

HIRAM # 25 F&AM

TRESTLEBOARD



August 2026



The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, and live it” - President William Howard Taft

From The East



Brethren of Hiram Lodge No. 25,

As the echoes of fireworks fade and we settle into the rhythms of summer here in El Dorado, it is a fitting time in this August Trestle Board to reflect on our recent observance of Independence Day and the rich Masonic heritage that connects us to celebrations past. Though the parades and gatherings of July 4 have passed, the principles of liberty, fraternity, and civic pride that define the day remain as vital as ever to our lodge and community. Fourth of July Traditions in the 1800s and Early 1900s

In the mining towns of El Dorado County, Independence Day was a highlight of the year. Celebrations typically included public readings of the Declaration of Independence, stirring orations on freedom and self-governance, parades, feasts, music, and communal toasts. These events brought together diverse groups in a spirit of shared American ideals during a time of rapid growth and occasional turmoil.

Masons from lodges like ours played prominent roles. Early brethren helped organize civic observances, marched in processions, offered prayers invoking liberty and relief, and contributed to the sense of order and fraternity that made such gatherings meaningful. In an era when formal government was limited, lodges filled essential civic and charitable functions; supporting the community while upholding patriotic values tied to the founding of the Republic. This continued into the early 20th century, with lodge members participating in town parades and public events even as the Gold Rush transitioned into more settled community life.



Our blue-collar roots; miners and tradesmen by day, Masons by night, shaped a distinctive identity. Modern efforts to revive period-accurate attire (cravats, waistcoats, canvas pants, and sturdy boots) and reenactments in Coloma honor how our predecessors adapted Masonic work to frontier conditions.

Looking Ahead

Brethren, as we prepare for the fall season of lodge work, let this post-Independence reflection inspire renewed energy in our labors. Consider sharing any family stories, photographs, or records of past Fourth of July observances connected to Hiram Lodge for future articles or our living history efforts.

May the Great Architect continue to bless our lodge, our community, and this great nation.

Robert Fisher
Master



From The West



Hello Bretheren,

It's your SW, Andrew Ellis, Im looking forward to the 2nd half of our 2026. We have some degrees ahead, and working on making some Master Masons out of our younger brothers. Let's all pitch in and uplift each other. Please come by at practice on Thursdays (4th week are Fridays) around 6pm, enjoy some fellowship and feel free to ask questions of any kind and lets all learn together.

I'll leave you with this 1 quote..... Freemasonry is not a material thing, its not a science of the soul, its not a creed or doctrine, but a universal expression of the Divine Wisdom....

If you have any questions, please reach out anytime. Let's all grow together my bretheren. Happy 4th of July, 250th America Birthday

Fraternally,

Andrew Ellis
Senior Warden





From The South

Hello Brethren,

I wanted to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our newly initiated brother, Dr. James Armstead. He was initiated on July 11th, 2026. I would also like to thank all the brothers who came out to participate and sit in the sidelines. It is nice to see brothers coming together to welcome new candidates and members.

Masonic Trivia:

Under the common law of England, in Sir William Blackstone's time, the term "Time Immemorial" referred to events occurring since July 6, 1189 or the beginning of the reign of Richard the Lionheart. In heraldry, it refers to events occurring since the battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066. In general use, it means time since records, traditions, or the memory of men. This meaning is usually construed in Freemasonry to reference events after 1717, with the formation of the Grand Lodge in England.

Fraternally,

Chad Oxford, PM
Junior Warden





From The Secretary

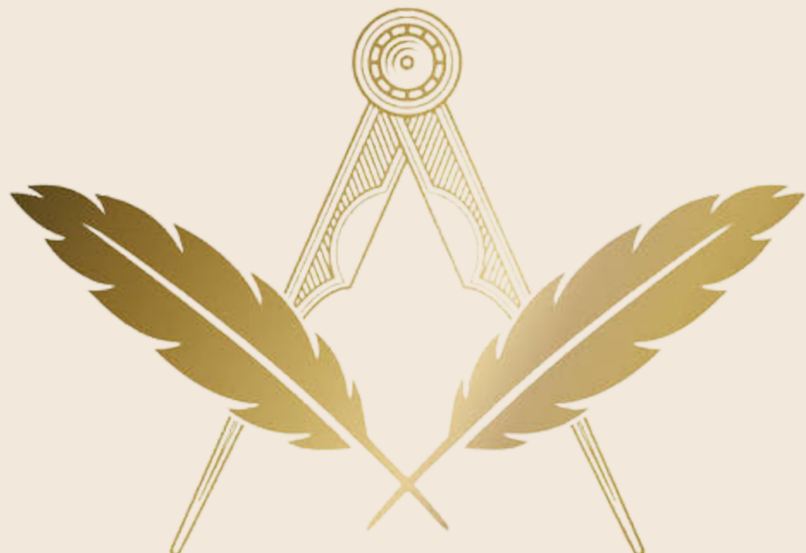
Brethren,

I hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating our 250th year of this wonderful country of ours. As Masons we should all be very proud of our part in framing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Many of our tenets and wording is written in those beloved pages. No matter what creed we are or what political side of the aisle we choose to be on, we are all Americans and citizens of this great nation. Masonry teaches this in our obligations and the charges we are all given. I ask that we all have an open mind and can practice the lessons taught to us in our degrees with one another, especially Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

We now have 144 Master Masons, 6 Fellowcraft, and 12 Entered Apprentices on our roll. We remitted 18 brothers dues and suspended 2 brothers for non-payment of dues. Our lodge has been moving in the right direction all year and I am very hopeful that we will continue to grow and flourish in the years to come. As always your lodge is here for you! If you are ever in need, whatever the case may be, reach out to myself or your Master. I hope to see all of you at our stated meetings and degrees.

Fraternally,

Nick Battaini PM
Secretary



Photos



Newest E.A. Dr. James
Armstead



Congratulations!



Photos



July Stated Meeting 2026



Hiram/Placerville
members attending
Elk Grove Lodge
Cornerstone Ceremony



Whats Going On?



Hiram Lodge Breakfast

Every Third Saturday

8:30 to 10:30



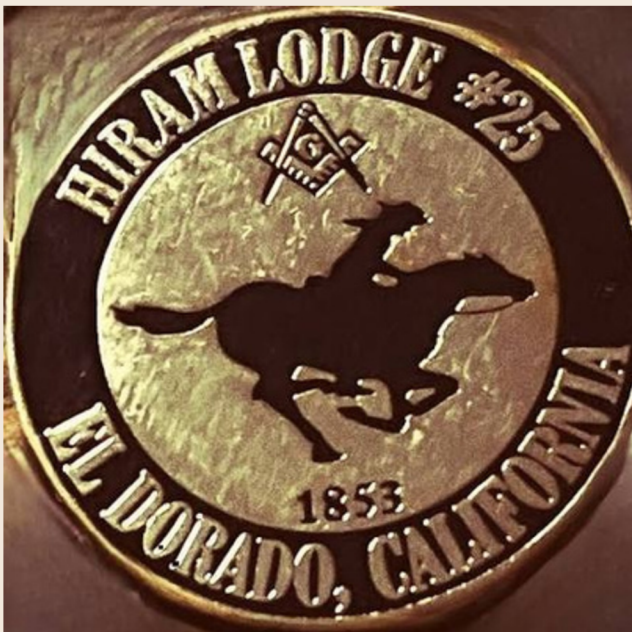
Hiram Lodge No. 25 T-shirts and Hoodies

T-shirts \$25.00 each

Hoodies \$45.00 each

Come to lodge to try on and purchase

Cash or Check





York Rite

Gold Country Chapter #11 Royal Arch Masons

High Priest - Joseph Carlson

916-799-4033

joeca32@gmail.com

Sierra Nevada Council #13 CrypticMasons

Illustrious Master-Eric Chilson PIM

916-412-0384

Eric.chilson@yahoo.com

Auburn Commandery #4 Knights Templar

Eminent Commander - Joseph Carlson PEC

916-799-4033

joeca32@gmail.com



Auburn York Rite Banners

Gold Country Chapter #11, RAM
Sierra Nevada Council #13, CM
Auburn Commandery #4, KT

**Auburn York Rite
Stated Meeting Nights**

JAN 2nd Monday – RAM
FEB 2nd Monday – CM
MAR 2nd Monday – KT
APR 2nd Monday – RAM
MAY 2nd Monday – CM
JUN 2nd Monday – KT
SEP 2nd Monday – RAM
SEP 4th Monday – CM
OCT 2nd Monday – KT
NOV 2nd Monday – RAM
NOV 3rd Monday – CM
DEC 2nd Monday – KT

Scottish Rite

Sacramento Scottish Rite

6151 H Street

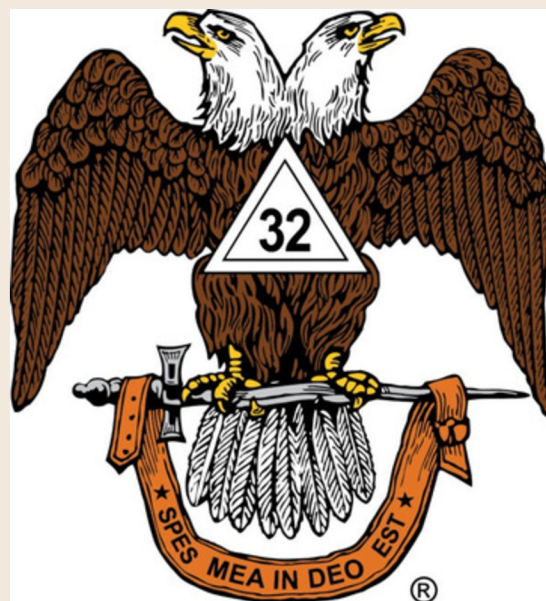
Sacramento, CA 95819

3rd Tuesday

Hangtown Scottish Rite Club

At Our Lodge

3rd Saturday



Officers



Worshipful Master Rob Fisher 530-748-7617
rfisher30@gmail.com

Senior Warden Andrew Ellis 469-826-3039
ellisandrew86@yahoo.com

Junior Warden Chad Oxford PM 916-425-4451
chadoxford1975@gmail.com

Tresurer David Gersten 916-261-0479
david.gersten@sbcglobal.net

Secretary Nick Battaini PM 530-391-6802
njbattaini@gmail.com

Chaplin Randy Terk 802-258-0632
rcterk@gmail.com

SeniorDeacon Bear Boulter 916-628-9744
boulter4077@gmail.com

JuniorDeacon Phillip Leatherman II 209-304-9931
p_d_leath@yahoo.com

Marshall Grant Coffin 916-607-0717
gwcoffin@yahoo.com

Senior Steward Vern Lepper PM 530-903-0268
Eddie.lepper@gmail.com

Junior Steward Jeffrey Carlson 916-761-2263
jeffcarlson5000@gmail.com

Tyler VanceSpencer PM 530-556-5188
racol4@yahoo.com



Events

Stated Meetings are on the First Friday of the month
Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30

Officers Practice is at 6:00 on Thursday nights Hall
Association Meetings are on
the third Thursday of the month at 6:00.



Trestleboard Editor

Joseph Carlson PM
Hiram Lodge
Joeca32@gmail.com
916-799-4033