

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ April 2026
925 Moraga Road
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1)
Lafayette, CA 94549

May 5th

Stated Meeting

Social Hour 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Stated Meeting 7:30 pm

April 21, 6:30 pm

DOSI

Light Dinner 6:30 pm
DOSI 7:30 pm

Bay Cities Lodge #337
5050 El Portal Dr, El Sobrante



From the East

A message from Worshipful Master Mark Williams

Greetings from the East! Welcome to the April Trestleboard. There's lots going on at the Lodge and I want to take this opportunity to share a "call to action" to our Brothers.

One of my clear intentions for the Lodge this year was to reconnect with Brothers who have not been as involved in the Lodge in recent times. Some of these men may have moved away, and some may have mobility/transportation issues that have hindered them in coming and participating in the Lodge. So this message is directed both to our current "actively involved" Brothers as well as those who we have not seen or heard from in awhile. To "active" Brothers... I invite you to think of a Brother who you know who you may not have seen recently and reach out! A call or an email, reminding them how much we would like to see them and share fellowship with them. And to those who we have not seen or heard from in some time; call me! Or call a Brother who you remember and whose company you enjoyed at some time. To take this one step further, we intend to set up some Zoom calls to reach and interact with those Masons who we would like to talk to and check in with! Please let us know if you want to participate in these calls so we make sure we connect you.



One last thought along those lines. Even if you are no longer in the area or are not able to physically make it to the Lodge, we always need help on activities and initiatives that you can do remotely. I believe that re-engaging with your Acalanes Fellowship Brothers will be wonderful for you and for us! My contact points are at the end of this article.

Next... I mentioned at the Stated Meeting on Tuesday that we have a number of events upcoming that need to be planned and implemented. Please see the events below and call, email, or text me and let me know which events you can assist with planning and running it.

- April 28 - 3rd Degree for Doug Messer (Master Masons only)
- May 2 - Rib Cookoff at Orinda Lodge
- May 5 - Stated Meeting Dinner (wives, significant others invited as our guests!)
- May 6 - Proficiency Evening
- May 12 and/or May 19 - 2nd Degrees (dates to be confirmed. Fellowcrafts and Master Masons)
- May 30?? - Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- June 27?? - Lodge picnic- Joint event with Orinda Lodge
- August 14 - Grand Lodge Reception for AGL Adam Hanin
- September 19/20 - Lafayette Art and Wine Festival
- October ?? - Whiskey Seminar fundraiser for Scholarship Fund

Participation builds relationships with your Brothers, is fun and rewarding! Please let me (or Kaveh) know what events you would like to participate in.

We have done some great things already this year! I love the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of all of our Brothers... “old” and “new”! Let’s keep it going and continue to experience the amazing and multi-faceted benefits of being a Freemason and a member of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480!

Fraternally yours,

Mark Williams - Worshipful Master 2026

925-285-0630 (call or text)

mark51@outlook.com

From the West

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden

Brethren,

April has been a strong and encouraging month for our Lodge. Our most recent stated meeting was very well attended, and it was great to see so many brothers filling the room and contributing to the energy of the evening.

One of the highlights of the night was hearing from the DeMolay boys about their upcoming fundraiser in support of the Shriners Hospitals in both Hawaii and Sacramento. Through a \$25 contribution, a stuffed wolf will be donated to a child in need—a simple gesture that carries a great deal of meaning. If this effort speaks to you and you would like to participate, please feel free to reach out to me directly and I will help get you connected.

In the latter part of March, we had the privilege of welcoming three new brothers into the Craft: Zaq McDaniel, Dan Zerkle, and Thomas Lyle. If you haven’t attended a stated meeting recently, you may be surprised to see that the Northeast corner is now completely full, and we are beginning to fill the Southeast as well. This is a clear sign of a healthy and growing Lodge.

With that growth, however, comes responsibility. It is important that we remain intentional about keeping our brothers engaged—especially those who are new to Masonry. As Mark mentioned in his article, something as simple as a phone call or reaching out to a brother you haven’t spoken to in a while can make a meaningful difference. I would encourage all of us to do the same for our newest



brothers: introduce yourself, say hello, and make them feel welcome.

Many of these brothers are also eager to travel, visit other Lodges, and experience more of the Craft. If you are planning to attend a degree or stated meeting elsewhere, consider reaching out through iMember and inviting them along. These small gestures go a long way in building lasting connections.

As we move through spring, we are also approaching the time for Lodge cleanup and improvement projects. There will be several opportunities to get involved, and we hope many of you will step forward when the call goes out. This is our Lodge, and we are entrusted with caring for it—not just for ourselves, but for every Mason who will pass through it in the future. I continue to work on plans to improve the front edge of our property along Moraga Road. This project is still in the planning phase, and I welcome any ideas or input. When the time comes, I will be looking for at least four brothers to help bring it to life.

Lastly, we have several regular gatherings taking shape that we want to make sure all brothers are aware of. Monday nights, we've been meeting at Rocco's in Walnut Creek for pizza, and Friday nights are quickly becoming a standing sushi night. Our hiking group will also be making its return to Sunday mornings soon.

There is a great deal of momentum right now, and it is something worth being a part of. Thank you all for your continued involvement and commitment to the Lodge.

Fraternally,

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden

From the South

Worshipful Cary Carlson, Junior Warden

Worshipful Brother Cary is traveling in Japan this month! His illuminating and inspirational message will be back in May!

Worshipful Cary Carlson, Junior Warden



Calendar of Events

2026 April		Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 Birth & Raised Date Calendar			B: Birthday R: MM Raised Date		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
30	31	01	02	03	04	05	B: Sunil Awasti
06	07 Stated Meeting B: Alan Sherman B: Cody Wilbur	08	09	10	11	12	B: Richard Keihner
13	14	15 B: Thomas Riley	16	17 B: Fred Lezak	18	19	B: Miguel Ribeiro R: Gerald Hertz
20 B: Garth Korwin R: Jay Newman	21	22	23 B: Mark Williams	24 B: Tim Wilbur	25 B: Yuri Riphayak	26	B: Court Chynces
27	28 R: Ryder Brose	29 R: Russell Chapman	30 R: Jeffrey Fesunoff R: Mark Williams	01	02	03	
04	05	Reminders Rib Cook Off: 5/2/2026 (Orinda) Next Months Stated Meeting: 5/5/2026.					



Officers AFL #480 2026

Master Mark A. Williams 925-285-0630	Senior Warden Kaveh Astaneh 925-437-6016
Junior Warden Cary Carlson, PM 925-360-2716	Treasurer Rob Seitelman 415-310-8563
Secretary Gary D. Sparks, PM 707-803-9385	Chaplain Franklin H. Shoffner
Assistant Secretary C. Randall Tolerton, PM	Marshal Wesley Brown
Senior Deacon Sunil Awasti	Junior Deacon Eshan Shafaei
Senior Steward Brandon DeRouen	Junior Steward Ivan Jovanovic
Musician John Minagro	Tiler Joshua Hernandez

2026 AFL #480 Committees

Executive Committee

Mark Williams, Master - Chair

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden

Cary Carlson, Junior Warden

Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary

Rob Seitelman, Treasurer

Auditing Committee

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden - Chair

Cary Carlson, Junior Warden

Sunil Awasti, Senior Deacon

Sunshine Committee

Frank Shoffner, Chaplain - Chair

Tom Riley, PM

John Minagro, Musician

Charity Committee

Mark Williams, Master

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden

Cary Carlson, Junior Warden

Member Retention Committee

Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary - Chair

Tom Riley, PM

Dining Committee

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden - Chair

Sunil Awasti, Senior Deacon

Eshan Shafae, Junior Deacon

2026 AFL #480 Committees cont.

Life Membership Committee

Randall Tolerton, PM, Asst. Secty - Chair

Ryder Brose - President

Paul Crawford - Vice Chair

Tom Riley, PM

Fred Lezak

Endowment Committee

Ryder Brose - President

Adam Hanin, PM - Vice Chair

Phil McAllister, PM

Prospect Committee

Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary - Chair

Mark Williams, Master, Ex Officio

Kaveh Astaneh, Senior Warden

