

THE TRESTLEBOARD

The Third Issue | February 2026

The Quarterly Newsletter of Solidarity Lodge No. 1457 A.F. & A.M.



A SEASON OF SOLIDARITY



The Master's Message

By: W.M.: Stephen Aganan, PM

A Visit to Remember – November 2025 and a Strong Start to 2026

Brethren,

This past November, Solidarity Lodge No. 1457 had the distinct honor and privilege of receiving then-Grand Master of Masons in Texas, R.W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., PGM, at our November 2025 Stated Meeting.

From the moment he arrived, the full hospitality of our Lodge was on display. The Brethren turned out in strong numbers, the Lodge

During that special visit, we also took time to honor the veterans of our Lodge. Each was presented with a United States flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol during Veterans Day 2024 — a meaningful token of our gratitude for their service to our nation. Later that month, we continued our work by conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree on a deserving candidate, marking another important milestone in the life of our Lodge

In December, we were blessed with a very special visiting Brother from Florida. His visit was personally meaningful to me, as

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The Master's Message

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we were batchmates when we joined DeMolay in Tacloban. He would later become a member of Taguig Masonic Lodge No. 431 F. & A.M. under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. It was a powerful reminder of how far and wide the bonds of our Brotherhood extend.

We also celebrated our annual Holiday Party at Kim Son Bellaire. As is our tradition, the evening featured song numbers from the Brethren and wonderful song and dance performances from the ladies. It was a joyful celebration of family, fellowship, and gratitude.

At our January Stated Meeting, we proudly presented Lodge Service Awards to our 25-year and 40-year members, honoring their decades of dedication and commitment to Masonry. That same month, we traveled to Waco for the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas. While there, we had the honor of presenting a gift to then-Grand Master R.W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., PGM, during the MWSA 30 Dinner. The gift had originally been intended for

presentation during his official visit to our Lodge last year, and we were grateful for the opportunity to finally present it to him in person.

We truly enjoyed the fellowship of our Brethren from across the state and gained valuable insights along the way. We extend our sincere thanks to our meal hosts for the trip — Brothers Ronald, Titus, and John — for their generosity and hospitality.

The rest of the first quarter of 2026 promises to be just as active. We have additional degrees scheduled for February and March. On March 20th, we will host the Committee on Work's Forum, followed by our annual Blood Drive on March 21st.

Brethren, as we are now halfway through our Masonic year, let us keep the momentum going and finish strong. The energy, unity, and dedication we have shown thus far must continue to guide us forward. Let us press on with purpose and conclude this year with excellence — truly Building Value, Living the Light.

From The West

By: Bro. Johannes "John" K. Calayag
The holiday season came and went quickly. On the work side, I've been traveling out of state quite a bit, and in between that, I've also had the chance to visit other lodges in different jurisdictions. It's been a full schedule—balancing our stated meetings, preparing for the Grand Master's official visit, and attending the Texas Annual Communication, where I experienced strong fellowship and had the privilege of meeting our newly installed Grand Master.



Moments like that remind me how connected we are across the state and beyond.

We're now halfway through the Masonic year. Serving in one of the principal officer roles has been both exciting and eye-opening. I can already see that the road ahead will bring its share of challenges, but that's part of the growth that comes with responsibility.

I've also been attending OLT 201 and the leadership forums as required. I encourage the brothers to take part when you're able. These gatherings offer valuable insight, practical guidance, and a clearer understanding of our craft. Even a small takeaway can make a meaningful difference in how we serve our lodge and each other.

From The South

By: Bro. Angelito "Titus" F. Madria, PM

A Memorable Gathering of Fellowship and Recognition:

Solidarity lodge 1457 was deeply honored by the recent visit of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Rayborn Reader. an occasion that truly strengthened



the bonds of brotherhood and reaffirmed our commitment to the principles of Freemasonry. His presence inspired the brethren and reminded us of our shared duty to uphold the values of integrity, service, and unity.

Adding to the joy of the season, the lodge also held its 2025 Christmas Party at Kimson Restaurant. The evening was filled with warm fellowship, laughter, and gratitude as brethren and families came together to celebrate the spirit of Christmas in harmony and goodwill.

Lastly, the presentation of the 25th and 50th Year Masons Awards, recognizing brothers whose years of faithful service stand as shining examples of dedication and perseverance. Their unwavering commitment to the Craft continues to inspire both present and future generations of Masons. It was truly a meaningful event—one that combined leadership, celebration, and recognition—leaving lasting memories for all who attended.

December Birthdays

Actual:
Mario P. Dipasupil, Jr., PM
Conrado B. Delacruz
Vicente B. Mergalejo
Josier M. Nisnisan, PM
David P. Llacuna
Antonio Q. Hofileña

Masonic:
Esteban V. Saulog, PM
Weldon Q. Hofileña, PM
Juneldhim C. Tala, PM
Urbano S. Yap, Jr.
Melvyn S. Jurisprudencia, PM
Rupert Patel
Floyd Ray Mills, Sr., PM

January Birthdays

Actual:
Marc Gregor B. Barsales
Carlos P. Cristobal, PM
Patrick L. Cook
Weldon Q. Hofileña, PM
Celso D. Aldovino
Jerwin P. Garcia
Alejandro N. Hagad, III
Rupert Patel
Mark L. Fajardo
Romeo O. Mercado
Arturo Ramirez
Vigilante M. Roxas, PM
Winston M. Villa-Real
Felix V. Luchavez, PM

Masonic:
Jeffrey L. Lungub
Gregorio R. Mercado
David P. Llacuna
Celso D. Aldovino
Lope G. Lindio
Nestor C. Duremdes, Jr.
Eduardo B. Libranda

Notice of Stated Meeting

The next Stated Meeting will be on February 13th, dinner is at 6:30 pm and the meeting will follow at 7:30 pm

Officers are to wear the installation type barong, Past Masters are encouraged to wear their PM Jackets and aprons, and members and guests can wear barong or suit and tie.

Lodge Calendar:

Please click on this [link](#) to view our lodge calendar for the year. Here are some highlighted events that are coming up:

- February 13th - Stated Meeting & Valentines Program
- February 20th - FC Conferral
- February 28th - Alamo Observance
- March 7th - EA Conferral
- March 13th - Stated Meeting
- March 20th - CoW Forum
- March 21st - Blood Drive
- March 28th - GM Conference
- April 3rd - Scholarship Awards (To be finalized)
- April 10th Stated Meeting, PM Night, and DDGM Official Visit
- May 2 - Shootfest
- May 10 - Stated Meeting
- June 12 - Stated Meeting & Elections
- July 10 - Stated Meeting & Thanksgiving by outgoing officers

Member Spotlight: The Musician, More than a Melody

By: W.:M.: Stephen Aganan, PM

In every Lodge, there are officers whose duties are clearly defined in ritual — and then there are those whose service quietly extends far beyond the written word. The office of the Musician is one of those unique roles that has evolved over time while remaining deeply rooted in tradition.

Traditionally, the Lodge Musician was responsible for providing the accompanying music during meetings, degrees, and special ceremonies. Whether at the opening and closing of Lodge, during solemn portions of degree work, or at festive boards and social gatherings, music set the tone. It elevated the atmosphere, softened transitions, and added dignity and reflection to our work. In earlier days, the Musician would sit at the organ or piano, carefully selecting pieces that matched the mood of the moment — joyful, contemplative, or reverent.

But as times have changed, so too has the function of the office.

Today, the Musician often becomes what can best be described as the “Swiss Army knife” of the Lodge — a one-man band in more ways than one. In many Lodges, the position itself is optional, and some Lodges do not fill the office at all. Our Lodge is very fortunate to have strong and active membership numbers that enable us to utilize all of the optional officer positions



Mark L. Fajardo

prescribed by our Grand Lodge. That in itself is a blessing and a testament to the vitality of Solidarity Lodge.

Here at Solidarity Lodge, Brother Mark Fajardo embodies the spirit of this office perfectly.

While he continues to support the Lodge musically, his service extends well beyond the notes. Brother Mark regularly assists our Stewards as they prepare meals, helping ensure that fellowship begins long before the gavel sounds. He supports event logistics, helps with setup and breakdown, and quietly fills gaps wherever they appear. If something needs to be done and no one has claimed it yet, chances are Brother Mark is already on it.

This is the spirit of the office — not simply providing music, but enhancing harmony. Not just playing accompaniment, but

strengthening unity. In many ways, the Musician symbolizes what Masonry itself strives to teach: that every part, no matter how small it may seem, contributes to the beauty and stability of the whole.

We are grateful for officers like Brother Mark Fajardo, whose willingness to serve reminds us that the true music of the Lodge is found not only in sound, but in service.

Indeed, the Musician does far more than play the tune — he helps keep the Lodge in harmony.

Honoring Dedication: 25 and 40 Year Service Awards

By: W.:M.: Stephen Aganan, PM



During our January Stated Meeting, Solidarity Lodge had the distinct privilege of honoring Brethren who have dedicated 25 and 40 years of faithful service to our Fraternity.

Service awards are more than milestones marked by time — they represent decades of commitment, steady attendance, quiet labor, mentorship, and unwavering belief in the principles of Freemasonry. For 25 years, these Brethren have stood in Lodge with us, supported its work, and contributed to its

growth. For 40 years, they have witnessed generations come and go, carried traditions forward, and helped preserve the spirit of our Craft. Some of these men have been with us since the very foundation of Solidarity Lodge, helping to lay the groundwork upon which we continue to build today.

As each recipient was recognized, we were reminded that Masonry is not built in a single year, but over a lifetime of consistent dedication. Their service strengthens the foundation upon which our Lodge stands.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to our 25-year and 40-year award recipients. Your example challenges all of us — especially our younger members — to remain steadfast in our labor and faithful to our obligations.

May we continue to build upon the legacy you have helped create.

Photos from Grand Lodge



Masonic Education: Why Do District Deputy Grand Masters Visit Us?

by: Brother Stephen Aganan, PM

Brethren, tonight's short Masonic education answers a simple question we've all asked at least once:

"Why does the District Deputy Grand Master come visit us twice a year?"

Here in our jurisdiction of Texas, the answer begins with the practical work of the office.

The District Deputy Grand Master visits to deliver the message of the Grand Master, but he also serves an important oversight role. During his visit, he reviews the lodge's administrative and compliance responsibilities—from the accuracy of our minutes, to required reports and filings such as the Form 71, the 990-N, and other items covered on the official Grand Lodge checklist.

That work ensures the lodge is not only Masonically sound, but also operating properly within the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge and the civil authorities. But the reason we have DDGM visits goes much deeper than paperwork.

The answer goes back to the earliest days of organized Freemasonry.

When the first Grand Lodges were formed in the 1700s, the Grand Master was responsible for every lodge under his jurisdiction. That worked fine—until Masonry spread faster than a Texas barbecue invitation. (Sorry for the poor choice of joke)

So the solution was simple: appoint trusted deputies to act in the Grand Master's place. These deputies were sent to visit lodges, make sure they were working regularly, following the landmarks, and staying connected to the Grand Lodge. That's where the role of the District Deputy Grand Master comes from.

In the early days, these visits were inspections in the strictest sense. Lodges were examined for:

- Proper authority and charters
- Correct ritual work
- Accurate minutes and finances

And yes—lodges could lose their charters if things were badly wrong.

But over time, Freemasonry matured. By the late 1800s and early 1900s, most Grand Lodges—especially here in the United States—realized something important: strong lodges don't grow through fear; they grow through support. So the DDGM visit evolved.

Today, the District Deputy Grand Master still represents the authority of the Grand Master—but the emphasis has shifted from inspection to connection.

A DDGM visit now serves three main purposes:

1. Representation The DDGM is the living link between this lodge and the Grand Lodge. When he speaks, he speaks on behalf of the Grand Master.

1. Support The visit is a chance for the lodge to be heard—our successes, our challenges, and our plans for the future.
2. Unity The visit reminds us that while we meet as one lodge, we belong to something far larger: a district, a Grand Lodge, and a fraternity centuries old.

That's why there's protocol. That's why we open and close properly. That's why we treat the visit with respect. Not because it's about titles—but because it's about continuity.

So when the District Deputy Grand Master visits, it's not just another meeting on the calendar. It's a tradition that connects us directly to the earliest days of Freemasonry—when brothers rode on horseback to make sure the light was still burning in every lodge. And brethren, the fact that he comes to us is proof that the light still is.

Thank you, Worshipful Master.

Prepared and delivered during February stated meeting of Walter M. Pierson Lodge No. 1339

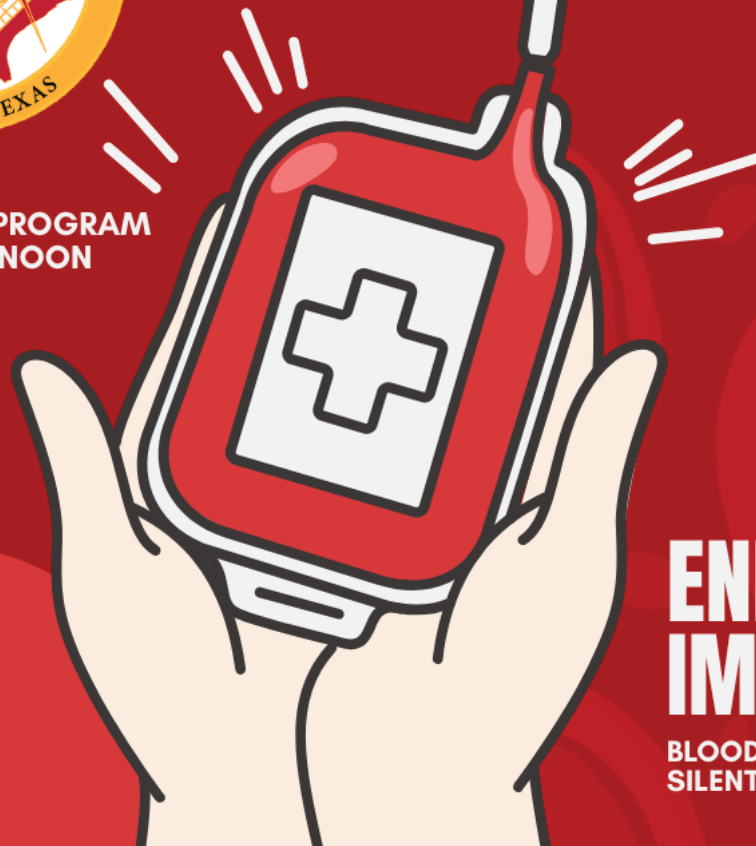
SOLIDARITY LODGE NO. 1457 A.F. & A.M. INVITES YOU TO OUR

BLOOD DRIVE & LODGE OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 21, 2026 8 AM TO 2 PM
ARABIA SHRINE CENTER
10510 HARWIN DR.
HOUSTON, TX



OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM
STARTS AT 12 NOON



ENDLESS IMPACT.

BLOOD DONORS ARE
SILENT HEROES.



Solidarity Lodge No. 1457 A.F. & A.M.
invites you to

Valentine's Day Night

February

13

6:30 PM

Valentines Program Starts before the meeting. Bring your wife!

