In the Daylight

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M.
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405
Ed: davidikarp@karpmediation.com

September 2026

Communication

Foreword...

This edition of the Trestle Board is being published early, to be read in advance of an upcoming “Open Forum” on August 15, 2026 (for Lodge members only). The theme this month is communication.

I think about communication nearly all the time, particularly since I have been preparing the monthly Trestle Board for the Lodge since October 2018. (By the way, October 2026 will be the last edition from me.) . I hope you have enjoyed reading them. I always appreciate feedback although not too many readers have said much, if anything, to me about the work. Even so, it has always been an enjoyable endeavor for me.

Communication is so important to the Lodge, and the Trestle Board is not the only device by which to learn what’s going on. Posting via Messenger is helpful. Another good substitute is text messaging, especially when new news must get out to the members quickly. Notices, as many as can be sent, early and often, will be welcomed as reminders.

Also, it’s important to be careful in communication. Justice Louis Brandeis famously said, “Nine tenths of the serious controversies which arise in life result from misunderstanding.” So, be clear when you have something to say or write. Moreover, be careful what you say in Lodge, and please say it so everyone can understand what is being said, i.e., in a common language for all.

Finally, let’s all be good listeners. That is important to communication too. Frank Zappa is credited with saying, “"A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open."

There are many good reasons for communicating well in and for the Lodge. See if some of the entries on these pages are useful to you.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

Aug/Sept Trestle Board

(We meet in person each month on the first and third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. Always subject to change.*)

Aug. 15, 2026 10AM Open Forum, members only; then, possibly First Degree Conferrals after lunch.*

Sept. 5 2026 10AM, Masonic Education
Sept 5, 2026 11AM, Stated Meeting. Lunch donation $15/person. Attire: Business casual (polo shirt); Officers - CFS Navy Blue Polo.
Sept. 5, 2026 12:30 - 2:30PM Practice
Sept. 19, 2026 10AM DSI/OSI Host: CFS Daylight 866 Entire 3rd Deg..

*See Messenger or text messaging for the Master’s postings or contact him directly for add’l info or changes.. Ed.



How to Communicate Effectively

Editor's note: The following is quoted and excerpted from a lengthy article of the Grand Lodge of Maine at https://www.mainemason.org/resources/how-to-communicate-effectively/ . The article was written for a new Master but is applicable to all.

... [It is important to] communicate effectively with [the] membership if [the] goal is to build an active and growing Lodge....

A. VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

[...]

Very few people in this world can be classified as natural public speakers. In almost every instance when you have heard someone deliver an effective speech, that person has taken the time and effort to prepare himself to communicate effectively.... Take the time and make the effort to develop your thoughts, to jot down an outline and to think through it until you have found the words you are comfortable with. You will never regret the time and effort expended....

B. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

... The quality and style of ... written communications will determine whether or not the materials are actually read.

1. The Trestleboard

[...] The following are some helpful hints regarding the publication of an interesting trestleboard.

a. ... Select ... materials that people will [hopefully] enjoy reading.

b. Select a format that will attract the reader s interest....

c. Utilize representative graphics when possible to attract the reader s attention and to accentuate the writer's purpose.

d. ... Talk about your past, present and future activities in a positive manner....

e. Check the final product....

f. Plan your monthly production cycle to insure that your readers have the materials in their hands at least two weeks prior to your next stated meeting. A late trestleboard is the same as no trestleboard.

g. Invite your membership to submit, for publication, guest articles on different items of interest.

2. Special Mailers

.... The following are examples of alternate means of written communications that [can be considered].

a. Special Events

Grand Master visitations, picnics, receptions, fund raisers, etc. require a special type of notification to the membership. A special flier with fun graphics will command attention for your fund raising or social events....

b. Goals and Objectives

Utilize a special mailer ... to insure that each member is aware of the established goals and objectives of the Lodge. Your membership will read materials that are in letter form and well produced.

c. Signs and Posters

... Constant reminders by the trestleboard, letters and posters will effectively promote your activities and assist in achieving success....

C. PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

... The following are some helpful hints:

1. Word of Mouth

... Human nature, being what it is, will insure that everyone will become informed, either positively or negatively, of one's actions. The trick is to accentuate the positive....

[continues on next page, see "Effective"]

["Effective Communication," ctd frm p. 2]

Every Lodge and every organization has its share of nay-sayers. If [one] listen[s] and react[s] to those who display a negative attitude, [one] will also become infected with that frame of reference and the entire Lodge will suffer. On [the other] hand, ... [d]iscussing problems places everything on the table.

[...]

Discussing solutions to ... problems is the finest way to accentuate the positive.... Our fraternity is essentially a social organization designed to provide happiness and brotherly love. If negative thinking has seeped into [the] Lodge, [it needs to be changed]. A successful Lodge is a positive, forward moving Lodge....

2. Body Language

... Emotions of anger, disappointment and frustration, if they are apparent to the membership, not by [one's] words, but by the manner in which [one] communicate[s] with ... body and facial expressions, will create a similar atmosphere within [the] Lodge. Likewise, if you communicate confidence, satisfaction, and brotherly love by your actions, those positive emotions will also infect the brethren....

[...] Consider the following ... :

a. Leave All Your Blues At Home

... The important thing is for you to prepare yourself emotionally before you enter any meeting of your Lodge.

b. Put On A Happy Face

[G]reet [the] brethren with joy and brotherly love. You may be unhappy within, but that negative disease will not infect others.

c. A Personal Greeting For Everyone

... Every officer and every member must greet each other with joy and enthusiasm for their participation that [day]. A Brother who is not greeted and brought into the circle is a Brother who feels neglected and unwanted, the worst possible emotion....

d. The Clique Includes Everyone

... [W]ithin a Masonic Lodge, every member and every visitor should feel that he and his family are a vital part of the in-group. There must never be anyone who feels that he is an outsider within your Lodge.... [¶] No matter what the event is, either within the Lodge or perhaps a gathering following a meeting, invite all to attendance. Most probably won't attend but they will not feel excluded. Those who do attend will feel closer to the Lodge and its members....



3. Appearance

[...]

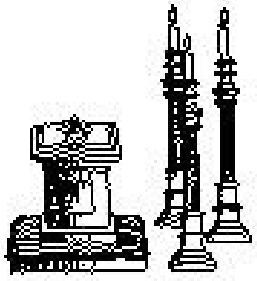
The body language of dress and appearance has forever been important to all successful organizations.... The historical traditions of Freemasonry dictate that our meetings and ritual be performed in a formal dignified manner.... A casual and unkept appearance will result in casual and sloppy [membership,] leadership and ritual....

4. Listening

... Positive communication only occurs when two or more parties are able to fully and honestly exchange their views on a particular issue....

Be open by continually talking with, not to, the membership. Everyone should feel that [everyone is] open minded and will listen to their particular ideas or complaints. Be patient by taking the time to hear them out.... The bottom line is that you took the time, listened and communicated back.... Everyone should leave a discussion feeling good about the exchange and understanding of each other's positions. [End of quoted material]





Benefits of Communication Among Freemasons

"The benefits of communication between Masonic men are both profound and multifaceted. From fostering unity and brotherhood to nurturing personal growth and ethical values, the act of coming together to share insights and experiences is at the core of the Masonic journey. In a world that sometimes feels disjointed and distant, the Masonic fraternity serves as a testament to the enduring power of genuine human connection. Through communication, Freemasons not only strengthen their bonds but also reaffirm their commitment to self-improvement, enlightenment, and the betterment of society. As Freemasons engage in open and meaningful dialogue, they contribute to a legacy of shared wisdom that transcends generations and exemplifies the transformative potential of authentic communication."

Source: Post, entitled "The Profound Benefits of Communication Between Freemasons," by Bro. Brad Meyer, South Valley Lodge 187, Morgan Hill, CA at https://southvalleylodge187.com/communications/the-profound-benefits-of-communication-between-freemasons/

The Masonic Meaning of "Communication"

"COMMUNICATION: The meeting of a Lodge is so called. There is a peculiar significance in this term. To communicate, which, in the Old English form, was to common, originally meant to share in common with others. The great sacrament of the Christian Church, which denotes a participation in the mysteries of the religion and a fellowship in the church, is called a communion, which is fundamentally the same as a communication, for he who partakes of the communion is said to communicate. Hence, the meetings of Masonic Lodges are called communications, to signify that it is not simply the ordinary meeting of a society for the transaction of business, but that such meeting is the fellowship of men engaged in a common pursuit, and governed by a common principle, and that there is therein a communication or participation of those feelings and sentiments that constitute a true brotherhood.

"The communications of Lodges are regular or stated and special or emergent. Regular communications are held under the provision of the by-laws, but special communications are called by order of the Master. It is a regulation that no special communication can alter, amend, or rescind the proceedings of a regular communication.

[Continues on next page, see "Masonic"]

["Masonic Communication, ctd. frm p. 4]

"So we find that a Masonic Communication takes on a much greater meaning, that of joining together in a common brotherhood in pursuit of common goals and common purposes based upon our common principles. With that explanation in mind, we can better guard ourselves in the transaction of our lodge business, in the conferral of our degrees and in the meeting in fellowship with our Brethren. The Lodge Communication is much more than just a meeting. It is much more than an assembly of Masons. It is, must, and should ever be, a joining together of kindred spirits for those loftier purposes of promoting, practicing, and extolling those Masonic virtues we espouse."

Source: https://masonicshop.com/masonic-articles/article/?a_82 .

Grand Lodge's Annual Communication

Here are a few details about next month's Annual Communication from https://freemason.org/gm_events/177th-california-annual-communication/

Date:
Oct 09, 2026 - Oct 11, 2026
Location:
California Masonic Memorial Temple
1111 California St.
San Francisco, CA 94108

Organizer Contact Info
Member Services
memberservices@freemason.org
415-776-7000

Editor's note: Master Masons may attend all events. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts will have fewer options but may still go.

CFS Daylight's Officers for 2026

Worshipful Master – Bro. Joseph R. Chavez
Senior Warden – Bro. Roland Cortel
Junior Warden –
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM
Treasurer – Bro. Ely Ayao
Secretary – Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Asst. Secretary – WB Gerald Alvarez, PM
Chaplain – Bro. Aldrin Perez
Senior Deacon – Bro. Ryan Lim
Junior Deacon – Bro. Harlem Ruiz
Senior Steward – Bro. Lloyd Donasco, Sr.
Junior Steward – Bro. Earl Austria
Marshal – Bro. Jamille Paas
Organist – Bro. Cody Morrison
Tiler – Bro. Marvin De Guzman
Officers' Coach –
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM
Candidates' Coach –
Inspector – WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

Contact information:
Master:
Worshipful Joseph Chavez

Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar





When Anger Interferes with Communication

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from an online article entitled "The Luxury of Anger" by Very Ill. Bro. Kristine Wilson-Slack 33rd Deg. at https://www.universalfreemasonry.org/en/article/luxury-of-anger .

"In a recent conversation, I spoke with a fellow Freemason from another Order about hate. He was telling me about how one of his members, of a fairly high degree, harbored deep resentment toward another of his members. In an organization built upon discipline and education, this seems uncharacteristic. After all that we're learning as Freemasons about holding our brethren in high regard and affording them every "kind office," how can anyone be angry at another Brother for any length of time? It seems irresponsible.

"Then it struck me, equally as deeply, that [if] on [the] path of Freemasonry, you do not have the luxury of anger or hatred, nor the privilege of animosity or of fear of any kind. [¶] ... [Instead,] we Freemasons are dedicated to the eradication of division and strife.... [¶] [Other] people resort to gossip, back-stabbing, shunning, yelling, or out-and-out violence. [¶] A Freemason stands apart, or should. We know better....

[...]

"[We] represent a path of taking the higher road; eventually, in order to promote the welfare of humanity and Freemasonry as a whole, [a Mason] cannot afford to be wrapped up in self-obsessed emotion; otherwise, the Great Work can never happen."

Masonic Recognition

Past Masters of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M.

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)
Rogelio ("Roger") L. Soriano (2019)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2020-2021)
Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan (2022)
Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr. (2023)
Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan (2024)
Gerald J. Alvarez (2025)

Past Masters by Affiliation

Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, (2021)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)
Omar Cervantes (2021)
Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)
Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)
Bruce L. Hawley (1984)*
Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

Past Masters who are "Honorary Members"

Jovito ("Jovi") R. Rivera (2017)
Timoteo ("Tim") Zuniga (2020)

Hiram Award (for dedicated Service)

Akram Al-Awar (2024)
Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM (2022)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM (2022)
Keith S. Cotton (2017)
Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)
Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)*
David I. Karp (2020)
Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr., PM (2025)
Barry Mann (2021)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)*
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

Sciots' Cornerstone Award

Ely D. Ayao (2025)

Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

Steven W. Engstrom (2022)
David I. Karp (2007)

* Deceased.

7 Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M. 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405 Ed: davidikarp@karpmediation.com September 2026

PEACE & HARMONY
MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

Grand Master's Proclamation

SEPTEMBER 2026 IS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH

Whereas California Masons have, since 1920, supported public education through the observance of Public Schools Month and its related programs and initiatives; and

Whereas supporting public education is a bedrock principle of California Masonry; and

Whereas a fair, just, and equitable civil society is predicated on a strong system of public education; therefore,

As grand master, I proclaim September 2026 to be Public Schools Month in California.

For more than 100 years, California Masons have celebrated Public Schools Month. Spurred by the belief that every member of our community is entitled to a free, robust education through which they become informed citizens, Masons including John Swett, the "father of public education" in California, have played a central role in developing and supporting the school system in California and beyond.

That system is in need of our support today. California schools are facing an acute teacher shortage, particularly in special education, dual-language programs, and other specialized fields; nearly one in five students is considered chronically absent; and schools face uncertainty over federal funding. Organizations like the Masons of California are being relied on more than ever to help close gaps in funding, technology, and materials that our schools require to ensure that students have equal access to learning and a safe and healthy environment.

Thanks to partnerships with groups like Raising a Reader, the Masons of California are making a positive impact in our public schools. But it's also up to individual members and lodges to do what they can to support our public school students, families, teachers, and administrators. We have seen numerous examples of this, whether it's hosting teacher appreciation events at the lodge, handing out college scholarships for deserving students, or volunteering time and energy to make renovations to a schoolyard. In that spirit, I call on California Masons to take this opportunity to work together to provide aid to their local schools; tutor or mentor students in their community; organize lodge events to improve school grounds and to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators have the equipment they need; and donate to the California Masonic Foundation so that all kids in California have access to the support and materials they need to succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Grand Master Garrett S. Chan
Attest:
Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou





Greetings from the East

Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing well. Over the past several weeks, things have been a little out of the ordinary. As with any strong organization, challenges will inevitably arise. The true measure of an organization is not whether difficulties exist, but how its members come together to resolve them. Every challenge presents us with an opportunity to grow stronger, improve, and learn from one another.

With that in mind, this month's article is about communication.

What is communication?

Each of us may have our own understanding of what communication is and what it means. To me, communication is an opportunity to build trust, strengthen relationships, and resolve misunderstandings. Without communication, assumptions begin to replace facts, small concerns become larger problems, and divisions can begin to develop where unity once existed.

Communication, however, is much more than simply talking or hearing words. The true key to effective communication is listening.

There is a significant difference between hearing someone and truly listening to him. Hearing is passive, it simply means the words have reached our ears. Listening, on the other hand, requires intention and effort. It means trying to understand not only what is being said, but also why it is being said. It requires patience, respect, empathy, and an open mind.

Sometimes we allow ourselves to become distracted by our own thoughts or emotions, and instead of listening to understand, we listen only to respond. When that happens, misunderstandings can grow, frustrations increase, and communication begins to break down.

Effective communication also means ensuring that information is shared accurately. If something is unclear or uncertain, it is the responsibility of the listener to ask questions and seek clarification rather than making assumptions. Likewise, it is the responsibility of the person communicating to ensure that the message is expressed as clearly as possible.

We must also recognize that misunderstandings are not always the result of poor intentions. They can occur because of differences in culture, language, life experiences, or simply because people communicate in different ways. What may seem perfectly clear to one person may be interpreted differently by another. This is why patience, understanding, and clarification are so important.

As Freemasons, we are taught the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Genuine communication reflects all three. Brotherly Love encourages us to speak with kindness and to listen with compassion. Relief reminds us to help one another through challenges rather than adding to them. Truth calls upon us to seek understanding before reaching conclusions and to ensure that what we share is accurate and honest.

If we desire harmony within our Lodge, communication cannot be something we practice only when problems arise. It must become part of who we are. It should guide our conversations, our decisions, and our interactions with one another. A simple conversation held with respect can prevent unnecessary misunderstandings, strengthen friendships, and preserve the harmony of our Lodge.

Fraternally,
Joseph Chavez
Master

9 Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M. 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405 Ed: davidikarp@karpmediation.com September 2026

Greetings from the West

Brethren,

This edition of the Trestle Board is being published early, to be read in advance of an upcoming "Open Forum" on August 15. So I will address that forum in this message.

May we gather on that day in a spirit of peace, harmony, and mutual respect. Let our words be thoughtful, our minds open, and our actions guided by wisdom and brotherly love.

May this Lodge be a place where every voice is heard with courtesy, every opinion is considered with fairness, and every discussion is directed to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding among us. Let us proceed with unity of purpose, seeking knowledge, promoting goodwill, and working together for the benefit of our Lodge.

May peace and harmony prevail throughout our deliberations of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to bless our Lodge with wisdom and strength.

As we meet together, let us greet one another with respect, kindness, and sincerity and allow our fellowship to grow stronger, our discussions to be guided with purpose, and our actions to reflect the principles of Freemasonry.

May this gathering strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among us and inspire us to serve our families, our communities, and our Craft with integrity and compassion.

I wish everyone a productive open forum, warm fellowship, and safe travels home.

Thank you, Brethren.

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Roland Cortel

Senior Warden

Greetings from the South

Brethren,

The theme for the month of September is communication. Since the beginning of time, communication has played a vital role in our lives. From smoke signals and Morse code to digital and analog communication, the ability to share messages, ideas, and intentions remains essential to our daily living and to the harmony of our Fraternity.

As we celebrate the month of September, the ninth month of the year, the Lodge continues its preparation for the upcoming Grand Lodge Annual Communication. The pillars of the Lodge have been duly prepared to attend and represent our Lodge in the important voting privileges entrusted to each constituent Lodge.

During this season, we also begin the formation of a new line of officers for the 2027 Masonic Year. This is a meaningful time of transition, preparation, and renewed dedication to the principles and responsibilities of our craft.

Let us continue to labor together in harmony, support our officers and representatives, and prepare ourselves for the work ahead with wisdom, unity, and brotherly love.

We also extend our warmest greetings to all September birthday celebrants. Congratulations, Brethren, and may you blessed with many more birthdays to come.

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon us always.

Thank you.

Fraternally yours,

Archimedes "Kim" Cabanig, PM.

Junior Warden



From our Secretary: Communication as a Tool for Success

Communication is one of the most powerful tools for achieving success in both our personal and professional lives. It is more than simply exchanging information it is the ability to clearly express ideas, actively listen, and build meaningful relationships. Effective communication fosters trust, reduces misunderstandings, and creates opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Successful communication begins with listening. When we listen with the intent to understand rather than simply respond, we gain valuable insights and demonstrate respect for others. Clear, honest, and respectful communication also helps resolve conflicts, strengthen teamwork, and inspire confidence.

In the workplace, strong communication improves productivity, enhances customer relationships, and enables leaders to motivate their teams. In our personal lives, it deepens relationships by encouraging empathy, openness, and mutual understanding.

Success is rarely achieved alone. Whether we are working toward a personal goal, leading a team, or supporting a community, our ability to communicate effectively often determines the quality of our relationships and the outcomes we achieve.

Ultimately, communication is not just a skill it is a foundation for success. By speaking with clarity, listening with empathy, and communicating with integrity, we open doors to new opportunities, stronger partnerships, and lasting achievements.

Fraternally,
Bro. Akram Al-Awar, Secretary
(Article embellished by AI)

Bonus: Freudian Slips

Editor's note: A favorite book in my library is *Leo Rosten's Carnival of Wit*. Here is what he wrote on page 191:

"Not a day goes by without thousands of people making millions of Freudian slips errors in speech or writing or conduct which convey unexpected opinions unexpected because true... Among my favorites are the following:

"The all-girl orchestra was rather weak in the bras section.

"Mr. And Mrs. Oliver Sloane request the pleasure of your presents at the marriage of their daughter...

"Telegram to wife: HAVING WONDERFUL TIME, DARLING, WISH YOU WERE HER. (Signed) Johnny

"The bride and her mother were in the deceiving line.

"Upon arriving at the Honolulu airport, two men were given coveted lays by Hawaiian maidens.

"They were married and lived happily even after."

[Additional editor's note: Be careful what you try to communicate! <Grin>]