

TRESTLE BOARD

August 2026

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / <https://www.ioniccomposite.com>



My Brothers,

I hope you all are enjoying your Summer and carving out good time to further enjoy loved ones, seasonal activities and well-deserved relaxation. The year just seems to be zooming by us, so fast.

There are a couple of things that I'd like to touch on, in this column, respective to the observations we make this month. First, as you will find in our August calendar, we are celebrating our two annual First Responders Award recipients, for 2026. I need not explain the importance of the jobs that the brave individuals who make up our police and fire institutions have to keep a city like Los Angeles safe and vibrant. What is remarkable about many of those who serve our public in these capacities is that they extend the benevolence in their work to various charities they support and we, as a Lodge, get to support. Amid the dangers they face, daily, police, fire fighters and EMT seem to find time and opportunities to positively serve the people of our communities. With this said, I implore everyone to come out to our August 3rd Stated Meeting to help celebrate these remarkable individuals and their service.

Second, Grand Master Garrett Chan's proclamation for August is Masonic Homes Month in California. This proclamation is near and dear to me, as some of you may be aware that my mother, Brenda J. Wright, was a resident at the Citrus Heights Skilled Nursing Facility in the Masonic Homes Covina until her passing last October. As soon as Mom took residence there, she began to thrive in ways that she had not for several years. My twin brother and family are so glad that Mom got to experience such a wonderful place, at the end of her life. If you've never taken a tour or visited either California Masonic Homes campus, I urge you to do so. The level of accommodation and care given in our facilities and residences is second to none. I am so proud of our Masonic jurisdiction for offering and providing such a high level of care for our most vulnerable. It sets the standard for senior care very high that, unfortunately, too many senior care facilities cannot offer.

We should all take comfort in knowing California Masonry offers truly amazing places for Masons to retire in great care and style, if needed. I bid everyone a great month and I look forward to seeing you on August 3rd.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

August Calendar

Monday, August 3rd, Stated Meeting

7:15 Dinner

Menu – BBQ (Beef Tri-tip or Chicken), Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Peach Cobbler

RSVP via the link below:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>

**8:00 pm: Meeting (First Responders Night and Stated meeting,
Business or Business Casual attire)**

Ladies' stated meeting activity*: Game Night

Monday, August 10th, 7:15 pm:

1st Degree practice

Monday, August 17th, 7:15 pm:

TBD (Possible 1st Degree)

Thursday, August 20th, 7:00 pm:

Officers School of Instruction, Anchor Bell #868 @ Culver City-Foshay –
Demonstration TBD

Monday, August 24th, 7:15 pm:

Casual social

Monday, August 31st, 7:15 pm:

TBD

* An often-cited model of the family life of a Mason is a man (the Mason) trundling off to his weekly stated meeting leaving his wife at home to take care of herself. In an effort to break down this mold, Ionic Composite #520 is now inviting the wives to come to lodge on the evening of our stated meetings, to enjoy the dinners we serve, and then to participate in a separate session designed just for them while the men do their business in the stated meeting. Each month will feature a topic that should be of interest to women.

Upcoming events

September 7th – Public Schools Night

September 8th – Masons4Mitts at Dodger Stadium

October 5th – Hiram Award Presentation to Jacob Gershbok, P.M.

First Responders' Night

Every year, Ionic-Composite Lodge #520 sets aside an evening to express our gratitude to the members of the Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments for their unwavering service to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of this city. We invite policemen and firemen from local stations for dinner, after which we adjourn to the lodge room for presentations of personalized plaques to one fireman and one policeman whom the local station personnel have selected to honor that year. Since these individuals are not allowed to accept cash awards, we also make donations to charities they have selected in their names. On August 3, 2026, we will again be thanking all of these first responders for their willingness to make personal and family sacrifices for the greater good. While the day-to-day tasks that these jobs only infrequently touch each of us individually, when we are confronted with such occurrences, we are then reminded about how important their presence is. However, it is important to recognize these instances at times when no crisis exists. Thus, we encourage the members of the lodge as well as their significant other and friends to come to the lodge on that day (Monday, August 3rd, 2026), enjoy a meal with these brave men and women, and then, as a group of grateful citizens, demonstrate our appreciation for what they do.

We will serve dinner (menu on previous page) at 7:15 PM and the program will begin afterward, probably around 8:00 PM. This activity is open to everyone and there is no need for any Masonic affiliation. We do ask that you make dinner reservations for yourself and your other invitees on or before Friday, July 31st at 5:00 PM, as we do need a total count. At the time that the reservations are made, please inform us if anybody in your party has a special food restriction. Reservations can be made on-line (<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp>) or by calling the lodge (424-273-1054). While we will have a business meeting afterward which will only be open to Masons, there will be a separate activity for all non-Masons in the dining room.

BRETHREN BEWARE

of scam / phishing emails asking for money or personal information.
Scammers are pretending to be Masons, even the Worshipful Master!
We'll never ask you to send money or gift cards via email.
Reach out to Lodge Leadership directly or by phone.

2026	Master – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M. (Virian)	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Marshal –
	Junior Warden –Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
	Treasurer – Aaron Gonzales	Junior Steward –
	Secretary – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Musician –
	Chaplain – Robert Smerling (Maureen)	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)
	Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.	Trestleboard Editor – Ronald Koretz, P.M. (Grace)

Batter Up!
Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt
For the 2026 Masons4Mitts Fundraiser
supporting the LA Dodgers Dreamteam Program

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers Dreamteam program. This program is more than just baseball and softball. Kids and parents attend programs about leadership, teamwork, health, safety, finances and good citizenship.

Support your lodge's participation in this great program.

Go to www.masons4mitts.org
Click LA Dodger Logo
Click Media Central Titans
Click Give a Mitt
Click Donate



This year's Masons4Mitts presentation will occur on Tuesday, September 8 at Dodger Stadium. All of the California Masons in attendance will sit in the Reserved Level Aisles 8 & 10. If there are 20 interested brothers, Bernie Morse can obtain a block of tickets in Reserved aisle 10, Rows G and H (just below the Grand Lodge block) for \$69 each. If you are interested, contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or brnhrd18@yahoo.com.

August Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth date
Albert	Solnit	4
Steven	Resnick	5
Fred	Gross	8
Allen	Sackler	8
Clifford	Wolosin	11
Sheldon	Ellis	12
Harry	Barron	22
Sarkis	Babian	25
Gene	Horst	25
Marc	Seidner	28
Jordan	Brodie	31
Philip	Roman	31

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

Ethan Mielke is a 13-year-old boy who lives in Rogers City, Michigan. He and his brothers Seth (age 11) and Jonathan (age 8) have been selling lemonade at a local farmers' market for years. Or at least they had been doing so until last summer (2025) when they were informed that they had to get a temporary permit from the local health department. It turned out that that permit would cost \$57 every two weeks, for a total of \$400 in fees for the summer season. The boys chose to shut down the stand (named Triple M Goods) instead, although they were greatly discouraged by this requirement.

They, or at least somebody else who was familiar with the problem, contacted a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, Cam Cavitt. Mr. Cavitt wrote a bill for the Michigan legislature that exempted minors who were selling lemonade (or other non-alcoholic drinks) and making less than \$5000 per year from having to pay for such permits. Mr. Cavitt was quoted as saying "We shouldn't let red tape stand in the way of kids making an effort to work hard and learn about the values of entrepreneurship". He also pointed out that the potential financial loss for local health departments would be small. That bill was unanimously passed by the Michigan House of Representatives on June 25, 2026, and is now headed to the Michigan Senate for its vote. In the meantime, the Mielke brothers are looking forward to reopening Triple M Goods.

A number of states, including California, already have laws in place that exempt minors operating such "businesses" from permits or other fees, taxes, and even health inspections. However, given the situation in Michigan, it would appear that there are states where such protection is not available. It does seem inappropriate to require children to comply with what are often complicated financial and legal barriers just to be able to learn some fundamentals of business. Interestingly, the Country Time Lemonade company has created a fund ("Lemon-Ade") to assist young entrepreneurs in paying such fees.

Of course, it is likely that, sooner or later, some unwary lemonade (or other food or drink) purchaser will contract a medical (or even non-medical) complication that will become the subject of a story in the newspaper and/or find its way to a lawyer's desk and then result in much public and personal chaos. There are likely people in society (especially bureaucrats) who are consumed with concern about such an eventuality and will defend the implementation of such legal restrictions to the sale of lemonade. While I doubt that anybody is going to try to defend these practices on the basis that the loss of these fees to a local government will be consequential, they may mount an argument that the costs of defending such "worst-case scenario" claims in court can be significant. My experiences as a doctor have convinced me that such practices in medicine have resulted in excessive prophylactic expenses with no proven benefit to healthcare outcomes.

Think about it.

Dues payments simplified

The California Grand Lodge has made the process of paying dues simpler, automatic and less painful (especially for those who are dual members or members of concordant bodies). Instead of several lump sums, it can be taken out in increments as shown below. If you need to, please use the format below.

Process Map: How to sign up for AutoPay in iMember 2.0

Step 1: Access Your Profile

- Action: Log in to iMember 2.0
- Click: My Profile from the dashboard

Step 2: Add a Payment Method

- Click: Add Payment Method
- Enter: Your credit or debit card details
- Save: Your payment information securely

Step 3: Configure AutoPay Settings

- Click: Auto-pay Settings Configure

Step 4: Choose a Payment Interval

- Options:
 - 1) Monthly* – Charged 15th of each month
 - 2) Quarterly* – Charged March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
 - 3) Annually – Charged Dec 15

Step 5: Confirmation

- AutoPay is now enabled – you'll receive confirmation of your setup.

Why Enroll in AutoPay?

- Convenience: One-time setup, always in good standing.
- Financial Flexibility: Smaller payments spread over time.
- Peace of Mind: Never miss a due date – it's automatic.
- Stay Current: Be sure to update your credit card information if it expires or changes to avoid avoid any disruptions in your AutoPay setup.

* Monthly and Quarterly options allow contributions to accumulate over the year, covering your dues in advance without a large single payment.