



# Wadsworth Lodge # 25

## Trestle-Board

June, July and August 2007

### Calendar of Events for the coming months.

- June 1 Stated Meeting. The Lodge will open on the First Degree.  
Hawaii shirt night and flip flop shoes for the summer.  
The Lodge normally goes dark until September.
- June 12 Building Trustee's Meeting.
- June 22 thru 24 Wadsworth Lodge weekend camp out at Thousand Trail / NACO.  
A security controlled campground, sixty miles west of Reno on I-80  
at Yuba Gap. Camp letters will be sent out to all who are going.
- July 19-21 Rocky Mountain Conference, to be held at Boomtown.  
For reservations, contact the Nevada Grand Lodge.  
The dead line for reservations is June 28, 2007.
- Aug. 11 Sparks Rainbow Girls Installation of Officers.
- Aug. 25 Wadsworth Lodge Picnic.  
To be held at my residence.  
The picnic will be a BBQ at \$10 per person  
Wine, beer and soft drinks included.  
Children under 12 are free.  
I have a Hot Tub for those who dare to bare.
- Sept. 7 Stated Meeting. Lodge will open on the First Degree.  
Hawaii shirt night and "bring your own meat" to BBQ.  
If your forget your meat, the Lodge will provide BBQ SPAM.  
Their will still be a \$5.00 charge to cover side dishes.



**To all the brethren, family and friends of  
Wadsworth Lodge,  
have a great summer.**



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## From the East

First my Brothers, I want to say Thank You to all who have worked so hard during the first half of this Masonic year. Wadsworth Lodge has come a long way in the past six months and each one of us should be proud of our efforts. If we do half as good in the second half, this will turn into a year to remember. Your hard work was most evident during the second degree on May 18. This was, without question, the best degree work that I have seen in some time. Brother Nollsch did an outstanding job as Master and we all should try to live up to his fine example.

Second, I want to remind everyone that the Wadsworth Lodge Picnic will be held on August 25, starting at 10 am at my residence. The picnic will be a BBQ with all the trimmings and the cost will be \$10 dollars per person. Wine, beer and soft drinks are included and Children under 12 are free. Also my Brethren, on this day of over eating, we need to remember that there are people that have less than we do. Therefore, I request that each person please bring two cans of food, which will be donated to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada under the name of Wadsworth Lodge.

Finally, since many of the Brethren have asked about the history of Wadsworth Lodge, I am reprinting the history of our Lodge as reported by former Lodge Historian, Brother John Carr, P.M., in 1985. The following article has been modified to fit space available.

Richard Meacham  
Master of the Lodge

### The History of Wadsworth Lodge

Some of the "Old Timers" of Wadsworth Lodge #25 along with our "New" members, have no idea why the first Masonic Lodge chartered in the City of Sparks was named "Wadsworth". So under the leadership of Past Master Tom Swart, an historic pilgrimage was made to the town of Wadsworth, Nevada, on Saturday, June 22, 1985. The purpose, of course, was to relocate the actual site of the Fraternal Hall, and to recreate the first years of the Lodge.

Wadsworth today is a sleepy little village located 29 miles East of Sparks, on the edge of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, near the "Big Bend" of the Truckee River. Where once all east-west traffic, both rail and road, funneled through Wadsworth, the town is now bypassed by Interstate 80, as well as by the Southern Pacific railway (then Central Pacific), which was originally the reason for its existence.

The town was born in 1867, as a division point of the Central Pacific. At the height of its glory, Wadsworth boasted a 21 stall roundhouse, an impressive and commodious two-story depot that accommodated the division operating offices, the Nevada House Hotel, noted for its affluence and plush appointments, complete with sprinklers and fountains, and passenger trains lined up end to end at the depot.

The town was destined to become the victim of the realignment of the Central Pacific roadbed, which occurred between the years 1901 and 1904. The major realignment occurred in the stretch between Reno and Lovelock, which included the portion from Clark to Browns, where the tracks were moved to the south side of the Truckee River, stranding Wadsworth on the north side of the river. The change actually added five miles of track by way of Hazen to Browns, but it eliminated helper districts, except for that portion over the Pequop Mountains.





The realignment eliminated the need for the installations at Wadsworth, so, in 1902, plans were made to move the railroad's shops and facilities to the Mary Wall Ranch in the Truckee Meadows, three miles east of Reno. The Company moved its employees free of charge, and sold them building lots at the new site for \$1.00 each. In 1904 Wadsworth Lodge's charter was relocated to its new home in Sparks, where it rejoined its members.

The new locality existed for quite some time without any official designation. At first it was called East Reno, sometimes New Reno. In August of 1903 it became Harriman, in honor of E.H. Harriman, whose company, the Union Pacific, had purchased controlling interest in the Southern Pacific Company, then owner of the Central Pacific. But, subsequent to a visit of that dignitary later in the year, it was discovered that he would prefer that a different designation be chosen. Accordingly, it was again renamed, this time in honor of John Sparks, rancher, mine owner and then Governor of the State of Nevada.

The Wadsworth Lodge trip to re-identify its roots was led by Tom Swart, Past Master, Past Grand Master Calvin J. Dodson, Past Master, Past Grand Master Illio Cecchini, Past Master, and O.H. 'Buck' Hatlestad, Past Master. With the aid of an 1897 Sanborn-Perris town map, they were able to locate the site of the Fraternal Hall on the South side of Main Street, just East of the current Post Office. The place is now a vacant lot, but before the building was destroyed by fire, it was owned by the Wadsworth Commercial Company, which in turn was owned by Carl Wallstab, who was initiated into membership in the Lodge in 1896. Fraternal Hall was occupied on the ground floor by a general store and a meat market. The second story was rented by Wadsworth Lodge #25, along with a Lodge of Odd Fellows, and a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. According to Lodge records, the rent was \$30.00 per quarter.

Charles A. Beemer and Edgar A. Shepley were the first two candidates raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Wadsworth Lodge. Both were raised on the same night, but Brother Beemer was the first candidate. It is interesting to note that Brother Beemer served the Grand Lodge of Nevada as Grand Master, and that Brother Shepley served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines in that same capacity.

Thomas Bellum, the Episcopal Minister in Wadsworth, was the first Master of the Lodge, and was also the first of many of our brothers to serve more than one year in that office. He served briefly as Master in 1895 under Grand Lodge dispensation, and then was elected in June 1896 when the Lodge was chartered. He was re-elected for the 1897 term as well, and it is to him that the solid foundation and initial success of the Lodge should be credited.

The Lodge was started by three brothers who affiliated, and the thirteen who were initiated, passed and raised during the year 1896. The affiliates were, again, J.T. Walker, Ira Heber Kent and J.W. Smith. The initiates, in addition to brothers Beemer, Shepley and Wallstab, were T.B. Holmes, E.A. Jackman, A.T. Clippinger, George W. MacPherson, Joseph Sturm, Frank L. Voorhies, A.C. Webb, E.A. Lewis, R. Holmes and A.C. Fishburn.







# June Birthdays

**Brother Paul Bogue**  
**Brother William Cook PM**  
**Brother Joseph Creveling**  
**Brother Robert Duncan PM**  
**Brother Lester Knox**  
**Brother Lawrence Lathrop**

**Brother Keith Shriver**  
**Brother Dustin Simpson PM**  
**Brother Richard Wallace PM**  
**Brother Ronald Wilson**  
**Brother Kenneth Williams**



# July Birthdays



**Brother Dr. Lloyd Austin**  
**Brother Charles Bertrand**  
**Brother John Bower PM**  
**Brother Edward Davis PM**  
**Brother Fred Fomous**  
**Brother Gordon Foote**  
**Brother Oliver Hatlestad PM**  
**Brother Merle McAlpin**

**Brother Jack McElwee**  
**Brother Robert McElwee PM**  
**Brother Phillip Salermo**  
**Brother Joseph Schlader PM**  
**Brother George Shontz**  
**Brother Harry 'Bud' Smith**  
**Brother Clyde Wood**

# August Birthdays

**Brother William Claney**  
**Brother Charles Couchman**  
**Brother James Friberg**  
**Brother James Grabsky**  
**Brother W. Dalton LaRue PM**  
**Brother Kenneth Lee**  
**Brother Thomas Lumpkin**

**Brother John Mazzuki**  
**Brother John Nelson**  
**Brother Edward Saccomano**  
**Brother Ronald Sparks**  
**Brother Charles Steiner PM**  
**Brother James Wilson**  
**Brother J. William Wearne IV**



## Officers

Worshipful Master . . . . . Richard V. Meacham  
 ( Pat )  
 Senior Warden . . . . . Dana A. Nollsch  
 ( Mary )  
 Junior Warden . . . . . Howard L. Rigdon  
 ( Myung )  
 Treasurer . . . . . James A. Grabsky  
 ( Sally )  
 Secretary . . . . . Charles F. Steiner PM  
 Chaplain . . . . . Dustin J. Simpson PM  
 ( Heather )  
 Senior Deacon . . . . . William J. Wearne, IV  
 ( Taryn )  
 Junior Deacon . . . . . Patrick W. Higgins  
 ( Tiffani )  
 Senior Steward . . . . . Charles E. Bertrand  
 Junior Steward . . . . . Nathaniel "Battery" Brown  
 ( Erin )  
 Marshal . . . . . Mark E. Smith  
 Historian . . . . . J. J. McDonald III, PM  
 Tyler . . . . . J. Darren Spark PM  
 ( Dianne )  
 Greeter . . . . . Edward R. Nixon  
 ( Marilyn )

### Building Trustees

Phillip A. Anderson PM  
 1 Year

Charles F. Steiner PM  
 1 Year

Edward E. Davis PM  
 2 Years

Harry Dixon PM  
 3 Years

W. Dalton "Cowboy" LaRue PM  
 3 Years

## Committees

**By-Laws** W. Dalton "Cowboy" LaRue PM  
 Richard V. Meacham  
 Del R. Rytting

**Budget** J. J. McDonald III, PM  
 James A. Grabsky  
 Robert C. Snyder PM  
 John M. Buffington PM

**Cognizance:** John M. Buffington PM  
 W. Dalton "Cowboy" LaRue PM  
 Dustin J. Simpson PM

**Delinquency:** Patrick W. Higgins  
 Dana A. Nollsch  
 Charles F. Steiner

**Funeral** Robert L. Duncan PM  
 W. Dalton "Cowboy" LaRue PM  
 Richard V. Meacham

**Greeters:** Patrick Higgins  
 Edward R. Nixon  
 William J. Wearne, IV

**Hi-Twelve:** Dustin J. Simpson PM  
 Del R. Rytting

**Masonic Education:** J. J. McDonald III, PM

**Refreshments:** Charles E. Bertrand  
 Nathaniel "Battery" Brown  
 Mark E. Smith  
 Howard L. Rigdon

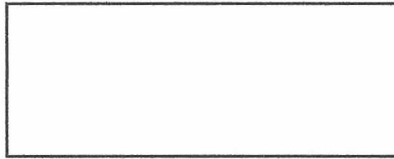
**Sickness and Distress:** Dana A. Nollsch, Chairman

### Lodge Trustees

J. J. McDonald III, PM  
 1 Year

Robert C. Snyder PM  
 2 Years

John M. Buffington PM  
 3 Years



Wadsworth Lodge # 25 F. & A.M.  
P. O. Box 991  
Sparks, NV 89432-0991  
Return Service Requested

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To receive the Trestle-Board by E-Mail, Please contact our Web Master.

To contact our Web Master, Rick Wallace or any one of the Lodge Officers;  
Log onto [www.wadsworthlodge.com](http://www.wadsworthlodge.com)

For information on the building rental or to contact the building manager;  
Call 356-6300