


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

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Box 997
Virginia City, NV 89440



Upcoming Events

May 4 stated meeting – Grand Master's Official Visit
May 15 – Amity Lodge 150th Anniversary
May 25 – Masonic Memorial Service at the Masonic Cemetery, west side of Reno
Oct. 13, 2014 – 150th Anniversary Celebration of Escorial Lodge
Sept. 2015 – Masons on the Mountain event

Recent Lodge Events

The Sweetheart brunch held at the lodge on Saturday, Feb. 10th was attended by 16 people. The various choices of quiche prepared by Junior Warden Eric and his spouse Kristi were very well received.
The work party held at the lodge on Saturday, Feb. 16th was a busy event. In addition to performing repairs and maintenance on the lodge, the members held a first degree practice.
The lodge held a firemen's appreciation lunch on Sat., April 13. Approximately 20 firemen and their family members attended.
A work party and ritual practice was held on Sat. April 27. The lodge parking lot was set aside for use by a Masonic group from California. They assisted us in placing posts for the fence repair on B Street.
We are raising the profile of Escorial Lodge and establishing a reputation of making a positive contribution in the community.

Passings

The Lodge is sad to report the loss of Clinton Green who passed into light Feb. 9th. He was a Past Master of Escorial Lodge and a Mason for 59 years. His wife Nonette has been a member of Argenta Chapter OES.

We also regret to report that Dick Young's wife, Linda succumbed to cancer.

Sickness & Distress

Brother Jim Phelps' recent back operation was a success, although he still appears to walk funny. W. Master Percy Handley recently went under the cyber knife and appears to be recovering nicely. Brother Dennis Conly has had the pins removed from his hand after a recent skirmish with a garage door. He also passed a kidney stone and is now able to dance again.

A number of our members have dropped out of sight and have failed to keep us updated on their residence, health, or other matters of interest to their brethren and the lodge. If you don't keep us informed about where you are, then you can't blame us for seeming not to remember you or care about your well being. If you know of a member who has relocated or dropped out of sight, the lodge would appreciate your help in keeping our records up to date.

Lodge Membership

Congratulations to Steve Musser on successfully completing his 2nd degree proficiency, and to Tim Treffinger on becoming our latest member to start to proceed through the degrees.

As of this year, the following Escorial Lodge members are recognized for their years of Masonic service:

- 25 years – Chris Courson, Jeff Courson, Joe Simoneau
- 30 years – Dean Borges, Earl Everett, Roger Hartley, Doug Puskar, James Redding
- 40 years – Robert Del Carlo
- 45 years – Alan Hobeck, Milton Middleswort, James Phelps
- 55 years – Chuck Saulisberry
- 60 years – Walter Richards

Escorial Lodge is starting to see an increase in interest for plural and dual membership in our lodge by Masons in this region. We anticipate reading a number of petitions for affiliation in the coming months. Apparently we aren't so big that we overlook our visiting members, or so formal that we have lost the friendly, fraternal atmosphere we've developed. Or perhaps it's the special character of our small mining town lodge and the 150 years of Masonic history that sets us apart from the others. Whatever the reason, the first Saturday of every month continues to be a gratifying event for the members of our special lodge.

Degree practice and proficiency are one area where we need to improve. Our new members working through the degrees need to receive help and interest in their progress from more of our officers and members. Too many of the members on our rolls seem to think that carrying a dues card and exhibiting a Masonic ring is all it takes to be a Mason. In case some of you need reminding, all of the symbols of this fraternity are representations of **work**. Step up. Do your share.

Lodge Dues

As of this month, all except 1 of the 24 non-life members have paid their dues. If you have not yet sent in your check for this year (\$98.), please do so. Some older members may think the present dues level is excessive. It all depends on whether you have kept up with the rate of inflation of other items in life, and what you consider the privilege of membership in the fraternity and this special lodge to be worth. Continuing to deplete the remnants of Frank Fisher's legacy is no longer an option. The years of cheap dues and carefree spending are what nearly broke this lodge. The present membership intends to operate the lodge in a fiscally responsible manner in the coming years. This means the annual dues paying members have to address the reality of today's operating expenses.

Building Finances

The lodge voted to raise the rent it pays to the building trustees to \$150 per month. This puts us in parity and on the level with the monthly rent the Eastern Star chapter pays to the trustees for use of the lodge building. The lodge trustees succeeded in finding a new propane vendor and reducing the charge for our fuel by almost 50%. In addition, the new vendor upgraded the fuel line to the building. This will result in an annual savings of about \$600.

The trustee's building account had a balance of \$43,499 as of the end of the first quarter. Since we started with the initial investment of \$40 thousand (June '12), the account has gained \$3499 (almost 8% in 9 months). This account now represents a growing security cushion for maintaining our home for present and future generations of Escorial Masons and Argenta Chapter.

Escorial Lodge is in the forefront of lodges that have recognized the need to operate within the same budget principles that you would operate your home or business. We now operate in the black, live within our limits, and don't spend money we don't have. Assets such as the building and parking lot are being used to raise revenue to sustain the property and finance the scholarship program. Of greater importance, our desire to generate revenue and maintain the lodge building has necessitated having more social functions. This has brought the membership together on more occasions, helped us get to know our member's families, and strengthened the mystic tie between us. We have become more of a Masonic family.

Scholarship Program

The table lodge held on March 23 was a success. Junior Warden Eric and his wife prepared a great spread, and a good time was had by all. We had participating visitors from three other lodges, and to date, \$487 has been raised for the scholarship fund. We are now within \$33 of reaching our goal of \$520, to be matched by a contribution from Grand Lodge. This will provide a \$1000 scholarship to a graduate of Virginia City High School. The scholarship program is now funded entirely outside the regular lodge budget from special events, donations and parking lot rental.

Rusty? Welcome home, brother

Some Masons have stopped participating in the fraternity because family duties or work take precedence. Others may feel that they can no longer participate because they've forgotten the signs, passwords or ritual. The doors of Escorial Lodge are always open to a returning brother. If your name is on our roster, you are one of us, and we are delighted to see returning faces. If you haven't come through the door in a number of years, you'll find a warm welcome. We'd like to hear your stories about the history of the lodge and your past experiences over breakfast. We also are open to new ideas on how to improve the lodge and its operation.

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it's time to pause and reflect."

Mark Twain