

Golden Chain Newsletter

October 2024

Madison Lodge #23

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM; Dinner at 5:30 PM

From the West...

Greetings Brethren,

September was a festive month indeed! Our monthly Saturday morning pancake breakfast continues to bring brothers and families into the lodge for fellowship and a great meal.

This month's breakfast festivities will include the Tommyknockers Shrine Club in attendance and a Madison Lodge Open House that will run concurrently. The Open House will draw many guests in to our lodge, as Saturday mornings in downtown Grass Valley is crowded with people out enjoying the offerings of downtown. The brothers of Madison Lodge 23 will be on hand to escort guests through the lodge, answer questions, and promote masonry in a good light.

Congratulations to Nevada Lodge 13 for a memorable month of September. The Nevada Lodge hosted the Grand Lodge of California for the Constitution Day ceremony in Downtown Nevada City. The lodge also hosted a reception and festive board in honor of Most Worshipful G. Sean Metroka.

We will also take a moment to remember our beloved brother, Worshipful George Harper, Past Master of Nevada 13.

Apron of the month

This month's apron in the series of aprons on display in Madison Lodge is from Canada. This apron is a wonderful example of the British style of standardization that swept over the world in one form or another. Additionally, of note is that the gold military braiding and the Oxford blue moiré ribbon may indicate a grand rank, provincial or otherwise.

Fraternally,

Jon Waller

Senior Warden – Madison Lodge #23



Canadian Master Mason Apron (circa 1910)

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Penrhyn Gold Hill #32

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30 PM; dinner at 6:30 PM

From the East...

Brethren,

Greetings! September is a memory for this year, and a memorable month it was! First, we came together with our fraters and family of Division 2 for the Masonic Family Picnic at the Oroville forebay.

Next, we raised our brother Talon Findley to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The evening was well attended, and we all enjoyed the wonderful lecture with accompanying slides by our Grand Master of Masons in California, G. Sean Metroka. Additionally, we had the Scottish Rite degree team to assist in conferring the degree, and many thanks to them for a job well done!

Next, the Junior Warden and I had the opportunity to attend the Nevada Lodge #13 rededication and constitution day parade this month. This too, was a well-attended event as well as a site to be seen as Grand Lodge was opened in their lodge. Additionally, the constitution day parade was a celebration of the signing of the constitution by the 13 Masonic signers in period costumes, followed by a parade consisting of Grand Lodge Officers, shrine members to include the go-karts, clowns, and keystone cops. There was a contingent York Rite contingent of Sir Knights from California Commandery #1 and Auburn Commandery #4. Next, in our last publishing I reported that our ballots had been mailed for your consideration, as of this writing we have received all the ballots back that were returned, and the complete package will be returned to the Grand Master for consideration.

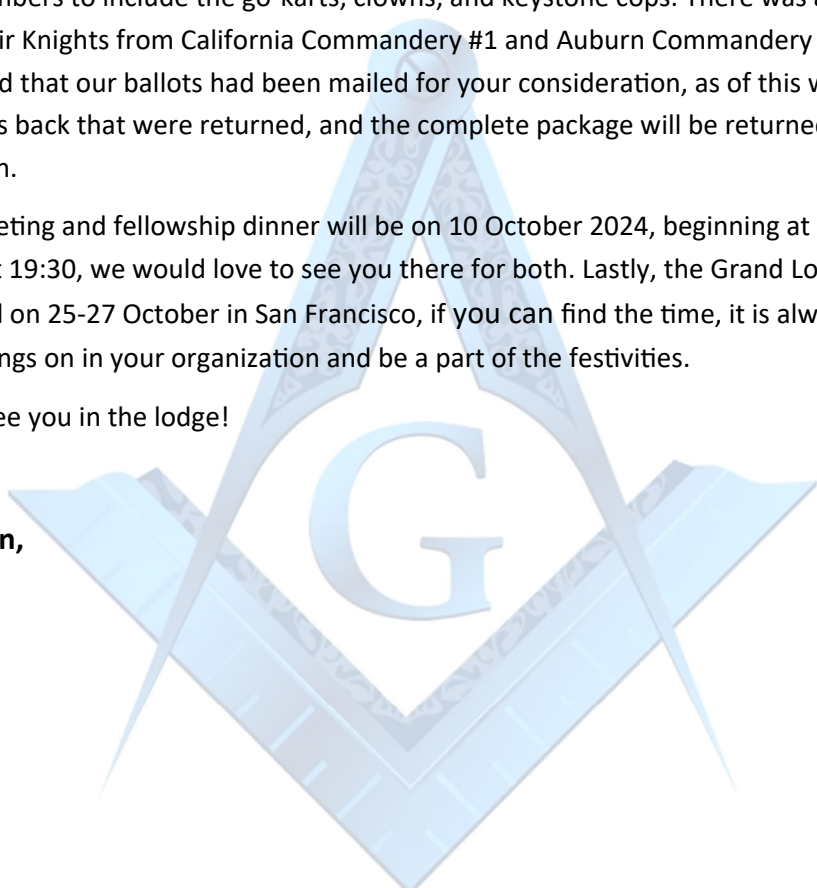
Our next stated meeting and fellowship dinner will be on 10 October 2024, beginning at 1830, with our stated meeting being at 19:30, we would love to see you there for both. Lastly, the Grand Lodge annual communication will be held on 25-27 October in San Francisco, if you can find the time, it is always worth attending to get the latest goings on in your organization and be a part of the festivities.

We would love to see you in the lodge!

Fraternally,

Jarrold Washington,

Master, PGH#32



Golden Chain Newsletter

October 2024

Harmony Lodge 164

Meets Quarterly at 1:00PM, 1st Thursday following the 1st full moon

From the pages of the Mountain Messenger

By Karen Galan

Freemasons' Harmony Lodge No. 164 Rededicated



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October 2024

Harmony Lodge 164

Meets Quarterly at 1:00PM, 1st Thursday following the 1st full moon

SIERRA CITY — True, last Friday was the 13th; however, it was not at all an “unlucky” day for the one-hundred-plus Masons, community members, Downieville School students, and history enthusiasts who attended the rededication celebration of Harmony Lodge No. 164. The first part of the event began at the Sierra City Community Hall and included an interesting video and presentation about the Gold Rush by Past Grand Master John Trauner. Several other Masons continued the discussion with one focusing on the formation of Lodges in Sierra County and their importance to gold seekers and others. Freemasons cherish their Lodges not just as places of fellowship but as sanctuaries where the highest ideals of humanity are nurtured and reflected. A lodge is where Masons gather by an unbreakable bond of trust and respect, and where they find a shared pursuit of truth and virtue.



Grand Officer Mike Edwards introduces the program at the Sierra City Community Hall

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Harmony Lodge 164

Meets Quarterly at 1:00PM, 1st Thursday following the 1st full moon

On the cold evening of December 21, 1862, a group of Brothers, mostly miners and timbermen, gathered in the newly completed building on Main Street in Sierra City for their first meeting, with the purpose of organizing a Masonic Lodge. Though they could not yet call themselves a “Lodge” they formed the Masonic Hall Association of Sierra City. However, with the help of Mountain Shade Lodge No. 18 of Downieville, the Sierra City hopefuls were granted their Charter on October 14, 1864. For many years, the lower level of the building housed the local school.

At one time, there were 13 masonic Lodges throughout Sierra County; however, as the gold in many areas “played out” and folks moved away, a lodge would either surrender its charter or join with another Lodge. But Harmony Lodge has “stayed the course” and is still active today with 54 members, with none living in Sierra City but wishing to preserve the history of this unique Lodge. In addition, Harmony Lodge No. 164 is one of two “Moonlight Lodges,” a concept originating from the Gold Rush days when members needed light to negotiate the roads and trails back to their homes after a meeting. Meetings are still held following a full moon to continue this tradition.



Sean Metroka, Grand Master of Masons for the State of California, leads Harmony Lodge members and Grand Officers from around the state in the rededication ceremony

The second part of the September 13th event took place following a luncheon provided by Harmony Lodge members. Attendees walked the short distance to the Lodge, where tours were conducted, and the rededication ceremony was held outdoors. Sean Metroka, Grand Master of Masons for the State of California, presided over the rededication ceremony along with his Grand Officers, reliving the historic event that played an important role in Sierra County’s history.