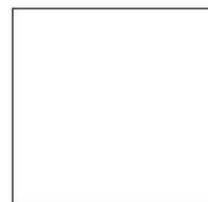


Escorial Lodge No. 7  F. & A.M., 1864  
"The Masons on the Mountain"  
Box 997, Virginia City, Nevada 89440

Meeting First Saturday of every month  
Masonic breakfast 9:00AM                      Lodge Meeting 10:00 AM

Escorial Lodge No. 7  
Box 997  
Virginia City, NV 89440



### Second Quarter 2012 Trestleboard

#### Perspective

Trestleboards are like political campaign solicitations; they take time to read and can accumulate in dusty piles on the desk. Escorial No. 7 is at a crucial juncture in its history. These initial Trestleboards are intended to inform our members of the necessary steps being adopted to insure the continued existence of this historic, 148 year old Masonic lodge. Once this is accomplished, the focus of this Trestleboard will move toward the more interesting subject of Freemasonry. It is hoped that we will produce four to six issues per year. We appreciate your interest.

#### Recent Lodge Events

With the approval of Escorial Lodge, the Comstock Cemetery Foundation recently contracted to conduct cleanup and maintenance work on the Masonic portion of the Silver Terrace Cemetery. This includes removal of weeds to reduce wildfire fuels, and trimming of several trees. Escorial welcomes the atmosphere of cooperation that now prevails between the Lodge and the Comstock Cemetery Foundation.

#### Upcoming Events

August 5 Star – Lodge picnic.  
September 1, regular meeting: vote on dues increase.

#### Sickness & Distress

Brother Guy Outland has survived a brush with the grim reaper and is back with the Lodge, and his goats.

#### Passings

Norman L. "Nick" Carter died on May 26. Born in Hood River, Oregon in 1935, he had been a Mason for 44 years, joined Escorial No. 7 in 1977, and was Master of the Lodge three times.

#### Degrees

Stephen Musser, a realtor in Virginia City, was elected to take the three degrees of Masonry and hopefully will help start the turn-around of membership in the Lodge.

#### Lodge Scholarship Program

This year the Lodge, with assistance from Argenta Chapter, OES, and Grand Lodge match, presented a \$1000 scholarship to Kirt Lynch, a graduating senior from Virginia City High School. The annual scholarship is now an external Lodge program. Unlike the past, where funds for scholarships were withdrawn from "the lodge general fund", henceforth, the scholarship will be entirely financed by outside fund raising and donations.

## Lodge Finances

At the present time, the Lodge has 49 members on the books. Of these, 22 are living life members. Twenty six are annual dues paying members.

Originally, life memberships were sold by Grand Lodge as including the annual per capita for the members. Funds from The Nevada Life Membership Program were not invested such that they provided adequate returns, and returns to the lodges are not sufficient to cover per capita for living life members. As a result, the lodges must again pay the per capita for living life members. (Per capita is also paid to GL for each Nevada lodge to which a plural member belongs, even though he is only a Mason one time). The GL Life Mbr program presently yields \$968 per year to Escorial. The per capita for each member being \$25, the cost of the living life members to Escorial each year is \$575; net to Escorial from 42 deceased life memberships: \$393. Many of our life members recognize the short-comings of this failed program and submit a donation to cover their per capita, for which the Lodge is very grateful. The income to Escorial from the 26 annual dues paying members (not including per capita to Grand Lodge) is \$1040 per year. Typical annual operating loss is approximately \$2500.

This year Escorial Lodge #7 began operating as two entities – the Trustees, who are responsible for maintaining the building and all property, as specified in the By-laws, and the membership or Lodge, which meets in the building. Both entities are guided by a Finance Committee composed of the Trustees and members from the Lodge. The Trustees are charged with ensuring that from now on, the building is operated in a self supporting manner. The Lodge now pays annual rent of \$1200 to the building Trustees. Since the Lodge will no longer operate by depleting money from a “general fund”, it will need to rely on dues payments, fund raisers and donations. The non-life members who care about the future of the home of Escorial Lodge and Argenta Chapter must anticipate an increase in the regular dues next year. Time to consider what it is worth to belong to one of the last historic Masonic lodges remaining on the Comstock, where the Grand Lodge of Nevada was born.

## Resolutions

Resolution 2012 – 1 (presented by Treasurer Dick Young)

Whereas; Ancient Landmark XXV states: Every Lodge has power to make Masons and administer its own private affairs.

Whereas; Bylaw Article XIII states: The Lodge may, at any stated communication, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, adopt standing resolutions, which cannot be repealed or suspended except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a stated communication.

Whereas; Nevada Grand Lodge places restrictions on who may have representation and have voting rights, found in Sections 2.250 and 2.260, respectively. One gives the right to speak but not vote, and the other prohibits representation entirely if certain conditions are not met, even though these brothers are in good standing.

Therefore, let it be resolved that Escorial Lodge #7 wishes to add a qualifying attendance requirement to its brothers in good standing, of attendance of at least three (3) meetings during the calendar year, prior to the election meeting, in order to be able to vote for or hold an elected office. (In conformity with NRS-82, governing non-profit organizations.) Voted and Passed on May 5, 2012.

Resolution 2012 – 2 (presented by Secretary Dave Miller)

Whereas: The current financial situation of Escorial Lodge has been discussed a number of times, the average annual operating loss that has characterized the lodge finances previous to 2012 is being addressed by the Finance Committee, composed of the building Trustees and members from the Lodge, and it is intended that this annual loss will be reduced or eliminated through reduction of building operating costs, increase in revenues from rents, and proper investment of the funds remaining in the Trustees account.

Whereas; However-much these measures reduce the annual lodge operating loss, it is unlikely that they will result in an adequate remedy to the long term problem of securing building maintenance and operation. As a result, the membership elected to place the building and all lodge property under the control of the Trustees, as stipulated in the by-laws. Henceforth, the operation of the building and property will be managed by the Trustees, as an entity financially separate from the “Lodge”, as the group of Masons who meet in the building.

Whereas; The Lodge, operating under its own separate budget, has voted to pay a monthly rent of \$100 to the building Trustees for use of the building by the Lodge members, just as Argenta Chapter #7 currently pays rent. The result of this action serves the necessary purpose of preserving the home of both the Masons and the Eastern Star Chapter. As a result of adopting this necessary step, the monthly operating cost of the Lodge (membership) itself will no longer be coming from depletion of the funds remaining from the Frank Fisher legacy. The Lodge will have to support itself, under its own separate budget, using revenue from member dues, social events, and fund raisers. This will inevitably result in the necessity of increasing member dues.

Therefore, let it be resolved that *only* those members of Escorial Lodge #7 who are regular annual dues paying members, and *not* life members, have the right to vote on whether to raise the regular annual dues on themselves and the amount. Voted and Passed on June 2, 2012.

Of your own free will and accord, you said you wished to become a builder.

*escorial: (Spanish)- a dumping place for dross; a slag heap from a smelting operation.*

*Escorial: A monastery and palace in the Guadarrama Mountains of central Spain, 26 miles NW of Madrid. Built from 1563 to 1584, it was commissioned by Phillip II to commemorate a victory over the French, and is the burial place of many Spanish sovereigns.*

**Note to Members: In order to reduce Lodge mailing expenses, henceforth, paper copies of the Trestleboard will only be sent to those members who do not have an e-mail address and do not own a personal computer. All other members will receive their copies by e-mail. Members may also access the Trestleboard through the Escorial Lodge web site. Your understanding on behalf of the Lodge is appreciated. Keep us informed of accurate contact information.**