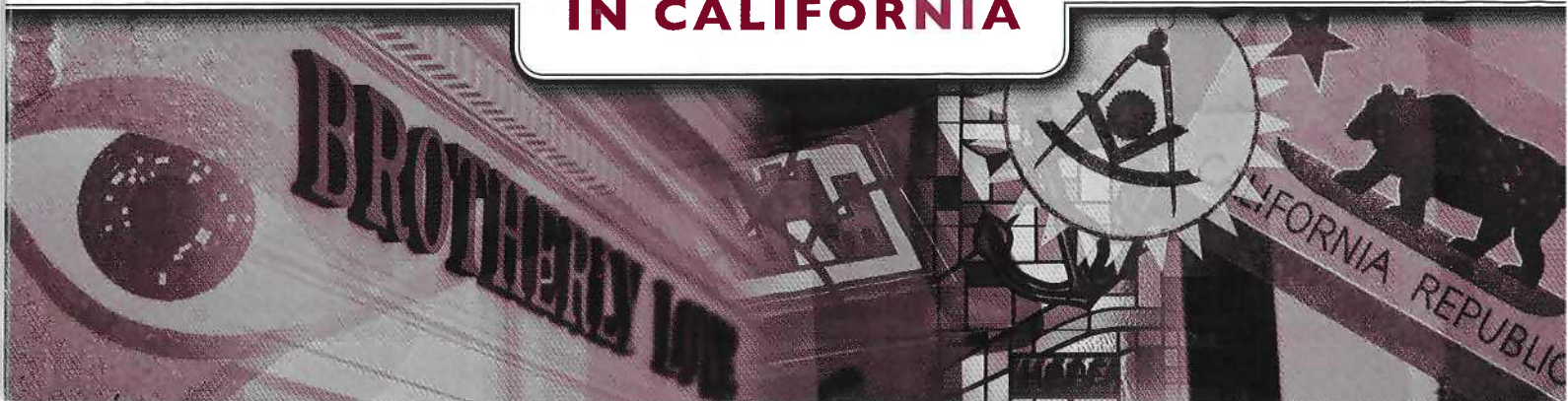


MEMBER'S GUIDE TO

Masonry

IN CALIFORNIA



Masonic values

Freemasonry is a fraternity based on the belief that each person has a responsibility to help make the world a better place. Through philanthropy, personal development and community service, the fraternity lets men associate with other men of honor and integrity who believe that honesty, compassion, love, trust and knowledge are important. Masons believe in the importance of religion; men of all faiths and religious beliefs are members of the organization. Freemasonry celebrates ethnic diversity and welcomes men of all racial backgrounds.

As Masons we value and promote:

Philanthropy

We make a difference in our communities through charitable giving, community service and volunteerism.

Ethics

Our lives are based on honor and integrity, and we believe that honesty, compassion, trust and knowledge are important.

Personal growth

Our continuous pursuit of knowledge, ethics, spirituality and leadership brings more meaning to our lives.

Tolerance

The fraternity values religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences. We respect the opinions of others and strive to improve and develop as human beings.

Freedom

Masons value the liberties outlined in the U.S. Constitution and continually promote freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship a Supreme Being in an individual way, and other important liberties. We believe it is our duty to vote in public elections and to exercise all of our liberties within proper bounds.

Family

We strive to be better spouses, parents and family members and are committed to protecting the well being of members and their families, especially when they are in need.



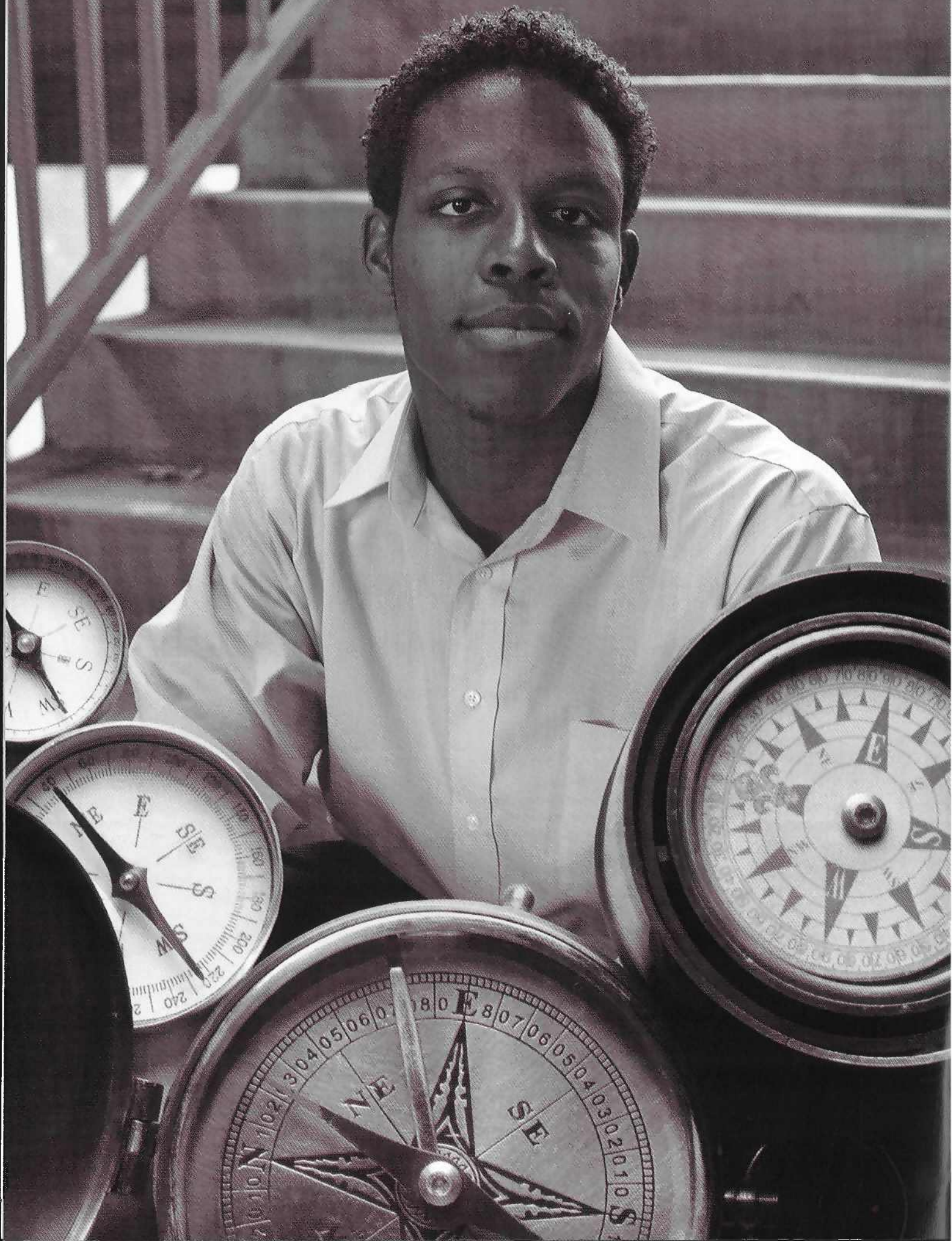
Welcome,

BROTHER

Your guide to Masonry in California

As a member of the world's first fraternity, you have joined the tens of thousands of brothers who are the Masons of California. This guide will familiarize you with the organization and provide information about how to fully participate in the fraternity for a lifetime of friendships, personal growth, philanthropic activity and fraternal support. While this guide is comprehensive, it does not cover all aspects of the organization. Please feel free to ask questions of your lodge officers.

Welcome, brother!



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Your Degree Work

ADVANCING THROUGH THE THREE DEGREES

As a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, you have embarked upon an experience of Masonic education that will last a lifetime.

The degrees of Masonry are serious, educational and time-tested teachings. Each degree has a primary lesson.

Your initiation in the first degree is a great beginning. As you prepare yourself to receive the second and third degrees, you will develop a deeper understanding of the role Masonry will play in your future as you strive to achieve success and fulfillment in life.

As an Entered Apprentice, you are entitled to attend your own lodge when opened on the Entered Apprentice degree and may attend another lodge if accompanied by a Master Mason of your lodge who will vouch for you.

To gain the most benefit from your membership, you should immediately begin preparing with your coach to take the Fellow Craft degree. When you become a Fellow Craft, you will be entitled to attend any meeting of your lodge opened on either the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degrees in your lodge as well as visit other lodges when you are accompanied by a Master Mason of your lodge to vouch for you.

The next step is to prepare yourself to take the third degree and become a member of the Masonic fraternity, with all the rights and privileges of a Master Mason, including full participation in the business of your lodge.

RECEIVING DEGREES OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

If you move out of state, either temporarily or permanently, you may receive your second and third degrees, including coaching and examinations for proficiency, in a lodge outside our California jurisdiction. To request this courtesy, which must be approved by the lodge in which you were elected and Grand Lodge, submit a written request to the secretary of your lodge.

