



Mark Twain Service Award

California Lodge No. 1 F. & A. & M.
In the State of California

California Lodge No. 1 F. & A.M.

<http://calodge1.com>

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Meeting Location:
Columbia Brotherhood Masonic
Center
855 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco Ca 94131

Chartered 1848

December 1, 2011 - December 1, 2102

Richard J. Modolo, PM Worshipful Master
John A. Bermudez, PM Secretary

Mark Twain Award

Summary

California Lodge No.1 F&AM in the State of California

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Masonic Lodge lives in the status quo; it is what we always did, and it is the way we are going to continue. But Why? The status quo requires no energy, no vitality; it is safe to stay there, it is easy to live there, and if we continue in the status quo we will end there.

The objectives: Can we keep our traditional programs? Can the officers break out from merely going through the motions. Is there more to the Lodge than doing the Ritual? Is there more to the Lodge than Social programs? Is there more to the Lodge than Charity? Can we keep our identity? The short answer is "yes," but the path is long and winding and requires much energy.

A few years back a hand full of members met and thought about where the Lodge is and where it could be going. We had the talent, we had the fancies but we were a very big ship without a rudder. What they discovered was a needed to do MORE, More for Public Schools, More for Community Outreach and more Masonic Education and keep everything in balance. These programs both new and old are in place and continue to evolve.

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Event Descriptions Planning and Implementation

Stated Meetings:

California Lodge meets every Tuesday evening with the Stated Meeting being held on the First Tuesday of every month. Prior to the stated meeting dinner we host a get acquainted social time from 5:45PM until 6:30PM with Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments in the Fireside Room of the Brotherhood Masonic Center in San Francisco. At 6:30PM dinner is served in the dining room and this is open to all members, ladies and guest. This is a great time where everyone can get to know each a little more. Our Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are also invited to attend. At least once per quarter there is something special planned at dinner, a themed dinner, a guest speaker a special program. A special program might be a public schools representative speaker, and example of a themed dinner would be in May, here we have Mariachi Band with south of the border style menu. (See "Exhibit 1) dinner list for the year, calendar for the year (See Exhibit 2), see also Emperor Norton Returns Speaker (See Exhibit 3). In September we at the stated meeting dinner the Lodge recognized two of our Brethren for having reached 75 years a member of DeMolay. (See Exhibit 4) At the November stated meeting the Ladies held a baby shower for our Treasurer wife.

The stated meeting and dinner is announced in the lodge monthly trestle board. (See Lodge Website for all trestle boards) All the lodge brethren, including EA's and FC's, plus widows and special guest receive the lodge trestle board and all are invited to attend dinner. As of October 1, 2012 all EA's and FC's are invite to attend the stated meetings. (Change made at the 2012 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California.) The pre stated meeting dinners and Hors D'oeuvre are meant to bring the members, officers and guest a little closer together, and to help foster that special camaraderie that makes each lodge special. There is also a light dinner at 6:30PM prior to every degree rehearsal, officers meeting and degree at no charge.

Budget:

The budget for stated meeting dinners is \$17,000.00 per year. See (see Exhibit 5 and 5a), Lodge Budget, the budget for the incoming year along with a calendar of events is presented to

the brethren at the December stated meeting and approved at the January stated meeting. The budget and calendar is presented to all the officers at an officers meeting prior to the December stated meeting for their review. We generally average 80 people at dinner with approximately 50 in the stated meeting. Near the end of the dinner we talk about all upcoming events, and help celebrate all birthday for that month, including a special birthday cake for the member or lady present. Ladies, widows and children are encouraged to attend the stated meeting dinners. There is something planned following the dinner for the Ladies during the time that the brethren are attending the stated meeting. Our Goal is to have 95 to 100 people at every dinner with 60 plus members in the stated meetings. We try to conclude the stated meetings by 9:00PM.

Jose Ortega Elementary School:

For several years the California Lodge Public Schools program was nothing more than going through he motions, with a small donation here and there. There was little interest and little action. We knew something had to be done but what. In 2007 it was a Lodge decision to develop a partnership with one of our public schools, preferably one close by. As things turned out Jose Ortega Elementary School was in need of help, the opportunity for California Lodge to have a partnership with an elementary school in san Francisco, and one which needed help was a win, win for all of us, and we never looked back. Working with the new Principle, JoLynn Washington (Elementary School Teacher of the year SFUSD 2011) (See Exhibit 8) and the PTA we soon formed a plan, put a budget together and the process was born. The Lodge was supporting the School with Books for the Library and a put and take cart, where the students could take a book home a keep it as long as necessary; helping the Teachers purchase student supplies like pencils, pens and paper. We later purchased computers for the library; (See Exhibit 6) projectors for classroom power point presentations, or on line presentation. The excitement in our Lodge to be able to build on these achievements was enormous.

At the end of 2010 California Lodge was the first in California to fund the Grand Masters "Raising A Reader Program," (See Exhibit 7) and Jose Ortega Elementary School was selected for the pilot program Jose Ortega Elementary School exceeded all expectations, and the program goal is to see this program in the at least 250 lowest performing elementary schools in California.

California Lodge is not stopping there and our Lodge has now funded this program to include the first grade at Jose Ortega

Elementary School. Our commitment to Jose Ortega is \$5,000.00 per year with a special gift to Raising a Reader of \$7,000.00, and it is growing.

The California Lodge officers attend the JOES Teacher Apparition Assembly, and support their annual fundraising event. This program has brought California Lodge recognition and attention from the parents, teachers, the students and the Public School Department of San Francisco. This year the California Grand Lodge held one of seven, Public School Month events throughout the state, with a Public Schools Presentations at JOES. This is truly community support. In addition California Lodge recognized Jose Ortega Elementary School at the June stated Meeting dinner. (See Exhibit 9)

Masons4Mitts Program:

In 2009 The Grand lodge of California partnered with the San Francisco Giants (Baseball Team) Community Fund in an effort to support the "Junior Giants" program, where underprivileged kids learn about Teamwork, Leadership, Integrity, Confidence Building, Reading, while learning to play baseball. What a perfect fit for the Masonic fraternity!

When these young boys and girls came out to play ball, 70% of the then 15,000 boys and girls had no glove. The Junior Giants is the flagship program of the Giants Community Fund, is a free, non-competitive and innovative baseball program for boys and girls ages 5 to 18. Today More than 20,000 youths participate in the Junior Giants program each year in more than 85 leagues, serving more than 150 cities. The Giants Community Fund provides the jerseys, hats, gloves and baseball equipment necessary to run each league. The Fund also provides tickets for youths to attend select Giants games.

Masonry, Baseball, Youth and Mitts is combination that has caught hold of the members and the Ladies of California Lodge, where our members and our ladies are encouraged to donate to sum of one glove/mitt (\$20.00 Each). In addition to this the Lodge has voted to do a 100% Matching Grant, and will purchase one additional glove for every glove our Lodge donates. The campaign runs from April through September when the Grand Master present the final check at Home Plate during Masonic Night at AT&T Park. (See Exhibit 10)the check is the grand total of donations from six Teams representation of about 60 Lodges. There are barging rights to the willing Team, and bragging right to the lodges within the team.

In 2012 the members and ladies of California Lodge donated, held fundraising events and raised 193.5 Mitts, which was matched by the Lodge. The Glove or Mitt has a Masonic Logo w/letter 'G' and "Donated By the Masons of California" branded on it. (See Exhibit 11) this program is all about the members and Ladies showing their support, as opposed to the Lodge making the donation. It has brought the members close together with team goal. We attend the game, in mass, for the presentation by the Grand Master, of the final check. Masons, baseball, young boys and girls, and mitts, at the game, giving credit to this fraternity and the winning Team.

The Masons4Mitts program supports California Lodge continued commitment to the community in general and the youth as a whole and has made our membership aware of the ongoing need for our support. In turn the presentation of the check is seen by over 30,000 people at the game, and tens of thousands of viewers via Television, and radio listeners, has enhanced our Masonic community support, and awareness of each other.

Layman's Afternoon Program:

While we recognize every lodge has a Laymen's presentation, California Lodge No.1 did something different this year, by teaming up with the two additional Lodges, who also meet in the Brotherhood Masonic Center: San Francisco Lodge No.120 and Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No.370, and together presented a Layman's Afternoon.

The Masters from each lodge met over a period of 6 months. Our goals were simple, have a great location, reach out to the most amount of people in our community (See Exhibit 12 & 12a - SF Examiner ad,) select the best date and time. It wasn't about limiting the process, but broadening the process, to include the diversity of our community. The final decision was made, the location was the Brotherhood Masonic Center (See Exhibit 13), it would be a Saturday afternoon, refreshments served after, the Grand Secretary would be the guest speaker, and we would purchase ad space in one of the main San Francisco news papers.

Purchasing ad space in the local news paper, why this had never been done before. A budget was created, the art work/flyer was completed and the ad was purchased, a full page. The San Francisco Examiner is delivered to every home and local business in san Francisco.

Laymen's Afternoon would be more than asking a few select men to assemble, while we invited all of Entered Apprentices' and

Fellow Crafts' to attend, this is also where we tie all the above in with the Layman's Experience, realizing that we have a diverse community, most people do not know who we are or where we are, that was until we took a full page add in the local news paper, the San Francisco Examiner, along with posting the flyer at the local college, San Francisco State University, on our various lodges Facebook pages and on our Websites, we would be educating the community about who we are and where we are and how to meet with us. As a side note these three lodges also sponsored a Tri-Lodge Spring Dinner Dance in June.

Masonic Education:

Following the Layman's experience it was a suggestion by one of the junior officers that there should be a way to discuss the Masonic experience. What does it mean to be a Mason? Who are the Masons of San Francisco, of California of our country who contributed to who we are today? And last but not least, what does it mean to be a member of California Lodge? Beginning in May California Lodge began to offer 10 to 15 minute Masonic Education talks. These talks are informal, scheduled on those Tuesday evening, other than a stated meeting evening and are open to all. In addition to this the three lodges, California Lodge No.1, San Francisco Lodge 120 and Columbia Brotherhood Lodge 370 joined together and participated in the Redwood City 4th of July Parade, a first for this event. (see Exhibit 14)

Reflection:

Building a better lodge means continue leadership training, Masonic education of our officers, and members, reaching out beyond the four walls of the lodge, contribute beyond our comfort zone, building on our community involvement, building on our community awareness of each other and last but not least, not being satisfied with the "status quo."

It has been said, "We are remembered for what we have done, but we will be known by our current deeds and by our actions," we must never stop going and growing. The final measurement of success will be when the community understands together we can achieve MORE.

Submitted

Richard J. Modolo, P. M. Master
California Lodge No. F&AM

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Exhibit 1
Lodge Stated Meeting Dinners

Month	Dinner	Dessert	Theme
January	Baked Chicken Breast	Apple Pie	Emperor Norton Guest Speaker
February	Lasagna w/meat sauce	Ice Cream	
March	Corn Beef & Cabbage		Irish Night Theme
April	Lamb Chops	Strawberry Sponge Cake	Public Schools Program
May	Chicken Enchiladas	Flan	Cinco De Mayo Celebration w/Marchi Band
June	Meat Loaf	Berry Pie	50 Year Award
July	Tri-Tip (BBQ)	Cherry Pie	4th of July Celebration
August	Chicken Parmigiana	Lemon Sorbet	
September	Spaghetti & Meat Balls		Italian Night
October	German Feast	Apple Strudel	October fest
November	Turkey	Pumpkin Pie	Thanksgiving Celebration
December	Short Ribs	Lemon Meringue Pie	Holidays Celebration

Exhibit 2 Lodge Calendar

Day	Month	Date	Event	Chairman
Tuesday	January	3	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Thursday	January	19	DSOI-Crocker -3rd Deg Opening	Jim Davis
Tuesday	January	31	Crab Feed	J. Bermudez
Tuesday	February	7	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Tuesday	February	14	Valentine Whist W/Dinner	Roy & Pearl Kirkland
Monday	February	20	DSI: PSK - GLO Reception/Membership	Jim Davis
Tuesday	March	6	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Saturday	March	3	Joint Laymans Meeting w/ 370 & 120	R. Modolo
Sunday	March	11	Grand Masters Reception With Cal 1 and SF 120	R. Modolo Ken Martensen
Sunday	March	18	Sweetheart Brunch	Ben Ruhs/R. Modolo
Tuesday	March	20	DSI: Calodge - 1st Deg Con/LF Closing	Jim Davis
Tuesday	April	3	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Tuesday	April	3	Public Schools	R. Erickson
Sunday	April	8	Easter	G. Bazlamit
Thursday	April	25	DSI CB 370 Host 1st Deg + Admin	Jim Davis
Tuesday	May	1	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Sunday	May	7	Visit Lodge Cemetery Plots & BBQ	J. Bermudez
Monday	May	15	DSI - Calodge Host 3rd Deg 1st Sec + Admin	Jim Davis
Tuesday	June	5	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Tuesday	June	13	DSI - Columbia Brotherhood Host Adv Stat 2nd Deg	Jim Davis
Saturday	June	23	Tri Lodge Spring Dinner Dance	T. Burkard
Tuesday	July	3	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Wednesday	July	4	Tri Lodge march in Redwood City 4 th of July parade w/aprons	B. Gwin
Saturday	July		Golf Tournament	R. Erickson
Tuesday	July	24	Master on Vacation	R. Modolo
Tuesday	August	7	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Thursday	August	21	DSI - Adv Stat 3rd Deg 2 nd Sect	Jim Davis
Sunday	September	9	Picnic w/SF Lodge	B. Gwin
Tuesday	September	4	Stated Meeting - DeMolay 75 year presentation	R. Modolo
Monday	September	11	DSI - Adv Stat 1st Deg	Jim Davis

Exhibit 2 Continued

Day	Month	Date	Event	Chairman
Tuesday	September	25	Roll Call	J. Bermudez
Tuesday	October	2	Stated Meeting	R. Modolo
Tuesday	October	10	DSI - Columbia Brotherhood Host - 3 rd Deg Ave Stations & Flag Presentation	Jim Davis
Tuesday	November	6	Stated Meeting & Election of Officers	R. Modolo
Saturday	November	10	Fall Dinner Dance	R. Modolo
Tues	November	13	Thanksgiving Whist	J. Bermudez
Thursday	November	20	DSI: Adv Stat 2 nd Deg	Jim Davis
Sunday	December	2	Children's Christmas Party	S. Cassidy
Tuesday	December	4	Stated Meeting W/2013 Budget Presentation	R. Modolo
Sunday	December	2	Children's Christmas Party	S. Cassidy
	TBA		Table Lodge	G. Bazlamit
	TBA		Easter Egg Hunt	G. Bazlamit
	TBA		Fishing Trip	J. Bermudez
	TBA		Mystery Trip	TBA

**Exhibit 3
Emperor Norton Returns**

What an exciting January we had, with the return of Emperor Norton at our January stated meeting; Emperor Norton kept everyone glued to their seats as he brought everyone up speed of his adventures, the Emperor was a Charter Member of Occidental Lodge 22. Taken from the Masters trestle board message February 2012.

Emperor Norton Returns to California Lodge



Worshipful Master Richard J. Modolo & Emperor Norton

Exhibit 4

DeMolay 75 & 50 Year Pin Presentations

Taken from the October Trestle Board



Brother John Cognetta and Brother Alvin Groeper, PM pose after receiving their 75 year membership pin from the Order of DeMolay.



Brother's Leland Orchid, De-Wayne Hartman, PM, and Brother Len Frocmin, PM, posing together after receiving their fifty year pin from the Order of DeMolay