

## April Marks the 100th Anniversary of Public Schools Month

At the April 2, 2020 stated meeting family dinner of Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Masonic Public Schools month in California. This dinner will be an open-house event where we hope all members of the lodge will invite not only their families but also friends and any members of the public interested in Freemasonry, particularly those working in public education or supporting public schools as part of their occupation. There will be several short presentations to be heard over dinner. Educators may especially be interested in learning more about our lodge's effort to increase our support for Raising a Reader, our scholarship program, and how they can apply for our educator mini-grant program. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m.

California Grand Senior Warden, Jeffrey Wilkins will give a short description of the California Grand Lodge's Raising a Reader program which is part of the Let's Write the Future campaign. He will also be available to answer questions. We will also have a Past Master of the Lodge explain how teachers and other employees of public schools can apply for a small grant through the Petaluma-Hamilton Educational Mini-Grant program which is intended to directly benefit students in public school classrooms. Finally, we will have the chair of our education committee explain the Lodge's scholarship essay contest. As usual the dinner itself will be free of charge to members, their families and guests.

For hundreds of years, Freemasons and Masonic lodges have supported self improvement of good men admitted into the fraternity, the welfare of widows and orphans, and the improvement of our larger democratic society, especially by the support of public schools and free education. Freemasonry is an international fraternity but it has been particularly popular in America where in the past early Freemasons such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and other Masonic leaders in government, education, and entertainment have promoted public libraries and schools.

Included inside this issue of On the Hour, the Trestleboard newsletter of the Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180 Free & Accepted Masons of the State of California, are articles on the history of support for free public education in California and across the United States by Freemasons and Masonic Lodges. We hope that you enjoy reading these articles but also hope that you can help to build Masonry in Sonoma County and attend this complimentary dinner on April 2. We also hope that you will be moved to support the Lodge's campaign to raise funds for the Raising a Reader program this year by sending an additional donation which will entitle you to a seat or perhaps a table of seats at an even Grander celebratory seven course dinner on July 12 in support of education -- the Write the Future in Sonoma and California Dinner to be held at the Petaluma-Hamilton Hall. Our special guest at that event will be California Freemasons' Grand Master John Trauner and other notable state leaders.

~Don Nicodemus  
Worshipful Master



**The Spirit of Freemasonry Lives On!  
Please Attend the Lodge's Open House  
Dinner on April 2nd, 2020**

## From The East



Brothers,

Our focus on education this year is part of our lodge's effort to reinvigorate and rejuvenate Masonry in Petaluma, Sonoma and Marin. Our plans not only call for more support of free public education but also the internal education of our members and improved leadership training. While Freemasons do not recruit new members, several good men have asked to join Petaluma-Hamilton last year. One of our missions is to accept good men and assist with their self improvement. The three Masonic degrees that a man goes through in order to become a Master Mason are the first three steps of self improvement. We have been very successful in the last 40 days in Petaluma to have raised three men to the level of Master Mason, which makes each a full member of the Lodge. One of our goals is to raise at least three more this year and to help our brothers become more active.

If men have expressed interest to you in Freemasonry, there are several things that you can tell them. There are opportunities to improve oneself through activity, research, or public speaking and become one of three, five or seven men who are the officers of a lodge if further improvement in Masonry is desired. Suitable coaching assistance is provided. As a Lodge officer, there are also opportunities to give back to the Lodge and the community. Indeed, the continued

health of a lodge and its community is impacted by the willingness of good men to step up and fill these roles. Without active volunteer leadership lodges may need to be consolidated with other lodges in other communities to the detriment of the local community.

As some of you may know, I have been a part of Masonic research efforts in Northern California and will present a paper at the Northern California Research Lodge on March 17 at 1111 California Street in San Francisco. You are welcome to attend. In the future, we will present, in several installments, excerpts from the paper entitled "Did Freemasonry Bring Light to Higher Education in California?". In this paper, I will look at the rise and fall of Masonry in two California cities and discuss possible impacts on free public education in state and its consequences for local communities.

~ Don Nicodemus  
Worshipful Master

### March Stated Meeting Family Dinner Menu:

Thursday, March 5th, 2020 6.30pm

Garden Salad  
Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Carrots and Potatoes  
Jeanne's Famous Bread Pudding

Prepared by the cryptic council  
and served by the Adults and Girls  
of Petaluma Assembly #6 I.O.R.G.

Please make a reservation by calling  
707-762-4171 by February 3, 2020  
If you special dietary needs please  
leave info with your reservation.

## Articles on Freemasonry and Public Education

### Masonry and Public Schools

"1862 John Swett, Mason and San Francisco school principal, was elected California superintendent of public instruction. He went on to organize teachers' institutes, established a teacher certification system, won support for school taxes, wrote a revised school law, and provided for textbooks for California public schools. Swett is now referred to as the father of the California public school system."

<https://www.freemason.org/doc/Masonry%20and%20Public%20Schools.pdf?id=2414>

### Freemasons and Public Education

"Under the California Masonic Code, matters concerning the public schools are the sole exception to our Lodges becoming involved in political issues in our communities. The Lodge is a proper forum for discussing problems in the schools in our local communities. It is proper for a Lodge or a group of Masons to act publicly in support of school bond issues and similar matters before the electorate."

<https://freshfromthequarry.com/2015/08/05/masons-and-public-education/>

### Why Does Freemasonry Support Public Schools? By John Heisner

"Between 1896 and 1954, Masons throughout America led the charge for the advancement of enlightenment with its clarion call for the support of Public Schools."

<https://ezinearticles.com/?Why-Does-Freemasonry-Support-Public-Schools?&id=6060671>

### Lodge Contact Info:

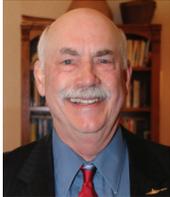
<http://freemason.org> (CA Grand Lodge) ~ <http://masons180.org> (Pet.-Ham.#180 website)

Lodge Phone Number 707-762-6513, For Reservations call 707-762-4171

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Secretary, Guy Chalmers: 707-477-3046 E-Mail: [JMC329@aol.com](mailto:JMC329@aol.com)

## Hall Association



Brethren,

At our February meeting we welcomed to the board our newest director, Brother Steve Christianson. Brother Steve brings with him many years of maintenance experience and supervision in that field and the desire to keep our building in tip top shape. I am sure he will be an asset to the board. The directors approved a budget for 2020 that includes capital and regular maintenance work for the year, as well as regular dividend payments to the lodge. Our new conference table and chairs have been placed in the family room and they look great. Be sure to check them out. We have a work party scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 9am, with breakfast at 8am. If you have a mind to, please join your brethren that day for a few hours work with a hearty meal beforehand. As the old saying goes "Many hands make light work". Be a part of keeping our historic and magnificent building looking its best and join us on the 14th.

Fraternally,

George F. Whitten  
PMHA President



## From The Editor



Brethren,

On Thursday, February 27th Petaluma Hamilton Lodge

hosted a CPR and AED training. Special Thanks to Tami Bender of the Healthquest CPR Program for coming out to teach us.

We started the night out with a delicious mexican dinner followed by some hands on training with CPR dummies and an AED Training unit.

Now days, AED units will guide you through the steps necessary to use them, but it is always nice to get a little hands on knowledge before an emergency occurs.

  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- Don Nicodemus            March 2nd
- Lawrence Runstrom      March 3rd
- Vern Dorethy             March 4th
- William Padgett         March 4th
- David Letasi                March 5th
- Michale Barham         March 6th
- Guy Chalmers             March 8th
- Alex Saslow                March 14th
- Michael Sullivan         March 16th
- Jeffrey Lister             March 19th
- Brian Brozovic            March 27th
- James Warnken          March 29th

Our Lodge is listed as a location housing an AED unit if someone has to call 911 for cardiac arrest. The dispatcher can let the caller know our building has a AED and where to find it.

On that note I leave you with a few interesting statistics about Cardiac Arrest and the use of CPR and AED's.

Without CPR or use of an AED the chances of surviving Sudden Cardiac Arrest are less than 5%.

CPR alone may save 7- 10% of Victims.

CPR and the use of an AED drastically increases the survival rates to nearly 70%.

To become CPR and AED Certified or to learn more I encourage you to call Healthquest at (707) 766-9226. Or visit their website [phcd.org](http://phcd.org).

In addition, I again encourage you to look into housing an AED unit at your place of business to help save lives and make a difference in our communities.

~ David Sonnenberg

 **Masonic Homes of California**

Need Help or Assistance ?  
Contact Masonic Assistance  
visit: [www.masonichome.org](http://www.masonichome.org)  
email: [intake@mhuc.org](mailto:intake@mhuc.org)  
or call: 888/466-3642.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

<https://www.facebook.com/PetalumaMasonry/>

<https://www.instagram.com/petalumamasonry/?hl=en>





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**March 2020**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2  Royal Arch #22	3  Rainbow Girls #6	4 Hall Association	5  Family Dinner & Stated Meeting	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Starts	9	10	11	12 1st Degree Practice	13	14 Masonic Work Party
15	16	17  Rainbow Girls #6	18	19 1st Degree Practice	20	21 Commandary #14 Council #46
22	23	24	25	26 1st Degree Practice	27	28
29	30	31				