

FEBRUARY
2026

MONTHLY
JOURNAL
OF GOLD
COUNTRY
MASONRY

THE DISTRICT



Upcoming Events

Tuesday FEB 3
Evangeline #9 OES
Stated Meeting 7:30pm

Wednesday FEB 4
Officer Practice 6:30pm
Light Dinner 6pm

Thursday FEB 5
Temple Board Meeting
6pm

Tuesday FEB 10
DSI – District School
of Instruction @
Madison #23
Light Dinner 5:30
Meeting 6:30

Wednesday FEB 11
Nevada #13
Stated Meeting
6pm Dinner RSVP
7pm Meeting

Thursday FEB 12
Nevada
Commandery #6
Knights Templar
7pm Stated Mtg

Brethren,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the start of 2026. January flew by, filled with events and meetings, and I'm pleased to report that the Lodge remains strong and active.

We began the year by celebrating the Installation of the Officers Line with Madison Lodge #23—a memorable event. Special thanks to Worshipful Jon Waller for delivering a heartfelt and inspiring speech before the Lodge. Well done, Worshipful!

Worshipful Matt Enwright also hosted another excellent District School of Instruction. If you have the opportunity to attend an upcoming DSI, I highly encourage it—not only for the valuable instruction but also for the chance to connect with Brothers throughout our District.

Our first Stated Meeting of the year went smoothly, guided by the wisdom of two Past Grand Masters—thank you both for your support. The Brethren approved the budget, and our committees are now formed. I'm excited to share that the Constitution Day Parade Committee has welcomed several new members, bringing much-needed support for our Parade and the Reenactment of the Signing of the Constitution. This event is truly special, and our community is fortunate to have the backing of so many Lodges and Brothers. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to me at

warrenjackson16@gmail.com. As our committee takes shape, inquiries will be

this issue

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directed accordingly. While the event may seem far off, now is the perfect time to gather interest and begin planning. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to Brother Brian Martin for providing a wonderful meal; your efforts are truly appreciated.

Looking ahead, we will be joining together for a Degree on February 18th. Don't miss this occasion—we'll have a few special guests participating, and I'm very excited for what's in store.

As we move into February, a gentle reminder: don't forget to do something special for your Valentine.

To conclude, I'd like to reflect on the 24" gauge. Its division into 24 equal parts, grouped into three, remains as meaningful today as when we first learned about our craft's tools. Let's remember how precious our time is and strive to divide it wisely.

Be well, my Brothers, and I look forward to seeing you all this month.

Fraternally,
Warren Jackson
Worshipful Master
Nevada Lodge #13

Wednesday FEB 18

N13 1st Degree

Ceremony

6pm Dinner

7pm Ceremony

Thursday FEB 5 & 19

North Star DeMolay

7:30pm Stated

Meeting

Wednesday FEB 25

Officer Practice

6pm Light Dinner

6:30pm Practice

Greetings from the West,

February brings us one month closer to spring. This is also the month where St. Valentine is celebrated.

Don't forget those in your lives who stay home while you are at the lodge. They support us in every aspect of our Masonic journey. One other thing to remember. Our Masonic Widows. These women have supported us and continue to do so. We should do the same. I found this poem online and would like to share it with you.

**Fraternally,
Joseph Holman
Senior Warden
Nevada Lodge #13**

Thoughts of a Mason's Wife

How many wives of Masons have ever given much thought?
To the wonderful biblical lessons that Masonry has taught?
Have you asked yourself this question, when you sit alone at night,
While hubby is at Lodge: is my reasoning straight and right?
I know the nights are lonely and long, but this question comes to me,
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"

I know nothing of their secret work, but this much I understand
That the lessons taught in Masonry have made a better man.
So, ask yourself this question, which has always come to me,
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"

They call us Masonic Widows; I've been one for many a year.
I've spoken my piece on lonely nights, and berated hubby dear.
But, then again, I regret my words, and with wisdom try to see,
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"

So I try to be a patient wife, as alone I meditate,
And see his point, as he leaves for Lodge, with these words,
"I won't be late!"

Some say that men make Masonry, and this I understand,
But, deep in my heart I still maintain, "That Masonry makes the man."
And as we journey the highway together, to the inner things of life,
May their teachings go on forever.....

Sincerely,
A MASONS WIFE
(Author Unknown)

Mountain Range

Lodge No.18 F.&A.M.

Mountain Range #18
1pm Stated Meeting



MOUNTAIN RANGE LODGE NO. 18, F. & A. M.

1854 - 2004

Gravel Range Lodge No. 59 was granted dispensation on June 29, 1854. The charter was granted May 4, 1855. There was an original membership of 28 members. The first meetings were held over a store, which was later destroyed by fire. There were three other buildings that were all destroyed by fires until the present building was completed in 1948. Forest Lodge No. 66 was consolidated with Gravel Range in 1955, and both celebrated 100 years of Masonry in 1954. In 2002 Gravel Range Lodge and Mtn. Shade Lodge of Downieville, consolidated and became Mtn. Range Lodge No. 18. This plaque was set on July 30, 2004 in rededication ceremonies conducted by Howard D. Kirkpatrick, Grand Master of Masons in California and Gary L. Schlusser, Master of Mtn. Range Lodge.

Greetings Brethren,

With the start of our new year at Mountain Range, I wish to thank our brethren for the confidence of the members electing me master for the ensuing year.

I wish to thank Sean Metroka PGM and members who have dedicated their time to allow Mountain Range to continue and strive.

As a reminder dues for 2026 year are due, if you have paid them thank you, if you are in need of any assistance in paying your dues, contact Secretary Al Schafer and we can make assistance for you with the Charity Committee.

Our next stated meeting will be on February 18th at 1pm. Members are welcome to attend lunch at Fred's Szechuan Chinese Restaurant, 224 Broad St at 1130am.

Meetings are welcome to all Masons, so join us in fellowship.

Fraternally,
Tim Brown PM
Master 2026

Madison Lodge #23



Brethren,

As I take up the gavel for 2026, I am filled with gratitude for your trust and excitement for the work ahead. As mentioned during my installation, my vision for this year is not about reinventing our Craft, but rather deepening our commitment to its core tenets: **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.**

We have a busy and meaningful year ahead. Based on the vision I shared at the Installation, here is our roadmap for 2026. These are the four pillars we will build upon together:

1. Stewardship of History (The Dutch Flat Cemetery)

We have a duty to honor those who came before us. This year, we will focus our physical labors on maintaining and repairing the **historic Dutch Flat Masonic Cemetery**. Ensuring the resting places of our brothers are treated with dignity is a priority. Watch for upcoming dates for cleanup and repair details.

2. Investing in Youth

We cannot build the future without supporting those who will inhabit it. We will launch a **robust scholarship program** and increase our hands-on support for our youth orders—**Job's Daughters** and **DeMolay**. They deserve our time, our mentorship, and our presence at their events.

3. Community Visibility

Madison Lodge #23 will step out of the shadows. It is time we show our neighbors that Masons are active, caring, and vital citizens. To this end, we will take a voice in the **Chamber of Commerce** and ensure our lodge is represented in local community decisions and events.

4. Temple Improvements

Finally, we must be good stewards of our home. We will continue essential upgrades to our historic building, including:

- **Systems:** Necessary electrical upgrades and general maintenance.
- **Beautification:** Painting and curating the artwork on our walls to ensure our temple remains a fitting home for the Craft.

To my Officers and Brethren: The gavel is in my hand, but the heart of the lodge is in yours. Let us work together to make 2026 a year of peace, harmony, and prosperity.

Fraternally,

Jon Waller

Worshipful Master

Madison Lodge #23

ALL THINGS MASONIC GO HERE:



<https://lodge23.freemason.org>



Masons & The Birth of a Nation

Part I: The Architects of Liberty

As we move through 2026, we mark a significant milestone in our country's history—the 250th anniversary of the United States. In this monthly series, we will explore the profound role Freemasonry played in the founding of this nation.

When we look back at the history of the American Revolution, the influence of the Craft is undeniable. It is often said that the ideals of the Enlightenment—liberty, equality, and fraternity—were discussed in Lodges long before they were written into the Declaration of Independence.

While many know that George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were Masons, the connection runs deeper than just a few famous names. The structure of the Lodge, where men meet on the level regardless of their station in life, provided a radical blueprint for a new kind of society. In the colonial era, the Lodge was one of the few places where a merchant could sit beside a general, or a printer beside a philosopher, bound only by their character.

As we begin this series, we remember that the "Great Experiment" of American democracy was built on a foundation that looks very familiar to us. Over the coming months, we will look at specific events—from the Boston Tea Party to the Constitutional Convention—where the Trowel and the Sword worked side by side.

Next month, we will take a closer look at **Brother Benjamin Franklin** and how his Masonic diplomacy helped secure the support needed to win the war.

Jon Waller

Madison Lodge #23



Brethren,

It is indeed a pleasure to once again be serving you in the South. It has been quite some time since I have served in a pedestal position, and I find a ritual practice engaging. Of course, I am encouraging all of you to attend our practices, as it behooves you in learning future parts.

As it is the start of a new year, I eagerly anticipate planning engaging activities for our lodge and district. I hope to be part of bringing some new events and resurrecting some old ones that will engage, not only our members, but our families as well. If you have any ideas, please become involved or at least pass them onto one of the officers. One of the things I hope to accomplish this year is increasing attendance and pleasure with our pre-meeting meals. As of right now we use a potluck format, which I hope to continue, but add some meals that are catered by individuals in the lodge. To that end, if you are interested in catering a meal, breakfast, or dinner, please contact me so I can set up a schedule.

**Fraternally yours,
Jordan Horowitz, PM**

Call for Submissions

We invite all Brothers to share your comments, articles, and announcements for future issues of our new **District Wide Trestleboard**. Your contributions help strengthen communication and keep our District informed and engaged.

Please submit all materials **by the 18th of each month** for inclusion in the following month's edition.

Send submissions to **Bro. Brian Martin** at **packleader00@gmail.com**.

Tommyknockers Shrine Club

Sat 7; Tommyknockers S.C. meets monthly at Masons & Guests Breakfast, 8 - 9:30 AM, Madison Lodge, G.V.

Sun 15; Mardi Gras Parade on Broad St. in Nevada City 2 PM, Masonic Family convertibles and walking.

Thurs 19; Mt. Range Lodge #18 Meeting, Nevada Lodge, 1 PM w/ 11:45 AM Lunch, N.C.

Sat 28; Scottish Rite Crab Feed, 5:30 PM, Sacramento.

Note: Please join the Tommyknockers Shrine Club for local activities supporting our local Masonic Family. We're also organizing our semi-annual tour of our Shriners Childrens Hospital in Sacramento on Saturday, March 14, 10:30 AM. To join our activities or become a member of the "Friends of the Shrine" contact Al Schafer at afsarch@sbcglobal.net.

AL 530-271-0766

Harmony Lodge #164



FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

Greetings Brethren and friends,

I hope you are well and enjoying this mild winter.

As you all know, we're in the annual dues season and I'll focus this article on that topic. Our lodge dues amount for 2026 is \$123.00 and was payable prior to January 1, 2026. A majority of our members have already paid their dues – thank you. If you haven't, you should have received a couple of dues notices sent by Member Services at Grand Lodge, because our lodge participates in the Grand Lodge dues processing service. You may pay online or by check. If you choose to pay by check, please send it to our new mailing address: 108 ½ N Pine Street, Nevada City, CA 95959 (Nevada City Masonic Temple). If you haven't received a dues notice and have not paid your 2026 dues, please contact me so I may help you sort this out.

As always, if you need assistance with dues or have difficulties which will prevent you from paying dues this year, please contact me directly. I'll forward your request to our lodge charity committee for their consideration. This is a confidential process.

Our next stated meeting is set on February 5. Worshipful Miklos has decided to hold this meeting at our alternate meeting location; the Grass Valley Masonic Temple at 126 S Auburn St, Grass Valley. This month, we'll meet for lunch at Pepe's Café 110 Mill Street at 11:30 am. The remaining stated meeting dates for 2026 are May 7, August 6, and November 12.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.

Sean Metroka

FROM THE TREASURER'S TABLE

The teachings are a mystery to understand and easy to practice yet so few on this planet understand let alone fewer are able to practice the Craft in making a good man better. We simply work in plain sight setting our tools for daily projects, polishing our ashlar and as others do not know our sacred vault filled with precious treasures which are often concealed not meant to be selfishly kept; we are to share our work with society. Many are chosen, few are called, fewer make the journey, and the fewest arrive: we carve the pathway of our journey becoming better, in what has been and always will be, given from the grand design created by our Supreme Divine Master of the Universe.

Sean Moncalieri

2026 Officers:

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York Rite Trestle Board article February 2026

Greetings Companions and Sir Knights,

Nevada Royal Arch Chapter No. 6 will meet next for our stated convocation will be held on March 12 at 7:00 pm. Our 2026 officers were installed during our January convocation.

Sierra Nevada Council No. 13 will meet next for our stated assembly on Monday February 8 with dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30 pm. Our 2026 officers were installed in January.

Nevada Commandery No. 6 will meet next for our stated conclave on Thursday February 12 at 7:00 pm. At our December conclave, we elected Sir Knight Alex Fultz to serve as Eminent Commander, and we will install the 2026 officers at our February conclave.

Our Chapter and Commandery meet at the Nevada City Masonic Temple, and our Council meets at the Auburn Masonic Temple (we arrange carpools to Auburn for Nevada County members).

If you have an interest in learning more about the York Rite or would like to join us, please contact us at the phone numbers below.

If you'd like to carpool to Auburn for the Council's meetings, please call Sean Metroka.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Sean Metroka

High Priest

Nevada Royal Arch Chapter No. 6

(530) 362-0091

Eric Chilson

Illustrious Master

Sierra Nevada Council No. 13

(916) 412-0834

Tim Horner

Eminent Commander

Nevada Commandery No. 6

(530) 388-8527

congratulations Madison Officers 2026



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Leave a Lasting Legacy with Nevada Lodge #13

Help secure the future of Nevada Lodge #13 for generations to come by considering a gift or bequest. Your contribution can strengthen our lodge, preserve our traditions, and enhance our positive impact on the community for decades to come.

By including the lodge in your estate plans, you leave a meaningful legacy that upholds our Masonic values and commitment to brotherhood. Make a difference that lasts.

For more information on planned giving,

contact: can13treas@gmail.com.



February 2026

224th Masonic District

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Evangeline #9 OES 7:30pm Stated Meeting Madison Lodge #23/ GV 6:30pm Stated Meeting	4 N13 Officer Practice 6pm - Light Dinner 6:30pm - Practice	5 Temple Board 6pm -Stated Meeting North Star DeMolay 7:30pm – Stated Meeting Harmony #164 1pm Stated Meeting @Madison#23	6	7 District Breakfast 8am Madison#23
8	9	10 DSI - District School of Instruction @ Madison #23	11 Nevada #13 Stated Meeting – 6pm – Dinner RSVP 7pm - Meeting	12 Nevada Commandery #6 Knights Templar 7:00pm Stated Meeting Job's Daughters Meeting 7pm @Madison #23	13	14
15	16 M23 GVMC Temple Board 6pm -Meeting	17 M23 Officer Practice 6:30 PM GVMC	18 N13 1st Degree 6pm Dinner 7pm Degree	19 Mtn Range #18 1pm Stated Meeting North Star DeMolay 7:30pm – Stated Meeting	20	21
22	23 Sierra Nevada Council #13 6:30pm dinner 7pm Meeting	24 M23 Officer Practice 6:30 PM GVMC	25 N13 Officer Practice 6pm - Light Dinner 6:30pm - Practice	26 Job's Daughters Meeting 7pm @Madison #23	27	28
NCCM=Nevada City Masonic Center - GVMC=Grass Valley Masonic Center						

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