



March



Bruce Gavin

Master



Greetings from the East

The turnout for the Lodge annual Crab Feed was a sellout. This event is the biggest fund raiser of the year for our Lodge and was a banner year. Many thanks to George and Kim Sims, Br. Cris Bryceson, Wor. Tom Tompkins and all the others who pitched in to make our Silent Auction a big success. This year we sold 640 pounds of crab, 140 pounds of shrimp and 24 rib eye steaks and surplus pasta. Many thanks to the cooking, setup and cleanup crews for their dedication and hard work assisting Sr. Warden Doug Jones as he transitions into being the new head of this event.

The February Stated Meeting dinner had 50 guests who turned out for a traditional Italian Spaghetti dinner and Spumoni dessert. They turned out in support of Worshipful Tom Angello who was presented with his well-deserved Hiram Award at the half time show before Stated Meeting.

The March Stated Meeting dinner is the traditional Saint Patrick's Day corned beef, cabbage and all the fixings. Past Master Rich Duffy and his wife Diane will be putting together a delicious meal for this event. Diane plans to offer a dessert contest as she has done in previous years. This is a modest fund raiser where a dollar buys a vote. Diners are encouraged to enter their desserts then sample and vote for their favorite desserts.

Starting with the March dinner, reservations for dinner must use the online RSVP system at the lodge web site. This is expressly for securing an accurate head count for buying groceries specific to the number of guests. RSVP is mandatory to secure a reservation for dinner. Walk-ins without an RSVP are subject to \$5 higher dinner charges without assurance there will be sufficient extra food for them.

Worshipful Cary has simplified the online RSVP and payment system to be more user friendly. It is workable on both mobile phones and desktop computers without scrolling or other fiddling.

The Lodge has implemented a reduced pricing scheme to encourage Masons to bring their spouses to dinner. This is similar to the pricing and RSVP method used by Natoma Lodge in Folsom. RSVP pricing remains at \$15 for the Mason and reduced to \$5 for the spouse. Children under age 12 now eat for free. Those who RSVP but fail to show will be billed for the food purchased for them. Guests can pay online or at the door. The online price no longer charges the \$1 fee previously imposed on the online purchase. \$15 online or \$15 at the door with your RSVP or \$20 and \$10 walk-in without RSVP.

Fraternally,

Bruce Gavin, Master



Doug Jones

Senior Warden



Greetings from the West

Operative vs. Speculative Masons

When people talk about Freemasonry, you'll often hear two terms: operative and speculative Masons. The difference is simple, and it helps explain how Masonry became what it is today.

Operative Masons were the real stonemasons from long ago, especially during the Middle Ages. These were the men who built cathedrals, castles, bridges, and other stone buildings that are still standing today. They had to be highly skilled and knowledgeable, especially when it came to tools, measurements, and geometry.

They worked in groups or guilds that trained new workers, protected their trade, and helped each other out when times were hard. Their lodges were basically working places where apprentices learned the craft, journeymen improved their skills, and master Masons supervised major construction projects. Their job was hands-on—they were literally building with stone.

As time went on, things started to change.

In the 1700s, men who were not stonemasons began joining lodges. They weren't there to learn how to build buildings. Instead, they were interested in the fellowship, the lessons, and the values behind the craft. These members became known as speculative Masons.

Speculative Masonry kept the old tools and symbols but gave them a deeper meaning. For example, the square and compasses were no longer just tools for building—they became reminders of how we should live our lives: with honesty, balance, and good character. The focus shifted from building physical structures to building ourselves as better men.

Today, Freemasonry is almost entirely speculative. We don't build cathedrals anymore, but we still use the symbols and traditions of the old operative Masons to guide us and remind us of where we came from.

In short, operative Masons built with stone, while speculative Masons build with values and principles. Together, they show how Freemasonry grew from a working trade into a brotherhood focused on personal improvement.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Doug Jones, Senior Warden



John Scofield, P.M. Junior Warden



Greetings from the South, John Scofield, P.M. here.

March is upon us, marking the beginning of Spring. February proved to be a busy month filled with memorable events and gatherings.

We hosted a lively Super Bowl party with an abundance of delicious food. If you missed out, you truly missed a great time. Thank you to everyone who contributed a dish; we enjoyed everything thoroughly and had a fun time together.

I would like to express my gratitude to those who take home and wash our kitchen rags. Your help is truly appreciated. Thank you for your efforts.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sweethearts Luncheon. It was wonderful to reconnect with our Sweethearts, and it seemed everyone had an enjoyable time.

This March, dinner will be provided by Worshipful Rich Duffy and his wonderful wife Diane. They will be serving corned beef and cabbage, and I am looking forward to it as they always do an excellent job. Remember to make your reservation early.

Friends, I am sorry to have to address a recurring issue. There are two important points I need to bring to your attention:

There is no permanent list for dinner reservations.

At one time, there may have been such a list, but it no longer exists. Reservations are required for every meal, and I myself have experienced confusion about this. Please be sure to make a reservation for each event.

RSVPs are essential for meal preparation.

When preparing meals, we rely on the number of RSVPs. We may be able to accommodate one or two extras, but it is unfair to arrive for dinner without having made a reservation. Although we prepare a few extra meals, food costs are significant, and we always aim to provide a wholesome meal at a reasonable price. Other groups also cook for us, and all food purchases are based on our RSVP list.

If you do not make a reservation, dinner cannot be guaranteed. Those who have reserved will have priority and will eat first. The reservation list closes four days prior to the event, giving us time to purchase the necessary food. I sincerely apologize if this policy causes any inconvenience, but please understand our situation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely and fraternally,

John Scofield, P.M., Jr. Warden

John Scofield, P.M. Hallboard President



Greetings from the San Juan Hall Board,

The Lodge has been relatively quiet recently, with a few minor projects completed. February began with pleasant weather, followed by storms at the month's end. The volume of water flowing down the parking lot continues to be noteworthy. To address this, I installed a diverter on the roof near the front entrance, which kept the sidewalk dry and directed water efficiently into the drain.

Garden update: Red beets have begun sprouting and are expected to be ready for harvest in a couple of months. Additionally, three container bags of potatoes were planted, and their progress is eagerly anticipated. Plans are underway for placement of new raised beds, and a significant amount of wildflower seed has been distributed, with hopes for an extended and vibrant spring season.

Please inform me if there are any maintenance issues or concerns; I will ensure they are resolved promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

John Scofield, PM

Hallboard President and "Resident Horticulturist"

Brethren,

Ken Hickman Memorial Scholarship Program

As many of you know, as part of our commitment to public education, Harding San Juan Lodge has implemented the Ken Hickman Memorial Scholarship Program designed to offer financial assistance to graduating high school seniors from both Rancho Cordova and San Juan School District high schools aspiring to higher education at either 2- or 4-year colleges as well as trade schools. This program was made possible through a sizable donation from Worshipful Hickman's family upon his passing. The money for these scholarships is the result of income generated by the investment of the principal amount of the Scholarship fund and the performance of those investments. We never dedicate all the income earned each year to scholarships, which allows us to continue to grow the principal amount of the fund and will provide significant assistance to students for many years to come. This year the Lodge has scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for deserving graduates. What some of you may not know is that these scholarships are also available to "Legacy" graduates. In short, this means that a graduating senior related to a Harding San Juan Masonic Lodge member is eligible for scholarship consideration regardless of where they are currently attending high school if they meet the scholastic requirements of our scholarship program. This is an outstanding program we can all be proud of. Let's not keep it a secret. If you know a graduate in the class of '26, please encourage them to apply.

Tom Awalt, P.M.
Scholarship Committee Chairman

2026 HSJ Lodge Officers

Bruce Gavin (Sharon)	Master
Douglas W. Jones (Heather).....	Senior Warden
John Scofield, P.M (Lady Bug).....	Junior Warden
Edward E. Rose, P.M. (Elaine)	Treasurer
Bob Jackson (Terri)	Secretary
Paul W.A., P.M. Cary (Jaime)	Assistant Secretary
Christopher Globis (Laura).....	Chaplain
Mike Ramirez (Jordan)	Senior Deacon
Mark Young (Annette).....	Junior Deacon
Abtin Hassani (Parisa).....	Marshal
Stephen Rankin (Rae)	Senior Steward
Tom Angello, P.M. (Theresa).....	Junior Steward
Cris Bryceson (Joy)	Tiler
Tom Tompkins, III, P.M. (Lynn)	Head Candidates Coach
Jeffery E. Robertson, PM (Angela)	Officers Coach

Harding San Juan Lodge, No. 579 F. & A.M.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 594, Citrus Heights, CA 95611

(916) 534-8754 “Voice mail & Text Only”

Street Address - 5944 San Juan Avenue

Citrus Heights, CA 95610-6509

Web Site: www.hardingsanjuan.com

Email: harddingsanjuan@gmail.com

Trestle Board Editor, Bob Jackson

March 2026

Birthdays

Brian	Vierria	3/4
Lawrence	Kettle	3/5
Donavan	Rae, P.M.	3/5
John	Scofield, P.M.	3/5
Bradley	Greer	3/7
Lawrence	Miramontes	3/7
Evan	Beecher	3/8
Andrew	Sanchez	3/20
Gary	Reynolds	3/22
Roger	Hanney	3/25
Robert	Henning, P.M.	3/26
Jeff	Apperson, Sr., P.M.	3/30
Stephen	Rankin	3/31

March 2026

Masonic Anniversaries

William	Lewis, III	63
Jeff	Apperson, Sr., P.M.	50
Larry	Wood	49
James	Myers	48
Scott	Rathburn	47
Willie	Seirer, Sr., P.M.	47
Craig	Thordsen	46
Gerhard	Haynes	41
Clarence	Ward, P.M.	39
Jeffery	Potts	39
Alfred	Schuller	36
Wayne	Getz	34
Virgil	Altstatt	32
Robert	Tamblyn	22
George	Wales, Jr.	18
Justin	Whitsell	14
Gregory	Treible, P.M.	13
Bruce	Gavin	12
Arnold	Natano	2

Membership Status and Dues Payment

If your name does not appear on either of the two March lists shown above, it means that your membership is currently not in good standing.

To resolve this and restore your good standing, please ensure that your dues for 2026 are paid in full.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 - 6PM - Executive Mtg 7PM - Practice	3	4 6PM - Practice	5	6	7
8	9 7PM - 1st Degree for Greg Blankenbehier	10	11 6:30PM - HSJ Dinner 8:00PM - Stated Mtg	12	13	14
15	16 7PM - Practice	17	18 7PM - OSI-Capital City	19	20	21
22	23 7PM - Practice	24	25 6pm - Practice Fellowship on the patio	26	27	28 8AM - 10AM Lodge - Breakfast
29	30 7PM - Practice	31				

March 11th Stated Meeting Dinner



Corned Beef dinner with potatoes, cabbage, carrots, soda bread and desert to top it all off.

Please RSVP early so we have an accurate head count for food.

www.hardingsanjuan.com

6:00 - Social

6:30 - Dinner

7:30 Open Program before the Meeting

Bring your family and friends to have dinner and socialize with us at the San Juan masonic Center in Citrus Heights.

**We are located at 5944 San Juan Ave at Northlea Ave.
ample parking available.**

**My Brothers and Sisters
Reservations must be in by Saturday 03/07/2026
Please make your
Reservations online by going to
www.hardingsanjuan.com
and go to the Store button to make reservations.**



When visiting other lodges it's interesting to see slight variations of the ritual



You're Invited!

Bring your family and friends to have breakfast and socialize with us at the Harding San Juan Masonic Lodge in Citrus Heights
We are located at 5944 San Juan Ave at Northlea

This is the Best Breakfast West of Reno for only a small \$5 Donation
Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Pancakes, Waffles, Biscuits & Gravy

Saturday, March 28, 2026 8am - 10am
Outdoor Seating is Available, Weather Permitting

