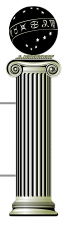


# HEARTLAND LODGE TRESTLEBOARD



[secretaryheartlandlodge@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryheartlandlodge@gmail.com) | (619) 443-8831 | Office Hrs: 8:30AM-12:30PM- Mon,Wed,Fri

"Our cause is noble; it is the cause of mankind!" - Wor. Bro. George Washington P.M.

[Heartland576.org](http://Heartland576.org)

## Stated Meeting

First Thursday of the month at  
7:30PM at Heartland Lodge, 695  
Ballantyne Street, El Cajon, CA.  
92021

## May SM Dinner



Taco bar with pollo and carne,  
Rice and Beans, Flour/Corn  
Tortillas, Tres Leches Cake, Coffee  
& Tea. Only \$15. Please RSVP to  
Secretary by Thursday Before Std  
Mtg.

## Dine Out



May 3rd, 8AM at Bonny's Cafe,  
596 Broadway, El Cajon, CA.  
92021

## Resources

Grand Lodge of California  
[freemason.org](http://freemason.org)

Masonic Outreach Services  
[masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org)

Heartland Hall Assoc.  
[elcajonevents.org](http://elcajonevents.org)



Steve Thompson P.M.:  
Worshipful Master

## From the East

Brethren, family and friends, greetings from the East,

I would first like to congratulate Brother Charlie Hilts, on his being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, on March 31st. It was a well attended degree, and, I am very proud to say, Heartland Lodge performed the entire degree, without needing assistance from other lodges. I would also like to welcome Brother George Whidby, our Tiler, to Heartland Lodge! We recently voted for his affiliation into our lodge. Also, congratulations to Wor. Ron Chandler on his recent election to Senior Warden, followed immediately, by his installation into the seat.

On a sad note, Heartland Lodge performed a Masonic Funeral on April 11th, for Brother Benny Carrol. The ceremony was very well attended, with the lodge room being completely filled with family, friends and Masonic brothers, followed by a very nice meal in the dining hall.

For May, we will be initiating a candidate, Chase Kassin, into our lodge. It's really nice to see our lodge continue to grow. The degree is scheduled for Monday, May 12th, at 7:00. I would encourage all brothers to attend. We had a bowling party scheduled for April 18th, that had to be cancelled due to a lack of reservations being made. Thank you to Brother Kenny Villasenor for putting in the hard work to plan this event. Hopefully we can re-schedule this, or another event in the near future. It is my hope that more people will show interest. The idea is to have get togethers for the brethren and their families. We like to do other things besides going to practice twice a week, so this would be a perfect chance! In closing, I hope that everyone is doing well! I also hope to see all of my brothers in lodge, really soon. As I always continue to say, "you get out of Masonry, what you put into Masonry!"

Steve Thompson PM, Worshipful Master



## From the West

My first article in several years!

Well...here I am once again in the West. I just want to sincerely thank my Brethren, here in the Trestleboard, who have reposed such confidence in me, once again. By electing me, Senior Warden. Thank you, my Brothers.

Being in the West once again, I am reminded of a sign my wife has in our home. It says, "If History Repeats Itself, I'm So Getting A Dinosaur!" So, now because of you, my Brothers...each night when I get home from Lodge, I am extremely cautious and leery as I walk into the house. You never know about History.

So, now on to a more serious topic of what it means to be a Mason or a Freemason. Key aspects or textbook answers:

- **Membership in a Lodge:** Freemasons belong to a local Lodge, also known as a Blue Lodge.
- **Initiatory Experience:** Membership involves progressing through three degrees based on ancient traditions and ceremonies.
- **Personal Development:** Freemasonry emphasizes self-improvement and the development of moral character.
- **Brotherhood:** Masons are part of a global fraternity of like-minded men.
- **Charity and Community:** Freemasons are encouraged to participate in local charity efforts and contribute to their communities.
- **Values:** Freemasonry emphasizes principles like brotherly love, relief, and truth, as well as honesty, integrity, and a belief in a Supreme Being.

In my experience of being a Mason for nearly 4 decades. And having the privilege of being close friends with Masons, from Lakeside and El Cajon Valley Masonic Lodges. Then belonging to both Lodges when they merged to become Heartland Lodge. I have learned an important (if not the most important) masonic lesson of all, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Having compassion towards one's fellow human, particularly a Brother Mason. Just like any family, no two people always get along or agree. To this I must confess guilt, as not every brother/member of Lakeside, El Cajon Valley, or Heartland are people that I would choose to spend personal or free time with. But masonry does not have room for petty differences. In masonry we work side by side; we are subordinates to them at times. Yet, when asked to assist (in a multitude of ways) we do so. Why? Because we know that they would do the same without hesitation for us. We all received the same degrees, we all bound ourselves to and with the same words. This is what Brotherly Love means to a Mason.

To assist or to provide assistance, to give of yourself, to those in need or having difficulties. To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons. Even those that we would not choose to spend personal or free time with. No one person or Mason can provide relief to everyone, but we as Masons should strive to do our part. To provide the Relief, to soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in masonry. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity. At the foundation of every virtue, you will find truth. Truth is truly a divine attribute. Masonry unites men of every country, sect or opinion; we are all Brother Masons.

As a reminder, transportation to Lodge: if you find yourself in need of a ride to and/or from Lodge, please contact the Secretary or the Master (in a timely manner), so they can assist in arranging transportation for you. Lastly, whenever possible remember to make a commitment, by placing or making a RSVP to each of the Lodge events you plan to attend for the remainder of the year, as well as going forward. This one small courtesy makes things so much easier for the Brethren planning the event(s) and ensures your participation and good fellowship. You can always make those RSVP's with the Committee Chairman, the Lodge Secretary, or if needed the Master. As always, I look forward to seeing you soon. Your fellowship is always welcome. As well as any assistance you can offer, which is always appreciated.

Fraternally,

Ron Chandler PM  
Senior Warden





## Remembering Charles Lindbergh

- Born 2/4/1902, Detroit, Mich.
- Died 8/26/1974, Kipahulu, HI.
- Aviator, Author, Inventor, Explorer, & Activist
- 1st solo Transatlantic flight in 1927- Pioneer of International commercial aviation & air mail
- Raised in Keystone Lodge 243, Missouri 1926

## May Masonic Anniversaris



Kenneth Ball - 53Yrs  
 Pete Kozis - 56Yrs  
 Eddie Million - 42Yrs  
 Cenit Hernandez - 45Yrs  
 Wayne Kitt - 20Yrs  
 Salvador Gomez - 25Yrs  
 Gerald Albers - 61Yrs  
 John Keretz - 25Yrs  
 Gene Gillard - 32Yrs  
 Chuck Hannacher - 11Yrs  
 Brian Fritz - 20Yrs  
 Felipe Cervantes - 11Yrs  
 Eric Ritzheimer - 37Yrs  
 Joseph Rieth - 39Yrs  
 Dan Berdichevsky - 3Yrs  
 Stephen Haiden - 28Yrs  
 Mark Vettel - 32Yrs  
 Jason Earnest - 24Yrs

## From the South



Brethren,

Thank you for sending me to the Leadership Retreat last month. The Grand Lodge of California is introducing a new way of looking at the management of lodges. Many of the ideas Heartland Lodge uses on an informal basis. Grand Lodge has put it down on paper and made some important changes to the duties of all of the Lodge Officers outside of the ritual duties. Many of the appointed officers have been under-utilized by lodges and many management tasks have been left to be completed by the Executive Committee. This model leaves too many out of the management of the Lodge.

This new model asks us to look at 7 major functions and assigns roles to all of the Lodge Officers. There is no reason why other Lodge Members can also assist in most areas.

The 7 Functions are: Executive, Education, Membership, Finance, Administration, Ritual, and Social. These Functions are key to keeping members engaged and getting new members. I am not going to expand on these Functions at this time; however I ask your patience as Heartland Lodge tries some new ideas.

The CMC does not allow a Lodge to use funds for the following: §809.530. PROHIBITED EXPENDITURES.

A Lodge may not: A. Expend Lodge funds for alcoholic beverages; B. Divide its monies, property or other assets with its members, even those withdrawing to form a new Lodge or with the new Lodge thus formed; C. Divide its funds with an existing Lodge by way of a contribution; D. Invest Lodge funds in its life membership fund, other than to purchase a life membership for its retiring Master; or E. Use any of its funds to subsidize, directly or indirectly, any organization, except Masonic Youth Orders or as otherwise provided in this code.

See you at Heartland Lodge!

Ron Mullins  
Junior Warden



Heartland576.org**Life Membership Prices**

Ages 49 and younger  
\$6,576  
Ages 50 - 54  
\$5,480  
Ages 55 -59  
\$4,932  
Ages 60 - 64  
\$4,384  
Ages 65 - 71  
\$3,836  
Ages 72 or Older  
\$3,288

**Concordant Bodies**

Scottish Rite  
[scottishritesandiego.org](http://scottishritesandiego.org)

York Rite  
[yorkritesandiego.org](http://yorkritesandiego.org)

Al Bahr Shrine  
[albahrshrine.org](http://albahrshrine.org)

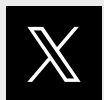
Shriners International  
[shrinersinternational.org](http://shrinersinternational.org)

Order of the Eastern Star  
[oescal.org](http://oescal.org)

**Masonic Philanthropy**

[Donate to LA Fire Victims](#)

[Donate to CA Masonic Foundation/Homes](#)

**Secretary's Desk**

Grand Lodge has sent out dues notices for **2025 of \$274**

We have set up a Venmo account on our website so that you may pay your dues directly to Heartland Lodge, this will save you a fee. **You may go online to the Heartland 576 website, click on the link and Pay your dues via Venmo, "Bryan Meyer-88", without paying a fee, or on iMember 2.0 and pay your dues with a credit card via Grand Lodge. There is a fee using the Grand Lodge site.**

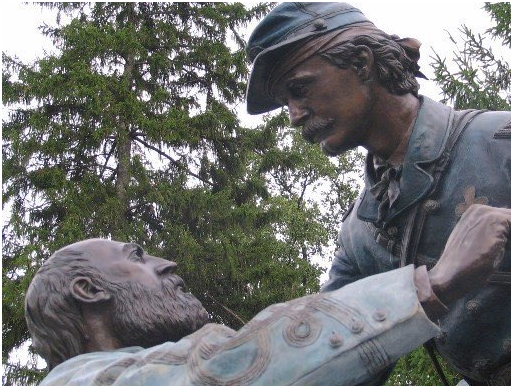
Go to Grand Lodge website ([http://imember.freemason.org/users/sign in](http://imember.freemason.org/users/sign_in)) Click on sign in, Check membership status, Enter your E-mail Address. Or Your member ID number (which can be found on your dues card or above your name on your issue of California Freemason Magazine), which can be used to sign for the first time.. Enter a password, confirm password, complete form. Go to IMember 2.0 and log in. Use the dashboard to select the different sections/ this will put you into your personal data file. You will be able to change your information only. You will not be able change anyone else's information. There will be certain reports that you may view but not change. **The new program has no provision for printing batches of dues cards. Dues cards will not mailed.** You will be able to print out your dues card by accessing iMember 2.0. Also by selecting the tab for virtual dues card, this Grand Lodge app can be downloaded to a smart phone for a "virtual dues card" when visiting other lodges. This app has a 5 minute window to show the Tiler. Call us if you need assistance to log-in. Be Sure to check our website every month the calendar and updates, also special events. **The secretary's email has changed. It is now [secretaryheartlandlodge@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryheartlandlodge@gmail.com). The assistant secretary email is now [asstsecretary576@gmail.com](mailto:asstsecretary576@gmail.com)**

Fraternally, Bryan Meyer P.:M.: Secretary



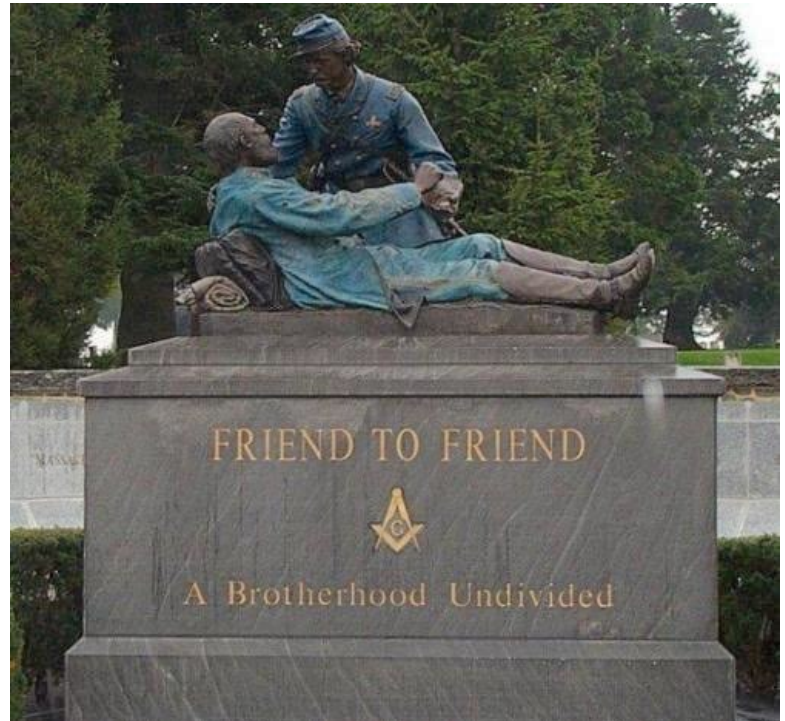


# Friend to Friend



The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial is a Gettysburg Battlefield monument depicting the "Armistead-Bingham incident" in which Union Army Captain Henry H. Bingham assisted wounded Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead. Both men were Freemasons. This event occurred shortly after Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863. However, the memorial statue was not created until more than 130 years later, in 1993

July 3, 1863: Armistead was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. His sword was captured by Union forces and later returned in 1906. Armistead entrusted his other personal effects, including his spurs, watch chain, seal and pocketbook to Union Army Captain Bingham. This occurred while he was en route to a Union field hospital on the Spangler Farm, where he would die two days later. During his journey Armistead briefly met Capt. Bingham, and after learning that he was on the staff of General [Winfield Scott Hancock](#), who was a Freemason as well, he asked Bingham to pass along the items with a message to Hancock. General Hancock was a "valued friend" of Armistead's from before the war, and they served together in the Federal army. Hancock was also wounded at Gettysburg and he would not see Armistead before he died.



The memorial was dedicated on August 21, 1993 and was commissioned by the [Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania](#). The sculpture depicts Bingham at the side of Armistead and has a plaque on the reverse with information regarding the dedication: "This monument is presented by the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and dedicated as a memorial to the Freemasons of the Union and the Confederacy. Their unique bonds of friendship enabled them to remain a brotherhood undivided, even as they fought in a divided nation, faithfully supporting the respective governments under which they lived."



# The Beginning of Masonry in San Diego

The founding of San Diego Lodge No. 35, F. & A. M., is a somewhat celebrated event in Masonic annals of the Pacific Coast. It was the first Masonic lodge established in Southern California and preceded the first lodge in Los Angeles by a year.

Soon after J. Judson Ames arrived and began to publish the Herald, it was found that there were enough Masons in San Diego to warrant asking for a dispensation for a lodge. There is a tradition that this discovery was made at a picnic attended by most of the inhabitants in a body, as was the custom for many years. The first mention of anything Masonic was in the Herald of June 19, 1851, and read as follows:

“Masonic.—All Master Masons, in good standing with their respective lodges, are requested to assemble at the Exchange Hotel, in the City of San Diego, on Friday evening, the 20th inst., to make arrangements for celebrating the anniversary of our patron saint, John the Baptist.”

The plans for this celebration seem to have fallen through, for some reason. A petition for a dispensation was drawn up, signed, sent to San Francisco, and was granted on the 1st day of August. This dispensation ran to Brothers Wm. C. Ferrell, W.M.; John Judson Ames, S.W.; John Cook, J.W.; and the following Master Masons: Daniel Barbee, Wm. Heath Davis, James W. Robinson, R. E. Raimond, and others. When the Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge assembled, on November 4, 1851, it was found that no meeting had been held and no returns received from “San Diego Lodge, U.D.” and the dispensation had expired. But Brother Ames, S.W., made application on the following day to the Grand Lodge to have the dispensation extended six months, to allow more time for organization, which was granted.

Although no meeting had been held, an attempt had been made to hold one, as the following advertisement, taken from the Herald of October 9th, shows:

“There will be a meeting of San Diego Lodge, F. & A. M., at the house of Col. A. Haraszthy (Old Town) on Friday evening next, the 10th inst., at half past six o’clock. A full attendance is urged, as business of importance is to be transacted.

Oct. 9th. Per order of WORSHIPFUL MASTER.”

After this, more vigor was put into the work, and the first meeting assembled on November 20, 1851, and was opened in the Master’s degree. The record of this meeting begins thus:

“At a meeting of San Diego Lodge U. D. of Free and Accepted Masons held at their lodge room in the City of San Diego, on the 20th day of November, A. D. 1851 A. L. 5851, met upon the call of the W. M.

“The brethren present were:

“William C. Ferrell, W. M.

John Judson Ames, S. W.

Daniel Barbee, J. W.

A. Haraszthy, Secretary.

Will. H. Moon, Tyler.

Louis Rose, Visiting Brother.

R. E. Raimond, Treasurer.”

Petitions for the degrees of Masonry were received from George F. Hooper, recommended by J. Judson Ames and Wm. Heath Davis, and from Colonel John B. Magrader, of the United States Army. The first named petition was referred to a committee consisting of Brothers Haraszthy, Moon, and Ray, and the latter was ordered on file.



# O Wonderful Masons



The title of this oil on canvas painting is “O Wonderful Masons”, the artist is unknown. However it was presented by Brother Moonesinghe and Avenue Hall Lodge No.5910 to the United Grand Lodge of England, in 1989. In this painting, civilization is traced through its architecture, from a depiction of Stonehenge on the right, through to classical buildings in the centre, and on to London on the left. In the foreground is an architect or stonemason, who is drawing plans and is surrounded by his tools: a square, compass, gavel and chisel. It's measurements are H 82 x W 122 cm  
Can you spot any more symbolism ?



## In Memorandum Foster Bennington

- Born 10/15/1946
- Entered into Rest 4/9/2025
- Raised 7/31/1975
- He was a member of the Craft for 50 years.

## Hall Association

**President** - Jason Lampley PM  
**Vice Pres.** - Lanny Bragg PM  
**Secretary** - Pete Reith  
**CFO** - Mark Vettel  
**Member** - Joe Meija  
**ExOfficio** - Steve Thompson PM  
**ExOfficio** - Ron Chandler PM



# Editorial

Greetings Brethren,

I hope you are all doing well. Well we just broke ground with the sink hole excavation as of time of writing, and we are a bit anxious to see the results. I am hoping it the answer to this problem will not be too costly, however I am not getting my hopes too high as there is a good chance it will be. I am still happy that we are starting to make real progress with the sink hole. For me, we will not be able to fix this fast enough. The north east wall has been put on hold until we get all the items along the outside moved to the trench can be dug. I may have to request a work party from the Master for some of it.

As far as the Trestleboard goes, I will be trying to touch on every aspect of Freemasonry, especially parts that I feel do not get much exposure, such as Masonry in art. As for the the more opinionated side of things, as I have mentioned, will be on my blog,  
<https://brotherjasonthemason.wordpress.com/>

It has been challenging to get back into it as I am still getting dialed in with a new position at work. But I will make it happen.

A couple of things I would like to address are issues that all Lodges face. One, is learning to deal with Brothers that are very much different than yourself. It's part of what makes Masonry so awesome and also what tears some Lodges apart. I know all too well how challenging it can be. However practicing patience, and trying to understand our Brethren that think very much differently than yourself, not only makes a Lodge better, it helps build your character and thus makes you a better Man.

The other, is something that I gave a lecture about at the Scottish Rite many years ago. And that is about ego, and our various titles. If you join, with an unhealthy level of ambition and the desire to "be the boss" is a key motive for you, then I would recommend that you reevaluate your priorities and point of view. That is not a good reason to join a fraternal organization and this mindset has plagued Freemasons and other such organizations from time immemorial. We all must remember the 1st and foremost title we received after being initiated. The title of Brother. Also there is a very big difference in being a boss and being a Leader. The Lodge is not something to command, it is something to participate in, using all our different talents to improve our Brotherhood.

Sincerely & Fraternally,



Jason Lampley P.M.





# May



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				Dinner 6:30PM Stated Meeting 7:30PM		Dine out 8AM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1st Degree Practice 7PM			1st Degree Practice 7PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	1st Degree for Mr. Kassin 7PM			TBD		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	TBD			Second Degree Practice 7PM		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				DOSI at Heartland 7PM		

Heartland Masonic Lodge No. 576, F&AM

695 Ballantyne Street,

El Cajon, CA. 92021

Return Service Requested

# Heartland Lodge Trestleboard

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
*PAID*  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 148



May  
2025

