

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ April 2023

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From the East

A message from Worshipful Robert S. Strohmeyer, PM

Spring is in the air, brethren, and our Masonic year enters a new phase as we turn our attention from the raising half a dozen new Master Masons in the first few months to passing some of our newer initiates to the degree of Fellowcraft.

At the end of April, we'll be conferring the Second Degree of Masonry upon at least two of our brothers, possibly even three. The degree will be held Saturday, April 29, at 6:00 PM, and will be conferred by the Past Masters of our lodge. We hope to see as many Fellowcrafts and Master Masons as possible at that degree.

We have a very special agenda for our Stated Meeting this month. Our Inspector, the Worshipful Michael Tagulao, will make his official visit to our Lodge on behalf of the Grand Master. Because of this special occasion, all officers will be in tuxedos at the stated meeting, and we ask all brethren to wear business attire.

We will also hear a proposal from Very Worshipful Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary of the State of California and three-time Past Master of our lodge, to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of Acalanes Lodge #723, which became part of the consolidated Acalanes Fellowship Lodge in 1978. Acalanes Lodge received its charter on January 16, 1953 from Grand Master



Arthur M. Warren in a ceremony held at the Acalanes High School gymnasium. Several of its founding members were teachers at Acalanes High School.

In honor of this rich history, and in keeping with our lodge's tradition of funding education programs, we will explore establishing an annual scholarship program for students of Acalanes High School who show great academic achievement, community service, and demonstrate financial need. I look forward to hearing Very Worshipful Casalou's proposal, and discussing this initiative with you all in the weeks to come.

Fraternally yours,

Bob Strohmeyer, PM

Master

From the West

Notes from Bradley O. Rupert, PM, Senior Warden

"Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in" was said by Al Pacino in the Godfather. Soon after that movie came out, that phrase was adopted by many masonic brothers to express their Masonic Officer journey. It's my honor and privilege to be pulled back into the officer line as Senior Warden at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge, "The friendly lodge!"

Let me start by sharing with you the start of my Masonic Journey. It officially started 20 years ago, this month, when I was made a Master Mason at AFL#480 Tuesday March 18th 2013. But it really started long before that when I attended Masonic events at my father's lodge Diablo Valley Lodge. Lodge traditions like holiday magic shows, crab feeds and charity events made a deep impression on me as a child. These interactions along with my personal need to find a group outside my normal peer group lead me to become a Freemason. Right after joining the lodge, I started by joining the Hall Association. In time, I joined the officer's line and had the honor of serving as Master in 2013.



Looking forward, I am very excited about our lodge's future. We have a strong officer corps and an even stronger group of new members coming on to help build a solid future for our lodge. As Senior Warden this year, my major focus this year is to coach and guide our newer members. Setting up meetings inside and outside the lodge to ensure new Masons are finding the right connection and mentorship in our lodge.

I will be reaching out to our existing brothers for help and support coaching and mentoring our newest brothers. If you have interest in becoming a masonic coach, please reach out to me directly. Again, I am excited for the future and by the brotherly love and support our friendly lodge exhibits every day.

Fraternally,

Bradley O. Rupert, PM
Senior Warden



Hall Association Update

Peter A. Peterson, Hall Board President

By the time you read this, our new shed will have been installed, along with a new door lock security system which will give us greater control of access to our Lodge. We'll be deciding on shelving for the shed and then finally trying to



schedule a workday to get our Lodge cleaned up. Once again, Brother Korwin came to our rescue and got our chair lift working.

Last month, I promised to provide you with an explanation of the relationship between our Masonic Lodge (AFL#480) and our Hall Association (Acalanes Masonic Building Association). They are two separate entities, but obviously have close ties. Both are governed by the regulations and ordinances laid down in the California Masonic Code (CMC). Each has separate bylaws. Each has its own state and federal tax exemption status, tax ID codes, and separate tax filing requirements.

Only members in good standing may serve as a hall director. We have nine (9) directors (staggered terms) who are nominated for their position and voted on by the membership at a stated meeting. The Master and Senior Warden are automatically directors of the Hall Association and do not need to be specifically appointed. A term is usually three years, and a member can serve an additional three year term, but must sit out at least one year before being able to again serve as a director. The Hall Association is responsible for repair, maintenance, and improvement of the hall. The Hall Association “pays the bills” - PG&E, phone, garbage pick-up, custodian cleaning, etc. The Hall Association manages all rentals of our facility. Rental income, and any other income, provide funds for the maintenance of the Lodge.

There is strict governance and accounting of those funds. The Hall Association has a signed agreement with the Lodge describing how this rental income must be distributed to the Lodge. The CMC allows the Hall Association to keep up to three months of operating expenses on hand. Anything above that is returned to the Lodge, which keeps a portion in the Special Projects Fund. If the Hall Association has insufficient funds on hand to cover an expense such as major repairs, improvements, etc., a formal request is made during a Stated Meeting for a fund transfer from the Special Projects Fund to the Hall Association. Lodge members vote on these requests at the meeting.

Both the Lodge and the Hall Association are required to conduct annual audits, which are reviewed by our District Inspector and then filed with Grand Lodge. Under the CMC, both, twice a year, are required to report assets, liabilities, income, and expenses during a stated meeting.

We enjoy the service we provide to the Lodge and its membership. We take our duties seriously and try our best to be good stewards of the facility and its financial management.

Pete Peterson

Junior Warden & Hall Board President

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

<p>April 4, 5:30 pm</p> <p>Stated Meeting & Dinner</p> <p>5:30 pm social hour 6:30 pm dinner 7:30 pm meeting</p> <p><u>RSVP NOW!</u></p>	<p>April 29, 6:00 pm</p> <p>Past Masters Second Degree</p> <p>Join us as the Past Masters of Acalanes Fellowship raise new brothers Sunil Awasti, Robert Kaleta, and possibly one more brother to the Degree of Fellowcraft.</p> <p>All Fellowcrafts and Master Masons Welcome!</p>
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