

PAHRUMP LODGE NO. 54 F.&A.M. OF NEVADA 281 GEMINI DRIVE PAHRUMP NV 89060

TRESTLEBOARD Happy 4th of July!



July 2025

Notice to the Craft
Pahrump Masonic Lodge No. 54, F. & A.M.
Dues Adjustment Effective January 1, 2026

Brethren,

In accordance with the approved amendments to the Lodge Bylaws, as affirmed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master and presented at the June Stated Communication, Pahrump Masonic Lodge No. 54 has unanimously voted—by all members present—to increase the annual dues by \$10.00.

This adjustment will take effect beginning January 1, 2026. The new annual dues will be \$111.00.

This increase reflects our Lodge's continued commitment to financial stability and the support of our Masonic obligations, while maintaining the integrity of our operations and programs.

We thank you for your understanding and continued dedication to the Craft.



Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren All

In the hush before the Lodge is opened, and in the silence that precedes the first knock at the door, there lies a mystery deeper than words and older than stone. It is the moment when a man stands alone in darkness, divested of all possessions, stripped of every comfort and pretense, and asked if he comes of his own free will and accord. This is the Rite of Destitution—not merely a ritualistic requirement, but a deliberate, sacred shedding of the profane.

The Ancient Roots: Celestial Metals and Human Destiny

The ancients believed that human character was shaped by the heavens. The movements of the stars were not distant, impersonal events, but the handwriting of the gods. The seven sacred metals were linked to seven known celestial bodies, each carrying spiritual force:

- Gold Sun: nobility, truth, the divine spark.
- Silver Moon: reflection, change, the receptive soul.
- Iron Mars: willpower, aggression, war.
- Mercury Mercury: intellect, cunning, speed.
- Tin Jupiter: law, justice, expansion.
- Copper Venus: harmony, sensuality, love.
- Lead Saturn: time, weight, mortality.

These metals were not neutral—they carried the astral influences of the deities to whom they were sacred. Thus, to enter the sanctuary with metal on one's body was to invite these influences into a space meant to be purified, focused, and transcendent. This tradition was so ingrained in the ancient mysteries that it became a prerequisite for all serious initiation: divest thyself of metals, for the gods will not be mocked by the vanity of man.

Freemasonry's Inheritance: From Outer Temple to Inner Light

Freemasonry, in its wisdom, preserved this form but transfigured its essence.

We no longer speak of Jupiter or Saturn. We no longer fear the movements of Mars or the tides of Venus. But we *do* still fear what happens when a man enters the Lodge room full of wrath, vanity, pride, or hidden ambition. Though we do not name these as "metals," they are the very weights that drag a soul downward, far from the Light.

The Rite of Destitution, then, is a **ritualized reminder that nothing of the outer world may come with us on the inner journey**. We are not building a kingdom of gold or silver—we are building a Temple of the spirit. The candidate must approach that first step empty-handed, just as Moses stood barefoot before the burning bush, for the ground he treads upon is holy.

That only when the vessel is empty can it be filled. Only when the soil is cleared can the Temple be raised. And only when the passions are silenced can the voice of truth be heard.

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The Psychological Purification: Ego Laid Bare

Carl Jung once said that initiation is not about becoming someone new—it is about uncovering who you were before the world told you who to be. When we strip the candidate of metal, we do more than remove wealth. We remove the masks.

- The man of status becomes the man of silence.
- The man of learning becomes the man of listening.
- The man of pride becomes the man of submission.

It is in this moment of ritual poverty that the soul is best prepared to be enriched.

This, too, reflects the teachings of Scripture. In Matthew 19:21, Christ tells the rich young man: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor... and come and follow me." Not because wealth is inherently evil—but because attachment is the enemy of transformation.

Destitution as a Universal Leveler

The Lodge is one of the last remaining institutions where men of every walk of life meet upon the Level. The Rite of Destitution ensures that from the very first step, the candidate is made *equal* to his Brethren—not by the shedding of his name, but by the shedding of his identity as the world knows it.

It is also worth noting that in speculative Masonry, metal has always symbolized the **external labor** of the world. The Rough Ashlar is shaped not by gold or jewels, but by the hammer and chisel. Thus, to leave metal behind is to say, "Here, in this sacred place, I will lay down the burdens of the outer world, and lift up the tools of the inner work."

Brethren, how often have we entered the Lodge with "metal" still clinging to our minds? A slight from a co-worker. A harsh word at home. The distractions of business. The weight of politics or division. These are metals, too—and if not cast off before entering, they corrode the harmony of our labors and chill the warmth of Brotherly Love.

The Esoteric Call: Alchemy of the Soul

In deeper esoteric Masonry, this rite is the beginning of **alchemical transmutation**. The base metals of our lower nature must be burned away in the fire of initiation so that the gold of the perfected self may emerge.

Destitution is not deprivation—it is *preparation*.

It is echoed again and again in the Craft:

- The Apprentice gives up metal to gain Light.
- The Fellow Craft ascends a winding staircase leaving ignorance behind.
- The Master Mason descends into darkness to emerge into immortality.

Each degree is a death of one state of being and the birth of another—but the birth cannot come until the former is cast off.

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Final Reflections: A Lodge of Harmony or Discord?

Harmony is one of the foundational pillars of a successful Lodge, and its preservation is not the duty of the Master alone—it is the responsibility of each Brother.

Before the Lodge is opened, before we tie on our aprons or assume our stations, each of us must examine ourselves:

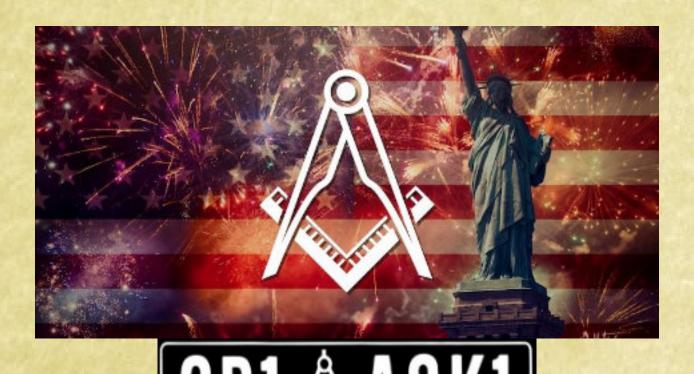
- Have I brought anger with me tonight?
- Have I gossiped or judged my Brother unfairly?
- Have I clung to my own opinions more than I have sought understanding?

If so, let us go first to the antechamber—not of the body, but of the heart—and perform again the Rite of Destitution. Not visibly, but inwardly. Let us cast off the metals of discord and clothe ourselves in the working garments of humility, silence, and Light.

Brethren, in the quiet solemnity of this ancient rite, we are reminded of something eternal: That only when the vessel is empty can it be filled. Only when the soil is cleared can the Temple be raised. And only when the passions are silenced can the voice of truth be heard.

Let us then enter the Lodge not as men of the world, but as men of the Spirit—free, humble, destitute, and ready to receive the wisdom of the ages.

So Mote It Be.





Pahrump Lodge No. 54 F. LA.M. of Nevada



W.B. Gregory F. Curtin P.M.
District 11, DDGL
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sec@pahrumpmasons54.org

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURER WORKSHOPS (DDGLW)

District-wide workshops for all lodges within District 11 are scheduled to occur in January, April, August, and November at the Pahrump Masonic Memorial Temple, situated at 281 E. Gemini Rd, Pahrump, Nevada. Each lodge will have the responsibility of hosting one of these district-wide workshops. For further details, please refer to the accompanying schedule.

Lodges should plan for DDGLW in their calendars and advertise them in their trestleboards. Lodges are not to schedule degree conferrals or other activities at the times scheduled for DDGLW. Every officer should come prepared to do the work of his current or advanced office or station. At district-wide DDGLW, each office and station will likely rotate several times.

DISTRICT WIDE DDGLW – HOST LODGE DESIGNATION

Date	Host Lodge	Key Agenda Items

April 19, 6025	Sandy Valley	Discussion: Guarding the West Gate
(Saturday)	Lodge	Rod Work, Carrying of the Flag and movements
	No. 57	50 Year Pin Presentation
	The State of	Calling up and back on different degrees
Control of the Control		Exemplification of the Second Degree Complete
August 16, 6025	Robert Burns	Discussion: Candidate/Brother Education programs
(Saturday)	Lodge	and Chambers of Reflection
	No. 59	Open/Close Third Degree
NOTE AND DESCRIPTION		Rod Work and movements
	TO PETER THE	Exemplification of the Third Degree First/Second
THE RESERVE		Section
November 15,	Pahrump Lodge	Discussion: 2025 Grand Lodge Actions Review
6024	No. 54	Elections of Officers - Installation of Officers -
(Saturday)	1,0.0	Funerals – Lewis Jewel Presentation – Honorary
	Golden State of	Past Master Apron Presentation – Officer
		Orientation Course – Lodge Succession Planning

Fraternally,

W.B. Gregory F. Curtin P.M District Deputy Grand Lecturer

District 12

Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Nevada

To the Brethren All:

As builders united by the square and bound by the compasses, we continue to labor not only upon the spiritual temple within, but also upon the physical edifice that houses our sacred work. It is with that in mind that I write to share several important undertakings in the quarries of Pahrump Lodge No. 54.

A Fence for Our Sanctuary
In recent times, we have been met with concerns over trespassers and theft upon our Lodge property. In keeping with our charge to preserve and protect that which is entrusted to us, plans are underway to construct a secure fence around our Lodge. This fence shall not only provide physical security but shall also serve as a symbol of the boundary between the profane world and our sacred space. Let us rally together, as Brothers ought to do, to support this endeavor for the safety and dignity of our Lodge.

The Fire Pit Fellowship Project
In the spirit of Brotherly love and conviviality, we are excited to announce the development of a fire pit area on Lodge grounds. This space is envisioned as a gathering place under the canopy of heaven—where sparks of light and friendship may rise with the flames. We aim to have this project completed in time for our Fourth of July Barbecue, and for future gatherings where warmth, stories, and fellowship may be shared in the true spirit of Masonry.

40th Anniversary .999 Fine Silver Coin - Now Available
To commemorate 40 years since our Charter and 25 years in our current Lodge building, we are proud to offer a limited edition .999 fine silver coin, each individually serial numbered and custom-designed to honor this dual milestone. These stunning keepsakes are available for \$150 each, with all proceeds directly supporting the work and future of our Lodge. This is not only a collector's item, but a lasting symbol of our shared legacy. Secure yours while supplies last.

Honoring W.B. Les Peterson, H.P.M. on His 99th Birthday

Builder of the Lodge-Builder of Brotherhood

This month, we joyfully celebrate the 99th birthday of Worshipful Brother Les Peterson, Honorary Past Master of Pahrump Masonic Lodge No. 54. As we reflect on his nearly century-long journey, we are reminded that few men leave as tangible and lasting a legacy on a lodge as W.B. Les has.

Born in 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, Brother Les began his path in the working world as a carpenter, following in his father's footsteps. That trade, which he mastered over a lifetime, would one day help shape the very room in which we hold our meetings, confer our degrees, and build our bonds.

Leslie served his country in the Korean War, initially with an artillery unit before being transferred to serve as the company's Postal Clerk. It was through this post that a fateful letter from a young woman named Barbara found its way into his hands. What started as a kind gesture from a stranger blossomed into a lifelong love story. They married in 1954 and began building a life together, first in Chicago, then in California, and finally settling in Pahrump in 1997—when their home was one of the only houses in the area.

Les began his Masonic journey in 1960, receiving his Entered Apprentice degree on June 9, being passed to Fellow Craft that September, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on February 23, 1961. He affiliated with Pahrump Lodge No. 54 in 2001, bringing with him a lifetime of skill, service, and wisdom.

W.B. Les has contributed to our Lodge in a uniquely personal and profound way. His woodworking talents have graced our lodge room with custom-built lecterns, chairs, the Tiler's table, and countless other pieces. The Master's and Wardens' gavels, the beautifully crafted pillars, and even the cherished Traveling Gavel all bear the craftsmanship and care of Brother Les's hands.

Step into our lodge room, and you are surrounded by his legacy—timeless woodwork that will serve generations of Masons to come. His ghost town display, handcrafted from a converted shipping container, stands as another testament to his ingenuity and love of storytelling. And let us not forget the full-size Santa's sleigh he lovingly restored—because with W.B. Les, everything he touches is filled with both craftsmanship and heart.

One of his proudest Masonic moments was receiving the Honorary Past Master's apron from W.B. Greg Curtin, P.M., a symbol of his dedication and impact. That apron now holds the place of honor in the cabinet he himself built.

Brother Les Peterson is not just a builder of things—he is a builder of community, tradition, and brotherhood. On behalf of all the Brethren of Pahrump Lodge No. 54, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his many contributions and wish him a very happy and healthy 99th birthday.

Thank you, W.B. Les, for all you have done and continue to represent. You are truly a cornerstone of this Lodge.

With gratitude and fraternal affection, The Officers and Brethren Pahrump Masonic Lodge No. 54



A Masonic Reflection on the Fourth of July

Brethren,

As we gather to celebrate the Fourth of July, the birthday of our great nation, it is fitting for us as Freemasons to pause and reflect not only on the historical significance of this day but also on its deeper meaning in the context of our Craft.

The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, was more than a political document; it was a bold affirmation of liberty, equality, and the unalienable rights of mankind. These are values we, as Freemasons, hold dear—principles echoed in every lodge meeting, in every working tool, and in every degree we confer.

It is no coincidence that many of the Founding Fathers were Brothers of the Craft. Men like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and Paul Revere exemplified the Masonic virtues of fortitude, prudence, justice, and temperance. They labored not only in the quarry of speculative Masonry but also in the building of a nation founded on reason, morality, and the dignity of the individual.

As Freemasons, we are called to be builders of a different kind—builders of character, of community, and of peace. The same spirit that inspired a revolution against tyranny must continue to inspire us to uphold the rights and freedoms of all people, to aid the distressed, to educate the ignorant, and to be examples of integrity in our daily lives.

Let this Independence Day be more than fireworks and festivities. Let it be a reaffirmation of our Masonic duties: to be true to ourselves, to our brothers, to our country, and to the Great Architect of the Universe.

As the red, white, and blue wave in the summer breeze, let us also raise high the banner of Freemasonry—steadfast in our commitment to liberty, enlightenment, and brotherly love.

Happy Independence Day, my Brothers. May we always labor in the service of freedom and light.

Fraternally, **Athanasius Illumini**

DARK DAYS OF SUMMER

What It Really Means When a Lodge "Goes Dark"

Each year, as the summer months approach, many Masonic Lodges across the country prepare to "go dark." For newer Brethren or those unfamiliar with the term, it may sound mysterious—even ominous. But rest assured, going dark is neither a disappearance nor a dormancy of our beloved Craft. Rather, it is a long-standing tradition rooted in practicality, renewal, and the enduring nature of Masonic Brotherhood.

What Does "Going Dark" Mean?

When a Lodge goes dark, it simply means that it suspends its Stated Meetings—those regular, monthly business meetings outlined in its bylaws—typically during the summer months, such as July and August. The exact duration and timing can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, depending on the local customs and the preferences of the Lodge.

However, it is essential to emphasize: going dark does not mean that Masonry itself stops.

The Light of Masonry Still Shines

Some might think that when the Lodge doors close for stated meetings, the work of a Mason also pauses. In truth, quite the opposite is often the case. Summer can be a time of reflection, learning, connection, and preparation.

Here's what going dark does not mean:

- It does not mean you stop being a Mason.

 Our obligations are not seasonal. The square and compass don't come off with the heat. We are Masons in our homes, at our workplaces, in our communities, and in every interaction we have.
- It does not mean the end of Brotherhood.
- In fact, many Lodges use the summer as an opportunity to strengthen fraternal bonds through informal gatherings, family picnics, charity events, breakfasts, or even road trips to visit other Lodges that remain open. Fellowship often flourishes in these relaxed settings.
- It does not mean an end to Masonic learning.

 With fewer formal meetings, summer offers time for personal study. Brethren can revisit ritual work, explore the symbolism of Masonry, read Masonic history, or engage in discussion groups.

 Many Masons use this time to seek deeper light.
- It does not mean no events or degree work. Some Lodges still confer degrees or hold special meetings when necessary, even while officially dark. Special communications, practice sessions, officer planning meetings, and charitable efforts may continue based on the needs and energy of the Brethren.

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Why Go Dark at All?

The practice of going dark is largely rooted in practicality. The summer months bring vacations, family commitments, and often soaring temperatures that can make attendance difficult. By pausing stated meetings, Lodges give their officers and members a chance to rest, recharge, and return in the fall renewed in spirit and purpose.

Moreover, the concept of "rest" has deep symbolic meaning in Masonic thought. Just as the builder must pause to examine his work, sharpen his tools, and prepare for the next task, so too must the Lodge occasionally step back to assess and realign itself. In the quiet of these months, growth often occurs—not in the open light, but in the fertile soil of contemplation.

Using the Darkness Wisely

As we enter the dark months, let us not treat them as a break from Masonry, but as a different mode of Masonry. A time to:

- Reconnect with Brothers over a meal or phone call.
- Read that Masonic book you've been meaning to get to.
- Invite a potential candidate to a social event.
- Lend a hand to a Brother or widow in need.
- Reflect on your own journey and where you wish to go next.

When the Lights Come Back On

And then, in due season, the Lodge will resume its regular course. The gavel will strike, the Brethren will assemble, and the altar will once again be surrounded by those who seek the light of Truth. But let it not be said that we waited to resume our labors until then—for in the hearts and actions of true Masons, the Lodge never truly goes dark.

Alaric Inlustratus



THE SILVER COINS ARE HERE. BUY THEM NOW.

40 YEAR AND 25 YEAR COIN

Brethren, We are coming up on two milestones for the lodge.

40 year anniversary as a Lodge.
25 year anniversary of our current building

We are having a anniversary coin being minted for this occasion. It will be a special .999 silver 1 ounce coin minted for this special occasion. We will be selling the special anniversary edition coins and using the money for the building fund.

Their will only be 100 coins minted. We are taking reservations for these coins already. If you would like to buy a coin and would like a particular number between 11 and 100, send in a request and we will reserve your coin if it is still available. If you don't care about the number, then email us and tell us to give you a random number.

The first 10 coins will have a special raffle. They will still cost \$150 dollars, but you will have to buy a \$10 raffle ticket to win the option to buy one of the first 10 coins. They will draw a number in lodge and the order they are drawn will give you the option to buy the coin at that \$150 dollar price.

As always, email us and ask any question you may have.

To purchase a coin, click below

https://zfrmz.com/v2bTvJoUeiPDfNBJG9J3

Bill Cookston Junior Warden





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Actual Bir	thday (July)
Bro. Travis Huggins	Bro. Trevor Meade
W.B. Cameron McRae H.P.M.	
Bro. Leland Wayne Bridges	W.B. Dwain Rittenhouse P.M.
	Bro James McRae
Bro. Walter Loper	

Masonic Br	irthday (July)
Bro. Thomas Gibson	21 years
Bro. Tim Richards	4 years
Bro. William Snow	21 Years
Bro. Henry Neth	22 Years
Bro. John Powel	16 Years
Bro. Stephen Larson III	6 Years
Bro. Gerard Sapp	10 Years
Bro. Leland Wayne Bridges	27 Years
W.B. Neal Snyder	25 Years

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nevada Most Worshipful Zakariah A. Gulling



Congratulations to all Grand Lodge Officers elected and appointed for the year 2025. More information and pictures can be found at the Grand Lodge website.

www.NVMasons.org

July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	30	1 Breakfast Club Terible's Roadhouse	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Breakfast Club Terible's Roadhouse	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Breakfast Club Terible's Roadhouse	16	17	18	19 Lodge Breakfast \$7 Open to the public 8am to 9:30am.
20	21	22 Breakfast Club Terible's Roadhouse	23	24	25 Pahrump Mason Poker Night. 6:00pm	26 Pahrump Table Lodge 6pm
27	28	29 Breakfast Club Terible's Roadhouse	30	31		2

Trestle-Board Sponsorship

We will continue offering this program and hope to receive more personal and business sponsors each year. Prices will remain the same, \$25.00 for personal sponsorship and \$50.00 for a business. If you know of a reputable business that would like to advertise in our Trestle-Board, please contact: W.B. Gregory F. Curtín P.M. @ (775) 751-0755

Trestle-Board Sponsors

W.B. Greg, W.B. Frank Heyer, W.B. Dave Cook and W.B. Harold and Janice Scalzo. W.B. Leslie Peterson.



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- NMLS # 2017340



Officers

Worshipful Master Elec.	Cristian Gliga
Senior Warden - Elect	Bíll Cookston
Junior Warden - Elect	Britton Heller
Treasurer	Cameron McRae
Secretary	Greg Curtín PM
Senior Deacon	James McRae
Junior Deacon	Shane Hodge
Senior Steward	Joe Broadfoot
Junior Steward	Harold Rubin-Smith
Chaplain	Frank Heyer P.M.
Marshall	Ríck Hall P.M.
Tyler	Jerome Willinsky
Historian	Bryan Pettengill P.M.
DGL	Bíll Cookston
Master of Ceremonies	Dave Cook P.M.
Master of Ceremonies	Glen Schlaht

Due to the problems we are having with scammers., We are eliminating the contact info for the officers. If you want to contact one and need their contact info, you can call us or email us at: inquiry@pahrumpmasonsnv.org

Past Masters

1985 - Hershel Trucks UD*	1998 - George Bunch*	2011 - James Webb*
1986 - Floyd Neth*	1999 - Dave Stundon*	2012 - Philip Bertuglia
1987 - Harvey Rakestraw*	2000 - Dave Stundon*	2013 - Fred Beeman*
1988 - Harold Dolan*	2001 - Wade Peterson	2014 - David B. White*
1989 - J.D. Bowman*	2002 - George Stofferan*	2015 - John D. Wehrly
1990 - David Hall	2003 - Ed Robinson*	2016 - Gregory F. Curtín
1991 - Steve Kirker	2004 - Bruce Patterson*	2017 - R. Darce Wilson
1992 - Harold Waltz	2005 - Dave Hall	2018 - David Darrow
1993 - Paul Lunsford	2006 - Ray Raffety*	2019 - Michael Burkintas
1994 - Robert Clark	2007 - J.D. Bowmen*	2020 - Dave Cook
1995 - Bobby Hurst*	2008 - Richard Willey	2021 - Fred Beeman*
1996 - Ira "Red" Copass*	2009 - Sam Davís, Ir.*	2022 - Thomas O'Boyle
1997 - Robert Clark	2010 - Jerry Keeney	2023 - Míke Cappa
* Deceased	d	2024 - Jeremy Turek

Honorary Past Masters

2012 - Vaughn Rasmussen	2018 - Harry Smith *
2017 - Les Peterson	2024 - Cameron McRae

Trustees

3 year Jeremy Turek P.M.
2 year Mike Cappa P.M.
ı year Darce Wilson P.M.

Grand Lodge Officers



W.B. Greg Curtin P.M., Grand Senior Deacon