

Escurial 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

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



#### Fourth Quarter 2012 Trestleboard

##### Recent Lodge Events

On September 15, a number of members attended the wine tasting event held at St. Pauls Church to raise money for their building maintenance. The event was successful, raising over \$1000, and Escurial Lodge demonstrated its involvement in the community.

On September 22, ten members formed a work party to take down old fencing at the Masonic cemetery. The Comstock Cemetery Foundation obtained a grant of \$14 thousand to provide new fencing and pathways in the Masonic portion of the cemetery. The old material will be used to replace part of the fence behind the lodge on B Street.

The present Masonic Cemetery includes the original portion and the adjacent Pacific Pioneer portion. Several members have already claimed plots in the Pacific Pioneer portion.

##### Upcoming Events

November 11 – 13, **Grand Lodge**, Atlantis Casino, Reno  
November 17, Frank Fisher memorial spaghetti feed by brother Bob Del Carlo.  
December 1, election of 2013 officers  
December 8, installation of officers

## **Degrees/Membership**

Stephen Musser received the EA degree on July 26.

Eric Madison, descendant of the early US president, was voted in as a Dual member of Escorial Lodge.

## **Lodge Finances**

Escorial Lodge appreciates the contributions of all our friends to the Lodge recovery fund. We now are two-thirds of the way toward our goal of replacing the \$1200 in the lodge recovery account.

The Lodge paid out \$1425 in annual returns to Grand Lodge for 2011. We received \$844 back from Grand Lodge for life memberships from 2011. Net loss to the lodge was \$581. Returns for 2012 were \$1235. The lodge now has 8 living members who purchased life memberships for \$252, and 7 living members who purchased them for \$504, over one-third of our membership. No mystery why the lodge is in financial trouble and dues have to be raised on the annual dues paying members. At the September stated meeting, the members voted to increase dues to \$97 per year (including per capita) starting 2013.

The life membership program was intended to provide a guarantee of permanent membership to the purchaser, and to provide a fund, which when properly invested, that would provide a perpetual annuity to the member's lodge. Life memberships were purchased in good faith and intentions with those objectives in mind. However, in actual practice, this has not been the case. The monies in the fund have not been invested such that they provide an adequate return, either to provide a positive return to the lodge or even to protect the principle in the fund. The reason for this is that the guidelines for investing the monies are so restrictive that an adequate return on the fund is precluded.

The average annual rate of inflation since 1950 is 3.8% (Wall St. Jour., 9-12-12). Therefore, in order to simply preserve principle, the average annual yield of an investment must equal 3.8%. In order to additionally provide for a return on the investment, a yield greater than the average rate of inflation must be obtained. Investing funds in so-called "safe" investments like CD's at a yield of less than 1% guarantees an annual loss of 1 to 2 percent in actual purchasing power. The Escorial Lodge Trustees fund invested with *Waddell and Reed* has produced \$1377 on the initial investment of \$40 thousand, since June.

The active members of Escorial Lodge participated in the Labor Day weekend event by renting out parking spaces in the newly paved lodge parking lot. A total of \$60 was raised to go toward the building fund. Since then, Brother Eric Madison has arranged for the VC Middle School Boosters to collect parking fees at the lodge on event weekends. The money collected is split with the lodge. The lodge has raised \$495 from parking fees so far this year. This is another service project that the lodge and community both benefit from. Our share goes to the trustees' building preservation fund.

The annual September Lodge yard sale was not held this year.

## **Scholarship Fund**

While it is the goal of every Masonic Lodge to practice charity, that objective cannot be met if the lodge doesn't survive. Henceforth, the annual scholarship will be funded by money collected from special events, such as Table Lodges, and not from the lodge operating fund. If the special events are unsuccessful, there will be no scholarship awards. It is hoped that money collected from special events will be mostly from "outside" sources, and not more money drawn from the pockets of our own members.

## **2014 One hundred fifty year Anniversary Event**

Escorial Lodge has started planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this historic lodge, for October, 2014. This will be one of the major functions to take place in our lodge in years and we anticipate an overflow into the parking lot. We are planning a memorable period-style celebration involving food, music and other entertainment.

Argenta Chapter No. 7

Congratulations to Kristine Anglin, the new Worthy Matron and David W. Porter, the new Worthy Patron or our sister organization. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

*We learn that nothing helps keep a secret like being stuck with a bad memory*

Walt Kelly