to wait for a member to be fully "dressed", even just tying or adjusting their apron, to salute that member. It is expected that you will be properly and entirely dressed when you

pass by the Tiler and enter your lodge room.

4. STAND WHEN YOU SPEAK:

No man sits while speaking in the lodge room, no matter if he addresses an officer or another brother.

Why? All lodge activity is based on each man in the lodge as being a servant of the Brethren. This includes the Worshipful Master and his officers.

While the man, himself, who has been elected Worshipful Master does not gain any special honor, personally, as the Worshipful Master, it is to the Worshipful Master as the Master of the Lodge that a member stands to address.

It is simply a form of respect ...and no different than attending a shareholder's meeting or a City Council meeting.

It is expected that if you wish to address the audience, you will stand so all may see who is speaking.

5. TALKING:

"Side" talk while a degree is being conferred is considered bad manners.

Why? The lodge room is a Temple of the Great Architect of the Universe. The brethren within are working to make the best ashlar (stones) for His spiritual temple.

Just as it is impolite to talk in a church, synagogue or mosque service, so it is improper to distract the officers, the workers in the degree or the candidate.

Talking without asking to do so shows irreverence for the proceedings. God's house is not for social conversation within the lodge room. It is for worship and learning the lesson of the day which is being taught.

Unless you have requested of the Master to speak, silence is the rule. This also means no whispering.

HOW? If you have something of interest to say, raise your hand. When the Master recognizes you, you must stand up, and be recognized by the Master to speak. To address the brethren, you should say:

“Worshipful Master, Right Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Wardens and Brethren”.

If the Most Worshipful Master is in attendance, you should say:

“Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful, Right Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Wardens and Brethren.

6. SPEAKING:

If you wish to offer a predetermined motion or matter for discussion, advise the Master beforehand.

Why? Advising the Master before the meeting that you intend to bring up a specific motion or a matter for discussion is an important courtesy.

You may, indeed, do it without advising him in advance, but the Master may have plans of his own for that meeting, for which your proposed motion or discussion may not easily fit into the allotted time frame.

As a courtesy to him, his work, and his dedication to the members, it is best to ask him privately, beforehand, if he will be able to recognize you to speak your purpose. This saves "face" for both of you.

You will not publicly be refused and he will not have to seem disagreeable or arrogant in his refusal of your motion. If you wish to speak, (see number 6.), above.

7. OBEY THE GAVEL:

You must immediately obey the gavel.

Why? Failure to immediately obey the gavel is a GRAVE DISCOURTESY and VERY poor Masonic Etiquette.

The Master is all powerful in the lodge and his word is final.

He can put or refuse to put any motion.

He can rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time.

He can say what he will, and what he will not, permit to be discussed.

Brethren who think him unfair, arbitrary, unjust, or acting illegally have redress.

The Grand Lodge can be appealed to on any such matter. However, in the lodge, the Master's gavel, which is his emblem of authority, is supreme.

When a brother is rapped down, he should obey at once, without any further discussion. It is VERY bad manners to do otherwise. In fact, it is perilously close to the line between bad manners and a Masonic offense.

Masonic etiquette decries anyone who does not obey the gavel.

8. TURNING YOUR BACK:

Never turn one's back on the Master to address the lodge without first receiving permission from the Master to speak.

Why? Any debates that are in motion must be conducted using proper Masonic etiquette. One always stands to order when addressing the chair.

Customs differ in various jurisdictions as to the method of salute, however some salute should always be given when addressing the Master.

Two brethren, both on their feet, simultaneously arguing a motion, who are facing each other and ignoring the Master is unacceptable.

9. SALUTE:

Some lodges (not all) offer salutes to the Master. Each of the brethren will salute the Master when they enter and when they leave their Masonic Mother lodge room or any other Masonic lodge room.

Some lodges offer salutes to the Senior Warden.

Why? The Masonic etiquette of saluting the Master is your renewed pledge of fealty and service. It is your public display of decorum before all other brothers of your obligation.

It shows your courteous respect for all that the Master stands for and shows that you acknowledge his authority.

Salutes should reflect your heart-felt respect for all that for which he stands.

The salute to the Master is your pledge of honor and service, your publicly shown obligation. A lazy, sloppy or improper salute is to be Masonically impolite and, thus, to exhibit poor Masonic etiquette.

10. BALLOTING:

Do not enter or leave the lodge room during a ballot.

Why? It is discourteous to leave the lodge room during a speech, during a degree, etc. There are several natural periods, such as at the end of one section and before the next begins, or when the Master puts the lodge at ease until the sound of the gavel. Then, and only then, you may leave the lodge without being considered rude.

It is Masonic Etiquette that all brethren are expected to vote when requested to do so.

Failure to cast your ballot not only results in your failure to share in your duties, but is in direct disobedience of the Master's request.

11. VOTING IS MANDATORY:

When an issue is put to a vote, all brethren should vote.

Why? A brother who does not vote is discourteous because he skews the ballot. He becomes the weak link in a strong chain.

No matter what the reason of his non-vote, he injures the lodge's ballot, its value and its secrecy. Failure to vote can injure a lodge's feeling of brotherhood, and by that injury, can injure the Masonic fraternity.

No matter what reason you may privately hold about voting, it is poor Masonic Etiquette to fail to vote when requested to do so by the Master.

12. SMOKING:

No smoking in the lodge room.

Why? While there are lodges who allow smoking during the business meeting (and you must be guided by the customs of your Mother Lodge), the ceremonies you take part in and watch are solemn occasions.

In most lodge rooms, it is considered VERY disrespectful to smoke while the ceremonies are taking place. Smoking may take place in other parts of your building or outside and during refreshment.

13. SHOULDERING THE WORK:

It is good Masonic Etiquette to accept a request made in the name of the lodge if it is within your abilities.

Why? A lodge is a working "beehive of industry". A request made of you from your lodge acknowledges that the lodge trusts you to competently fulfill such a request based upon your knowledge.

14. CORRECTION OF VERBAL ERRORS:

Lodge customs state that no one except for the Worshipful Master or his prearranged designee, may correct any mistake that may occur during the course of a Ceremony, and even he does so only when the error is a serious one.

Why? It is discourteous to point out others mistakes in front of the lodge brethren. If you are in possession of a mind which allows you to be able to perform each and every degree and ceremony, perfectly, please advise the Worshipful Master of such that he may take advantage of your services to mentor others.

15. EXHIBIT GOOD POSTURE:

Why? Good posture is necessary while within the Lodge room. Lounging, leaning and slovenly attitudes should be avoided.

Poor posture is considered poor Masonic etiquette.

16. NO PRACTICAL JOKES NOR OFF-COLOR STORIES:

Why? The great lessons of Masonry, which are taught by our ritual, should never be demeaned by levity or pranks.

The lodge room is not a proper location for the telling of practical jokes, pranks, horseplay nor off-color stories.

17. USE PROPER MASONIC NAMES:

Why? It is common courtesy to be accurate in speaking a brother's name, so it is proper Masonic etiquette to address officers, members, and visitors by their correct Masonic titles and addresses.

18. ENTERING LODGE AFTER THE MEETING HAS BEGUN:

If a brother should enter the Lodge after the opening ceremony is under way, he should go to the Altar to salute the Master.

If he must leave before the meeting is over, the correct Masonic etiquette of his departure is that he should salute the Presiding Master at the Altar before he departs.

The salute should always be given properly and not in a careless or perfunctory manner.

19. ALL PRAYERS AT LODGE FUNCTIONS ARE NON-SECTARIAN:

Freemasonry is worldwide and holds no sectarian views. Non-sectarian means not sectioned into one, specific religion. Freemasonry embraces all religions.

A Mason may choose the religion of his choice in his private life but should be aware and open to the fact that others among the brethren do not necessarily share nor were they brought up with the religious dogmas and beliefs that you, personally, embrace.

Why? Prayers at lodge functions should be scrupulously in keeping with Masonic teachings. The Masonic Etiquette of offered prayers is that they should never be an expression of specific sectarian views or dogmatic creeds.

It is a matter of courtesy that all prayers, speeches and discussions at Masonic affairs avoid sectarian, controversial or political tones.

Prayers are best directed to the Creator, the Master Architect of the Universe and not toward specific religious teachings such as Jesus Christ, Mother Mary, Muhammad, Jehovah, Allah etc.

To do so omits the religions of others within the brethren, which can cause conflict and therefore not be harmonious to the whole.

In the spirit of non-sectarianism, we must remember that since the day that our Creator found that Man created the Tower of Babel to glorify themselves; it is HE who changed man's language into the many diverse languages now spoken on Earth.

In so doing, our Creator has many names across the world.

20. TURN CELL PHONES OFF:

All cell phones should be turned off before entering the lodge room so as not to disrupt the proceedings.

Masonic Etiquette Summary: Masonic etiquette is simply the rules of good manners which make lodge meetings pleasant for everyone.

The position of Worshipful Master in the East occupies the most exalted position within the lodge.

A lodge which does not honor its Master, no matter how they personally feel about the man, himself, lacks Masonic courtesy.

The honor conveyed by the brethren in electing him, ...in other words, the historical traditions and the men who have gone before you must be given the utmost respect, if the traditions of the Fraternity are to be observed and proper Masonic etiquette is to be maintained.

Masonic etiquette comprises lodge courtesies and proprieties.

Good manners imply observance of the formal requirements governing man's behavior in polite society and a sense of what is appropriate for a person of good breeding with high morals and good taste.

The spirit of brotherly love and affection, by which we are bound together, will be exemplified in our conduct, our carriage and our behavior at all times.

It is my hope that you will use your trowel to cement the stones of brotherly love for the "More Noble and Glorious Purpose" of exhibiting these rules of Masonic Etiquette toward one and all within the brethren.



Calendar of Events:

Tuesday, November 3, 2015, Lodge Dark. Election Day.

Saturday, November 7, 2015, California Masonic Posse Degree at Santa Lucia Lodge

#302, King City. Contact me or Wor. Samson Mante, PM for details 9:30 AM

Tuesday, November 10, 2015, Stated Meeting, Officer's Elections

Light Dinner, Pizza, Salad 6:00 PM

Meeting and Officer's Elections: 7:30 PM

Tuesday, November 17th, 2015, Officers Association Meeting 7:00 PM

Called by Worshipful BJ McCuiston, PM, Inspector of the 353rd

Masonic District. All master masons are cordially invited to attend.

Saturday, November 21, 2015, Outdoor Degree by the California Masonic Posse at the Grove in Gilroy.

Contact me or Wor. Samson Mante. PM for details 9:30 AM Monday, November 23, 2015,
3rd Degree at Monterey Lodge 7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 34, 2015. First Degree Practice 7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 1, 2015. First Degree Initiation 7:30 PM

Please make it a point to attend this degree. It's the first this year.

Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Stated Meeting

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Stated Meeting 7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 15, 2015, Installation Practice 7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 22, 2015. Lodge Dark. Merry Christmas. Coaching at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 29, 2015. Lodge Dark. Happy New Year. Coaching at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 5, 2015, Installation Practice 7:30 PM

Tuesday January 12, 2015, Stated Meeting

Dinner

6:00 PM

Stated Meeting

7:30 PM



CONCORDANT BODIES

WATSONVILLE COMMANDERY #22,

JOB'S DAUGHTERS, BETHEL 230 (Meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.)

Wednesday, September 2, 2015, Jobs Daughters Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2015, Jobs Daughters Meeting

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Reveille Chapter #47. Meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 PM

At Salinas Lodge, 48 San Joaquin Street, Salinas, CA 93901

Monday, November 2, 2015, 7:00 PM: Farewell & Grand Chapter Reports

Saturday, November 7, 2015, 2:00 PM: Installation of Officers.

Monday, November 16, 2015. DARK – 1st Meeting Practice

LIVING PAST MASTERS OF SALINAS LODGE 204:

Nick G. Cominos, P.M.	1972 & 1983 (803)
Robert L. Dani P.M.	1979 (803)
Fred Roel, Jr., P.M.	1980
Dennis D. Stephans, P.M.	1980 (803)
James Carpenter, P.M.	1981
Ernest L. Cunningham, P.M.	1983
Thomas C. Crompton, P.M.	1985
Danny McCabe, P.M.	1986
Leroy W. Blankenship, P.M.	1987
Lawrence Chapman, Jr. P.M.	1989
John David Isaac, P.M.	1998
Roger King, P.M.	1997
Ron Wilmoth, P.M.	2001
Bruce M. Campbell, P.M.	2002
Dennis R. Smith, P.M.	2004, 2005
Samson Mante, P.M.	2006
Frederick W. Hughes, P.M.	1996, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009
Robert Gentry, P.M.	2010, 2011, 2012
Jon Pariser, P.M.	2013, 2014



PAST MASTERS BY AFFILIATION:

Jim Myers, P.M.	203
John A. Williams, P.M.	217
Cecil F. Abrams, Sr., PM	1981 (680)
James E. Bradley, P.M.	2008 (680)