

# TRESTLE BOARD

July 2026

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

This month (July), we observe and celebrate our nation's 250 years as a beacon of liberty, hope and opportunity — for the world. Even in acknowledging the promises of our nation, there is no doubt that many people wonder if they apply to them, at all. I often contemplate what our founding fathers who were indeed Masons, would say about the circumstances a number of our citizens find themselves that cause them to question their qualifications for such a promised life.

As I write this column, I do so with unshakable optimism. Through observing the new energy arriving and growing into our fraternity and Lodge, particularly, I recognize men who are enterprising, not just for the purpose of profiting but creating businesses and services to extend those promised opportunities to others and elevate the quality of life for all of society. This is the true *Spirit of '76*: taking advantage of liberties to create opportunities that positively affect people outside of yourself. This makes me smile, knowing that the younger generations operate on the notion that success in the American experiment isn't exclusive to inheritance, it is attainable by all.

As we celebrate 250 years as a nation, our Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Garrett S. Chan has designated July as *Support Our Veterans Month*. Our veterans are a class of men and women who stand high above the rest of us, as they volunteered to put themselves in situations most of us can't even imagine — all for the sake of every U.S. citizen to enjoy the rights to unadulterated life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And, in too many cases, these soldiers return to us very many pieces of themselves.

So, what's the point I'm making here?? As we become stronger individually, we become a stronger society and a strong society means nothing if we aren't protecting the security of those who protect us, stateside and abroad. If you know of a veteran struggling to find themselves and/or their purpose: thank them for their sacrifices, first; then, remind them of the skills and talents they utilized to keep us safe; and help them find a path to reinvention and continued fulfillment. This may not serve the complete care of our veterans, but at least it may be a step to help some of those who are lost find their way.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM  
Master

## July Calendar

### **Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Stated Meeting**

**7:15 Dinner**

Menu – Hebrew National hot dogs, Beef hamburgers, Baked beans, Cole slaw, Potato salad, Apple pie (Vegetarian options available by request)

RSVP via the link below:

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

**8:00 pm: Meeting (Business meeting, casual attire)**

Ladies' stated meeting activity\*: Game Night

### **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, LA Masonic Service Bureau Grand Master's Reception and Breakfast**

LAX Hilton Hotel

**7:15 AM: Meet and Greet**

**8:15 AM: Breakfast and Reception**

### **Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm:**

Officers School of Instruction, Ionic-Composite #520 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree (Complete)

### **Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

2nd Degree Practice

### **Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

Casual social

\* 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 different topic that should be of interest to women.

## Upcoming events

**September 8<sup>th</sup> – Masons4Mitts at Dodger Stadium**

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## 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](http://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](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com).

## July Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth date
Morton	Devor	4
Sidney	Richlin	14
Eduardo	Cortes	15
Timothy	Slone	16
Paul	Troy	16
Michael	Bear	17
Stephen	Fenster	18
Thomas	Ortiz	20
Robert	Nelli	21
Jacob	Smerling	23
Glenn	Ardizzone	24
Howard	Brandes	25
Carmel	Levy	27
Howard	Hallis	28
Richard	Ellman	29
Barry	Charles	30

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

## Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

The Los Angeles Dodgers have a 2026 player payroll that exceeds \$500,000,000. They have been widely criticized throughout the country for what other teams view as excessive spending. While I have not heard this statement made about the Dodgers, the situation is reminiscent of the New York Yankees and a comment made by their owner, George Steinbrenner in 1979, referring to them as “the best team money can buy”.

The Dodger owners are usually pictured as a spoiled group of people with too much cash on hand and who will spend whatever it takes to win a World Series. While what they are doing is legal, it has led to calls to change the pay structure of Major League Baseball (MLB). However, the actual story may not be as self-centered as it might first appear.

Consider Andrew Toles. Andrew was born in 1992 and had substantial athletic ability. He was selected in the 2010 MLB draft by the Miami Marlins but chose instead to play college baseball for the University of Tennessee in 2011 and for Chipola College in 2012. He was again selected in the 2012 MLB draft by the Tampa Bay Rays, with whom he did sign a contract. He had a successful minor league career from 2012-2014 and was invited to spring training for the Rays in 2015. However, in spite of his athletic prowess, he was repeatedly criticized by all of his coaches and removed from teams for “personal reasons”, including being released by the Rays during that spring training period. He subsequently signed a contract with the Dodgers, played part of the 2016 season in the minor leagues, and was called up in July. He batted over .300 then and became a starting outfielder in 2017 until he injured his knee and required surgery. He split his 2018 season between Oklahoma City and the Dodgers. However, in 2019 he did not report to spring training, leading the Dodgers to announce that he had a “personal problem” and was placed on the restricted list.

It turned out that Andrew had major mental health issues (bipolar disorder and schizophrenia) that plagued him throughout his athletic career. He has not played professional baseball since 2018. Since then, he has had brushes with the law and been intermittently homeless and/or hospitalized in mental health facilities. Nonetheless, the Dodgers signed him to baseball contracts from 2018 until 2015 in order to provide him with access to the team’s health insurance; each year, he was then placed on the Dodger restricted list for that season. Unfortunately, under MLB rules, he is no longer eligible for this status. In an interview with Dodger management, the team has indicated that they will continue to help him via other measures. They have resisted making a public issue out of this out of respect for Toles’ privacy.

These actions by the team will obviously not provide any advantage to them toward winning another World Series. However, they do speak volumes to the character of the management with regard to how they value and treat their employees.

Think about it.

# *Masonic doings*



First Degree conferral for Avi and Ben Eshaghian (Courtesy degree on behalf of Lodge of the Holy City #4 in Jerusalem)



Festive Board Dinner – May 24, 2026

## *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.