

A CULTURE OF GIVING

**Masons
of California**
2013-14 Annual Report

WELCOME MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Annual Report of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California. I had the privilege of serving as grand master from October 6, 2013 through October 12, 2014. My theme was *Freemasonry – Our Moral Compass*, which reflected a lifetime of study of the principles and teachings of Freemasonry. Sharing those teachings with California Masons was one of my primary goals for the year.

The theme of this annual report, *A Culture of Giving*, is reflected in the commitment that so many of us made over the past year. Specifically, the final year of our three-year commitment to raise funds for the Raising A Reader program brought our total gift to well over a million dollars. As a teacher myself, I know how important reading is to success in school. When the project is complete, it will have touched the lives of more than 50,000 youngsters in kindergarten through third grade and their families. I can think of no better way to live up to the ideal of Freemasonry as our moral compass!

Another focus during 2014 was to make the community at large more aware of the heritage of Freemasonry in California. The dedication of the newly refurbished gold rush museum at

Columbia State Historic Park is a wonderful example of these efforts. Thousands of schoolchildren visit the park each year, and will now take away knowledge of how Freemasons helped build California in the first years of its statehood. The public was also made aware of the contributions of Freemasonry through the reenactment of the 1861 cornerstone laying ceremony at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. More than 350 Masons in white aprons brought the Grand Lodge officers onto the Capitol grounds for the ceremony – a truly impressive sight! I also enjoyed the privilege of chairing the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America in 2014, and then leading a delegation to Austria and Romania as a part of the World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges.

It was a privilege to represent our brethren as grand master, and I hope that you enjoy the story of our yearlong fraternal efforts throughout this Annual Report.



John L. Cooper III
2013-14 Grand Master

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Over the past four years, the objectives of the 2010-15 strategic plan have become familiar mileposts on the horizon. We've set our sights on them. We've grown accustomed to checking our progress against them, approaching then passing them: Improve resources for lodge finances, administration, and building management: check. Expand Masonic education events: check. Increase public awareness of the fraternity: check.

This report is filled with examples of how these objectives, and others, have materialized into results. But what about the bigger picture? The vision statement we devised for the 2010-15 strategic plan says: "Masonry in California is a relevant and respected organization – both inside and outside of the fraternity. We make a profound difference in the lives of our members and in California communities. We are engaged in the worldwide principles and fellowship of Freemasonry."

If you haven't reviewed this statement in awhile, it might seem lofty. But take a moment to consider it in light of the past year. The idealistic becomes recognizable.

Masonry in California *is* relevant and respected. Consider the symposia, conferences, and public programs we lead.

We *do* make a profound difference. Skim the outreach stories in our new weekly e-newsletter. Visit our Masonic Homes campuses. Talk to a family that received Raising A Reader in their school.

As for the worldwide principles and fellowship of Freemasonry: During the past year, we won the right to host the XIV World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges in November 2015, and we have been immersed in preparations since. It is an opportunity that comes just once in a lifetime. We are leading an event that will shape, challenge, and strengthen our international fraternity.

These achievements are more than checkmarks in a column, or mileposts passed. They are proof of meaningful, thoughtful progress. As we round the bend into the final year of the 2010-15 plan, now is a good time to step back and look at the big picture. I think you'll enjoy the view.

Allan Casalou

Allan Casalou
2013-14 Grand Secretary

STRENGTHENING OUR BROTHERHOOD

OUR MASONIC FAMILY

51,825 Total members

3,668 Total degrees conferred

Master Masons raised • **1,043**

Fellow Crafts passed • **1,080**

Entered Apprentices initiated • **1,545**



802 Affiliations

CELEBRATING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

804

Members received Golden Veteran (50 year) and Diamond Jubilee (75 year) Awards

11 Lodges marked milestone anniversaries

150 YEARS

Elk Grove Lodge No. 173

125 YEARS

Mount Jackson Lodge No. 295

Silver Gate-Three Stars Lodge No. 296

Siskiyou Lodge No. 297

100 YEARS

Coronado Lodge No. 441

Amity Lodge No. 442

Carpenteria Lodge No. 444

West Covina Lodge No. 446

Diablo Valley Lodge No. 448

Van Nuys Lodge No. 450

25 YEARS

Fox-Coates Daylight Lodge No. 842

EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE

INSPIRING THROUGH MASONIC EDUCATION

555

Attendees at in-person Masonic education opportunities

252

Degree candidates accessed the online Candidate Learning Center

SUPPORTING FRATERNAL LEADERS

1,810

Participants in online and in-person leadership development opportunities

67

Members completed all LMCP courses

32

LMCP webinars held

SAN FRANCISCO COLLOQUIUM

In November, the fraternity hosted our first public colloquium: *Enriching History – Thomas Starr King, Earl Warren, and Freemasonry*. Held at the San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center, this exciting tribute celebrated the enduring legacy of two extraordinary California Masons with presentations from esteemed academic and Masonic historians.

LIBRARY & MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

The Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry continued its mission of providing engaging opportunities for members to connect with the history and literature of Freemasonry in California and around the world through exhibits, webinars, and presentations at local and international historic celebrations, including the San Francisco History Expo.

MASONIC EDUCATION VIDEO & EXHIBIT

A highlight of the 165th Annual Communication was the fraternity's original documentary film, "The Art of Masonic Education." This fascinating video explored the history and significance of art in Masonic education from the 18th century through present day, as told by historians, Masonic scholars, and the artists themselves. The exhibit included legendary artifacts from the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London and the Scottish Rite Library and Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

1,481

Members attended the 165th Annual Communication

Highest since 1999

OUR MASONIC FAMILY ONLINE

69,578

Masons of California and California Masonic Assistance Facebook fans

An increase of 409%

16,479

YouTube
channel views

1,799

Twitter
followers

607

Instagram
followers

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

California Freemason magazine and our Annual Report were honored for industry excellence with three awards from Association Media and Publishing:

★ Gold Award for Promotional Publications: Annual Report – "Making a Profound Difference."

★ Silver Award for Magazines: Feature Story Design – June/July 2013 "Masonic Architecture."

★ Silver Award for Magazines: Feature Article – "Seven Ways to Examine Your Existence," by Laura Normand.

AN INTERNATIONAL MASONIC EXPERIENCE

Grand Master John Cooper and his wife, Heather, led 21 Masonic family members on a journey through the breathtaking landscapes of Austria. While immersed in the vibrant history of celebrated Masonic composers Mozart and Hayden, the travelers visited the Grand Lodge of Austria and the country's largest Masonic museum.

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Masonic Relief

Your charitable giving makes this possible.

When you contribute to California Masonic charities, you declare your pride in the fraternity and commitment to its values. To all of our fraternal family members who have made charitable gifts: We are grateful for your support. By embracing a culture of giving, you make our fraternity's good work possible.

MASONIC ASSISTANCE

765

Masons and Masonic family members received fraternal support and services

347

Masonic Outreach Services clients

46

Masonic Family
Outreach Services clients

301

Masonic Senior
Outreach Services clients

398

Masonic Homes of California residents

20

Masonic Center for Youth and
Families clients

1,764

Inquiry and referral calls handled by Masonic
Outreach Services

RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS

196

Masonic Homes and Acacia Creek
residents gave back through volunteering

62,077

Resident volunteer hours | 4,060 hours
more than last year

Award-winning care

The Lorber skilled nursing facility at the Masonic Home at Union City received a five-star rating from Nursing Home Compare. This prestigious distinction is awarded to only 10% of nursing homes nationwide and recognizes excellence in service and quality. The rating is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff in the Lorber facility and throughout the Masonic Homes.

Strengthening partnerships for fraternal relief

Masonic Senior Outreach Services lodge outreach initiative continued in Division IX and expanded to Division II. The program will be rolled out statewide by 2016.

Disaster relief

262 lodges and fraternal family members contributed to disaster relief efforts through the Masonic Services Association of North America to help victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; Hurricane Odile in Baja, California; and severe flooding in Serbia.

NEW Joe Jackson Lodge Outreach Award

Masonic Outreach Services introduced the Joe Jackson Lodge Outreach Award to honor Joe Jackson, a 60-year Mason, Hiram Award recipient, and longtime secretary and chaplain of Joseph L. Shell Lodge No. 837 and Heartland Lodge No. 576. Jackson, who passed away in 2012, is remembered for his instrumental role in launching the lodge outreach initiative in Division IX, and for exemplifying the Masonic tenets of brotherly love and relief through his dedicated services to those in need. The first recipient of this award was Consuelo Lodge No. 324, which was recognized for making a profound difference in extending Masonic relief.



WHY I GIVE

A Son's Promise

In December 2011, William “Bill” Ramsey was raised at Meudell-Oildale Lodge No. 695. At age 68, it marked the start of a new chapter in his life, framed by fraternity. It would coincide with the close of another: Five weeks later, his father passed away.

“He’d always hoped that I would become a Mason,” Bill says. “He lived to see it.”

Leading up to that moment, Bill had come to understand the fraternity in a deeply personal way precisely because of his father, Edwin “Bob” Ramsey, a 67-year Mason. Throughout the six years prior, the fraternity had offered his dad support, compassion, and counsel. As a devoted son, Bill’s life had been touched, too.

— A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON —

For many people, questions about how to support an aging parent are one of life’s greatest sources of sorrow and stress. For Bill,

this hit home when his mother fell ill in the 1990s, leading to a steady, exhaustive stream of medical expenses. She passed away in 1999, leaving his father a widower at age 82 with little in the way of savings.

Bill moved to Bakersfield to be closer to Bob, who continued to live in the small house they had built together, perched on a little plot of land overlooking the Kern River. Bob’s eyesight was declining, but he was able to take care of himself with only occasional help. He had always been a gregarious guy, and he continued to seek out friendship and community.

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He attended his Masonic lodge, Kern River Valley Lodge No. 827. He went to the local senior center at least once a week to dance and socialize. Bill shouldered most of the household expenses for him, and for awhile, it seemed that was enough to make ends meet. But with the passing of years, other expenses chipped away at his dad's savings. By 2005, he could no longer pay his own bills.

Bill was in his 60s at the time, and already retired. When he realized his father's financial situation, his stomach dropped.

"I'd always done the best I could – but I was in a tough spot. I wondered how I could keep him afloat," Bill remembers. "It was stressful. The stock market was down. I had retired. I was going through a divorce."

"From the time my mother got ill, I was my dad's main go-to guy," he says. "I felt this pressure to handle everything."

With one phone call, that would change.

A TRUSTED GUIDE

To Bill's surprise, his father handed him a brochure for Masonic Assistance and suggested that perhaps the fraternity could do something. Skeptical, Bill called the phone number listed on the back. Later that week, he drove his dad to Bakersfield to meet with a Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) care manager. She

told father and son that yes, the fraternity could help. It was exactly what MOS was there to do.

"I was just so thankful," says Bill. "I was surprised to learn that support existed. It was an incredible thing."

MOS Care Manager Quynh Tran began meeting with Bob regularly. She arranged for him to receive monthly aid so he could continue living at home, and for the next five years, she and MOS were a regular presence in his life, ensuring that he aged safely. Bill was able to breathe more easily, knowing that he and his father weren't in this alone.

By 2010, at age 93, Bob was legally blind. And although he still exercised and loved to dance, his strength and mobility had declined and he could no longer live by himself. Quynh arranged for him to move into an assisted living community in Orange County, close to his daughter, Judy Desjardin. Quynh, Judy, and Bill worked together to ensure a smooth transition.

"Quynh was fabulous," Bill says. "She was always there for us, to walk us through the procedures. She was so kind to my dad. She told him—" his voice falters. "Why am I getting emotional? Dang it." He takes a breath. "She said to him, 'We're going to get you in a nice home.' She made sure he was all set up."

In his new community, Bob once again filled his days with activities and friendships. He quickly befriended the staff and other residents. He attended all the home's dances, coaxing the ladies out onto the floor. He went to church every Sunday.

He was 94, and thriving. But it would turn out to be the last year of his life.

LIFE, LOVE, AND DIGNITY

Bob lived a rich and joyous final six years of his life – years made brighter, safer, and more comfortable thanks to MOS.

"It was incredible that MOS stepped up for my father," Bill says. "They helped him keep his dignity. I will never forget it."

It's a promise Bill has kept. With the economy recovering and the stock market back to pre-recession levels, Bill's financial situation has grown more stable. And every year since his father's death, he's written a check to the Annual Fund, at the Grand Master Circle level.

"Because of the support of MOS and the way we were treated, I'm in a better place. So my pledge is that I'm going to give to Masonic Outreach through the Annual Fund every year that I'm alive," he says.

At Meudell-Oildale Lodge, Bill has gone on to serve as junior and senior steward, then chaplain.

From inside the fraternity, he witnesses the spirit of relief that sustained his father all those years.

"When we go through the ritual, we pledge that we will help our fellow man when he's in need. We pledge to be there for our fellow brothers," Bill says. "There are brothers who life gives a rough turn, and they run out of money; there are catastrophes; things happen. Anyone could be in that position. We pledge to take care of them."

When Bill talks about his dad, he talks about Bob's spirit for life, his love of dancing, and the fact that he was his best friend. And when he talks about what the fraternity did for them, he tears up. He knows that all the brothers who have given to MOS made it possible for his dad to live life to the fullest. And they made it possible for Bill to enjoy their final years together with peace of mind.

"By giving money to Masonic Outreach, you allow people to live with dignity," says Bill. "That's about as good as it gets. That's why I give."

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Make a Difference Day

In a joint proclamation, Grand Master John Cooper and Deputy Grand Master Russell Charvonia proclaimed October 2014 to be “Make a Difference Month” and October 5 as “Make a Difference Day.”

This special observance encouraged lodges to partner with the Masonic youth orders to complete a local community service project. Members had an opportunity to empower and mentor Masonic youth, to reinforce fraternal values, and to learn from the youths’ enthusiasm and insight. And, by combining lodge members’ time, talents, and willingness to give back with that of youth order members, our Masonic family was able to make its combined impact even more profound.

Make a Difference Day highlights

- Youth order members designed bright green T-shirts in honor of the day. They sold more than 340 shirts to participants, raising \$3,870 to support future youth order initiatives.
- Pasadena Lodge No. 272 planted and trimmed more than 180 oak trees along a 1.25 mile road as a 9/11 memorial, created through a community partnership.
- Anacapa Lodge No. 710 and Conejo Valley Lodge No. 807 partnered with Job’s Daughters and Rainbow Girls to clean the Hueneme Masonic Cemetery in Ventura County.
- Old West Lodge No. 813 and local youth order members painted a colorful mural for Sulphur Springs Community School in Canyon County.
- Southern California Masons and DeMolay members painted a unit at the Masonic Home at Covina.
- Northern California DeMolay officers cleaned a Manteca park.

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Rededicating Columbia Lodge for California Communities

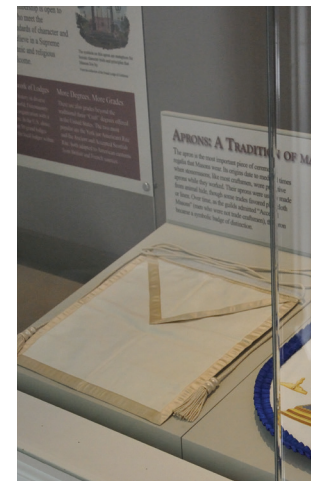
On Saturday, June 14, Masons from throughout California convened in Columbia State Historic Park to celebrate a historic cornerstone rededication ceremony for the Columbia Masonic Temple.

As part of the rededication ceremony, the Grand Lodge of California celebrated the recently updated historical record and on-site museum, which features an exhibit of historic tools and artifacts, carefully curated by the Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry. The exhibit tells the story of Freemasonry within the Columbia region, particularly during the

gold rush era when local Masons were influential in developing the mining town and its once-booming industries.

The historic three-story brick building is nearly identical to Columbia Lodge No. 28, which stood on the same property in the 1850s. Its replica 19th century lodge room can be reserved as a destination degree site for all California lodges.

Columbia Lodge will remain an important reminder of both our California heritage, and the enduring Masonic values that make up our history.





WHY I GIVE

An Opportunity for Greatness

When Paul Dana answers the phone, the sounds of happy dogs tumble through the background. “I have 44 dogs here with me right now,” he says affectionately. Paul runs his own kennel, a venture he began about five years ago, after years of working as a veterinary technician and volunteering at a rescue program. Getting the kennel off the ground took round-the-clock workweeks and a long stretch of barely scraping by. Now he has five employees and a successful business. He is just 33 years old.

For a long time, he says, animal rescue was his main way to give back to the community – an expectation instilled by his great grandmother, who, in the aftermath of World War II, started an orphanage in Italy to shelter and educate war orphans. In the generations since, his family – a large Italian bunch, clustered by the dozen in the Bay Area – has sought ways locally and abroad to support important causes.

So a couple years ago, when Paul was introduced to Masonry by a college fraternity brother, he recognized himself in it instantly: The emphasis

on charity. The history of supporting public education. The earnest desire to improve the world.

“I wanted to be part of something that was bigger than myself,” he explains. “I found exactly what I was looking for: a group of guys from all sorts of different backgrounds with common goals and common ideas of charity and giving back.”

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— WHAT I CAN, WHERE I CAN —

Paul has only been a Mason since April 2013. But one month after he was raised at Phoenix Lodge No. 144 in San Francisco, he joined the officer line. A year later, he is senior deacon. He loves the ritual, and the memory work. He loves the sense of brotherhood. He talks about the compassion and generosity of his brothers with plain awe. He was moved by a recent lodge event, where a young girl, 9 or 10 years old, stood up to ask for donations for her school.

“There were 70 or so people there. You could tell she was frightened, that she’d never spoken in front of an audience like that,” he recalls. “Everybody was so supportive, so proud of her. The brothers stood up and started cutting checks. You could see the joy on her face. I remember thinking, ‘She will remember this moment for the rest of her life.’”

“It’s easy to get lost in your own life today, with Facebook, social media, and everything else,” he says. “Masonry gets you out of your bubble. It introduces you to people who want to do great things. I’m grateful for the opportunity to become a Mason, and to better myself so I can help others.”

This sentiment surfaces every time he talks about the fraternity, and how he hopes to contribute to it.

“It’s humbling,” he continues. “You look at all these people who were Masons, who shaped the world. Now I’m having the opportunity to follow in their footsteps and try to do these important things.”

“I’m not saying I’m going to be a world leader,” he adds. “But I’m going to do what I can, where I can, however I can.”

A MESSAGE TO YOUNG MASONS

Because of his family’s legacy, Paul has always felt a personal connection to the cause of public education. Now that he is a Mason, he also sees the fraternity’s values running through the ideals of public schools: “The desire to learn, to know more – that is Masonry in itself,” as he puts it.

Last year, he made a generous donation in support of the fraternity’s public education programs. Just a year earlier, he is quick to note, he couldn’t afford to make a monetary donation. He volunteered time instead, joining a group of brothers in packing Raising A Reader book bags. This is an important detail, he says. As a millennial, he knows firsthand how intimidating and out of reach charitable giving can seem.

“In 2013, I couldn’t give money, but I could give my time. In 2014, I had the ability to give money, and so I gave it,” he says. “Being a Mason is about giving what you can. If you have the ability to give, you have the obligation to give.”

Masons learn to “await the time with patience,” Paul points out. For any young Mason with the desire to give, that’s the most important thing to remember.

“Don’t be discouraged. Don’t worry about what others are giving. You don’t have to donate a ton of money to make a difference,” he says. “We have this opportunity to stand on the shoulders of giants, to try to put our mark on the world. This is our opportunity to give love and charity, and hope that it grows into something great.”



Bro. Paul Dana of Phoenix Lodge No. 144 volunteered time until he could make a financial gift. “You don’t have to donate a ton of money to make a difference,” he says.

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Championing Public Schools

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCILS LEADING THE WAY

- 6** • Public School Advisory Councils supported public education statewide
- 6** • Public Schools Month kickoff celebrations held
- 179** • Masons attended kickoff celebrations



CALIFORNIA MASONIC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- 90** • Students received new scholarships from the Foundation
- 168** • Students received renewed scholarships

MASONIC HOMES SCHOLARSHIPS

- 15** • Students received scholarships administered and funded through the Masonic Homes

Lodge-administered scholarships

Five lodges administered 17 significant scholarships:

- Confidence Lodge No. 110 – Cecil and Bonita Baxter Scholarship Fund and T. Fenton Ham Scholarship Fund
- Chowchilla Lodge No. 485 – Chowchilla Masonic Scholarship Fund
- Greenleaf Gardens Lodge No. 670 – Arnold Wilmott Scholarship Fund
- Welcome Lodge No. 255 – Coalinga Masonic Scholarship Fund



Teacher of the Year awards



The fraternity awarded \$1,000 each to the five California teachers of the year in recognition of their important contributions to public education in our state.

Education partnerships

The Foundation continued its partnership with GLOW and the College Access Foundation of California to support College Futures, a helpful online tool that enables parents, students, and school administrators to more easily access federal funds for higher education.

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Celebrating Our Profound Impact on Literacy

In 2010, as California Masons established the strategic priorities for the next five years, we committed to make a profound difference for public education in California through a statewide program that would increase both community involvement and public awareness of the fraternity.

As we sought to identify the best way to achieve this objective, we quickly identified child literacy as the primary focus. Our first materials about Raising A Reader emphasized that literacy is the cornerstone of public education: If children can't read, they can't learn. Numerous studies demonstrated that early literacy determines lifelong learning outcomes, and that children who cannot read at grade level by third grade have a one in 10 chance of ever catching up. Yet research also showed a hopeful glimmer: No other single activity is as effective for early literacy development than reading regularly to a child.

At the time we discovered Raising A Reader and its groundbreaking approach to child literacy, combining book circulation with family engagement, we realized that this program had the potential to have a transformative impact on child literacy in California, while strengthening family bonds. Raising A Reader had already reached more than 800,000 children throughout the country and more than a decade of independent evaluations confirmed its effectiveness. Yet the program was only available in prekindergarten environments, for children up to age 5. Our partnership established a new,

ambitious goal – to bring Raising A Reader to 400 of our state's lowest-performing public schools, reaching 50,000 California families over the five-year lifespan of each set of materials.

Thanks to contributions from our members and lodges throughout the last three years, this goal has been achieved. In classrooms statewide, we truly are making a profound difference.

"Our partnership with the Masons of California has been instrumental in developing home reading habits of public school kindergarteners across the state of California," says Gabrielle Miller, Ph.D., Raising A Reader's executive director. "With your help, thousands of families have learned the importance of sharing books regularly with children; have helped children build the skills they need to become strong, independent readers; and have become meaningfully involved in their children's education. We are tremendously proud to support public education through our partnership with the Masons of California."

This year marked the conclusion of our fundraising commitment. But our impact on thousands of California children and families is just beginning. Take a look at where we've been and where we're going. Then, take a moment to celebrate.

Watch a video highlighting the profound difference your gifts have made for child literacy in California on the Masons of California YouTube channel at youtube.com/californiamasons.



RAISING A READER: *Progress of Our Profound Difference*

2010-11

- In its 2010-15 strategic plan, the fraternity pledges to “develop a statewide program in support of public education.”
- The California Masonic Foundation recognizes Raising A Reader’s unique literacy and family engagement approach, and begins working to establish a partnership.
- Public Schools Advisory Councils are formed in six California regions to provide grassroots support for Raising A Reader and other Foundation initiatives.

2011-12

- Grand Master Frank Loui adopts Raising A Reader as his Grand Master’s Project. The Masons of California pledge to raise \$1.2 million over three years to bring Raising A Reader’s award-winning program to 400 of the lowest-performing California schools.
- In the first year of the partnership, 1,214 individuals and 138 lodges raise \$482,185 in support of Raising A Reader.
- Raising A Reader is introduced to 84 classrooms, reaching more than 2,000 students and their families.

2012-13

- Grand Master John Lowe pledges to adopt Raising A Reader as his Grand Master’s Project, rebranding the initiative as the “Fraternity’s Project.”
- 305 individuals and 119 lodges raise \$314,128 in support of Raising A Reader.
- Raising A Reader comes to 185 classrooms, reaching more than 4,500 students and their families.



2013-14

- Grand Master John Cooper pledges to continue the Fraternity’s Project during his year to ensure the Masons of California will make a profound impact on child literacy.
- 236 individuals and 159 lodges raise \$414,871 in support of Raising A Reader, bringing the total amount raised over the three-year campaign to more than \$1.2 million.
- Raising A Reader comes to 381 classrooms, reaching more than 15,000 students and their families.

Looking forward: 2015-20

- California Masons’ fundraising commitment to Raising A Reader is complete.
- Raising A Reader continues to expand in California classrooms.
- Over these five years, more than 50,000 California students and their families will benefit from Raising A Reader’s award winning program – all thanks to California Masons.

Raising A Reader program highlights

- Kindergarten English language learners in San Diego with access to Raising A Reader scored an average of 18.94 points higher in listening and 13.9 points higher in reading than those without access to Raising A Reader.
- In a San Jose-area classroom, reading scores increased more than 300% after the implementation of the Raising A Reader program.
- Kindergarten classrooms with Raising A Reader were more likely to advance from beginning to intermediate levels of reading.
- Parents who attended Raising A Reader workshops were more likely to help children establish good at-home reading habits and to visit the library.
- Books were circulated in a variety of languages, allowing parents from diverse backgrounds to engage with their children in their native languages, as well as in English.

Testimonials from our community partners

“Many of the children who attend our school lack books in their homes. Books like the ones you donated are the building blocks of literacy and, most important, create a love of reading. We love seeing the delight on students’ faces when they get to talk about which books are their favorites.”

- Wendy Fitzgerald, Academic Specialist, Shearer Elementary School,
Napa Valley Unified School District

“The students and parents are excited and thankful to have this wonderful opportunity. I know that our reading scores will improve as a result of this program, but equally as important, a love for reading is being fostered. We thank the Masons for making this possible.”

- Shari Fox, Superintendent,
San Jacinto Unified School District

“Raising A Reader helps us build connections with the families in our community. Our district motto is ‘Small Town Schools Nurturing Great Big Dreams!’ What better place to nurture dreams than cuddled up with your family and a good book?”

- William McCoy, Superintendent,
Red Bluff Union Elementary School District

“My students and parents have been very excited about the program since the day it was introduced to them. They love the beautiful pictures and having something ‘extra special’ to share together.”

- Teacher, Cleveland Elementary School,
San Francisco Unified School District

EASING LODGE ADMINISTRATION

This year we worked to initiate a variety of programs to ease lodge administration.

INTACCT

In 2012, we introduced Intacct – an accounting and reporting solution that can simplify processes for all lodges and hall associations.

207

Lodges are currently using live or test Intacct systems

93

Halls have implemented Intacct

The Finance team also provided a number of live webinars and nine one-on-one training sessions throughout the year to provide hands-on instruction to interested lodges.

TAX SUPPORT

Tax return filing

The Finance team performed tax return filing services for 160 lodges.

Tax-exempt reinstatement

A number of lodges have lost tax-exempt status because of confusion surrounding tax laws. This year, nine lodges were reinstated retroactively by the IRS and 18 lodges were reinstated with the California franchise tax board.

INTRODUCING THE VAULT

As part of the strategic initiative to improve resources for lodge administration, the fraternity launched The Vault – an electronic record system for storing and sharing important lodge records. The Vault is available to all California lodges, and provides 2GB of free storage, with the option to purchase more at a nominal cost. Today, 93 lodges are using The Vault to preserve historic records, share information with members unable to attend lodge, and distribute trestleboards electronically. New features include a batch file upload, tax filing folder, companion service through Iron Mountain for secure offsite storage, and support digitizing critical files.

A CULTURE OF GIVING

Community Support

Masons4Mitts

Batter up! Masons4Mitts, a partnership between the California Masonic Foundation and the San Francisco Giants Community Fund, raises money to provide baseball mitts to at-risk youth who participate in the Junior Giants program.

4,523 at-risk youth received baseball mitts embellished with the Masons of California logo this year - *366 more than last year.*

Our six-year campaign has raised more than \$360,000 for this flagship program, making California Masons the largest Junior Giants sponsor in Northern California.



Nurse education

We continued to advance oncology nursing in California through By Your Side, initiated in 2011 by Past Grand Master Bill Bray and his wife, Linda. This year's program helped 156 nurses obtain oncology certification – *40 more than last year.*

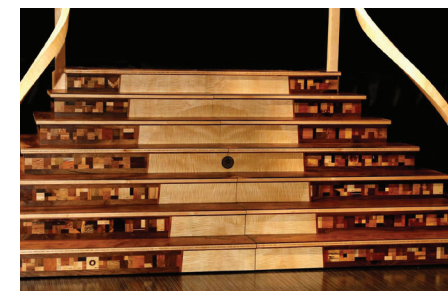
Five nursing students received scholarships through the Claire V. Cunningham Masonic Scholarship for Nurse Leaders.

Masonic youth leadership grants

We help strengthen and inspire the next generation of Masonic leaders by providing support and recognition to Masonic youth. This year we gave \$32,000 in leadership grants to Northern and Southern California DeMolay, Job's Daughters of California, and California Rainbow for Girls.

Revitalizing our Grand Lodge building

We renovated the California Masonic Memorial Temple to enhance its role as a multipurpose venue. A highlight of these efforts was a new centerpiece staircase for the main stage. Developed exclusively for use at Annual Communication, it was constructed of wood pieces collected throughout the State of California.



Supporting community on Nob Hill

The California Masonic Memorial Temple continued to serve as a community landmark, gaining recognition as a premier event venue and hosting 23 cultural, entertainment, and corporate events. Our operating partner, LiveNation, offered reduced rates for ethnic and cultural performers to encourage diversity.

Preserving local community spaces

We maintained ongoing contributions to Nob Hill's Huntington Park Preservation Fund, sustaining this treasured San Francisco destination.

Helping San Franciscans live greener

The Nob Hill Masonic Center leased parking spots to Zipcar and Getaround - local car-sharing services.

Acacia Creek: A growing Masonic community

118

Masonic family members currently live at Acacia Creek

22

Apartments were leased this year

9

Men have become Masons since moving to Acacia Creek

82%

Occupancy rate at the end of the year

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT

Your contributions are vitally important to our Grand Lodge and its many philanthropic programs. They truly show that the Masons of California and our lodges sustain a culture of giving.

Masonic Outreach Services is expanding care to our brothers and their families in need, in a large part because of support received from brothers and lodges. These services provide assistance and crucial resources to all California Masons, of all ages, even those who have moved outside California.

An important part of caring for aging brothers and their families is the assistance offered by our Masonic Homes in Union City and Covina. This year, our skilled nursing facility in the Lorber wing in Union City received a five-star rating from Nursing Home Compare. Distinctions like this demonstrate that the care we provide is truly leading the industry.

After leasing 22 units last year, Acacia Creek's occupancy level reached more than 82%. This success was due to the hard work of Chuck Major, our executive vice president, and his dedicated staff.

Our Masons4Mitts program had a record-breaking year, during which we provided 4,523 mitts to at-risk youth through the Junior Giants. We look forward to expanding Masons4Mitts to Southern California next year.

We completed the fundraising initiative of our Raising A Reader partnership by meeting our goal of raising more than \$1.2 million for this valuable program. There are now more than 16,000 children and families participating in this program in 381 California classrooms, with expansion to more than 50,000 students and their families planned in the coming years.

Our Cornerstone Society continues to celebrate donors who will leave a legacy for Freemasonry by making a gift in their will or estate plan. This is an important way for California Masons to extend their charity beyond natural life, and we are deeply indebted to these donors for their thoughtfulness.

Thank you to all of who have given for continuing to support Masonic charities, and for truly ensuring our fraternity maintains its treasured culture of giving.



A. Raymond Schmalz
2013-14 Grand Treasurer

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Masonic outreach programs are funded entirely by generous contributions from our fraternal family. Our legacy is built one gift at a time.

\$6,063,254

was generously contributed by more than
5,000 California fraternal family members

\$695,057

to the Annual Fund to
support Masonic Outreach
Services and public education

\$414,871

to support our fraternity-
wide project,
Raising A Reader

\$4,785,885

in trusts and bequests

\$29,192

for Masonic disaster relief

\$47,789

in charitable gift annuities and
charitable remainder trusts

\$90,460

to Masons4Mitts

EXPENSES IN SUPPORT OF MASONIC VALUES

\$45,497,893

for fraternal support and care

\$37,398,690

Masonic Homes in Union
City and Covina

\$5,261,827

Masonic Senior
Outreach Services

\$2,490,066

Masonic Center for
Youth and Families

\$347,310

Masonic Family
Outreach Services

\$800,741

for leadership development, Masonic
education, and public education initiatives

\$539,378

for scholarships and youth leadership grants

\$340,750

California Masonic
Foundation scholarships

\$29,000

Lodge-administered
scholarships

\$137,628

Masonic Homes of
California scholarships

\$32,000

California Masonic
Foundation leadership
grants to youth orders

\$128,963

for Masonic education and
leadership development

\$124,400

in support of nurse education

\$8,000

in support of public education

\$3,000

in gifts at cornerstone
ceremonies in California
communities

\$5,000

for California Teacher of the
Year awards

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Gifts by Individuals

Our culture of giving is exemplified by our members' generous support of our programs.

We rely on each of our members to give generously to those in need. Thank you to the thousands of California Masons, lodges, Masonic organizations, and friends of the fraternity who demonstrated their support by giving to the fraternity this year. While this space does not allow for us to list all donors, every single donation has allowed our fraternity to make a profound difference.

Gold Grand Master Circle // \$5,000 +

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R. Stephen Doan
Kenneth M. Jacobs
Carl F. Watson

Silver Grand Master Circle // \$2,500 to \$4,999

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CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

The Cornerstone Society celebrates donors who leave a legacy gift to Freemasonry by including the Masons of California in their wills or estate plans. A legacy gift to the Masonic Homes of California or the California Masonic Foundation ensures fraternal support and relief for future generations. We are grateful for your support.

Italics: deceased

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