Richard Brouse Degree Lodge #190

July 26, 2026

Roll Call

Stacy Thomason Degree Master - present
Debbie Wolf Deputy Degree Master - present
Debra LaVergne Secretary - present
Mason Wolf Financial Secretary - present
Annie Cronin Treasurer - present
Jay Thomason LS to DM - present
Carol Wahrer RS to DM - present
Andrew Crockett Warden - present
Jane Beckman Conductor - present
Katy Dickinson Chaplain - present
Sara Bruce Inside Guardian - present
Lisa Harrigan Outside Guardian – present briefly
Larry Guenther RS to DDM - absent
Paul Goodman LS to DDM - present
Toby Hanson Musician - absent
Tom Blackburn Flagbearer - present
Jack Cain Trustee for 3 years - absent
Robert Seibel Trustee for 1 year - present
Charlie Sweeny - absent
Nan Klein - present
Jill Bonner - present
Elizabeth Pidgeon - present
Mariko Kawaguchi – present
Allison Holeman – present
Charlene Sailer – present
Howie Spero – present
Gerald Williams - present

Opening of the Degree Lodge.at 8:05 pm.

Openin**g prayer:** Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious
favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life.

Minutes of June 28 were approved as distributed with the note that the motion to loan money to San Pablo #43 was not recorded

as handled. That action will come back under unfinished business.

Sick or in Distress –

Angela Commean is with a friend at the emergency room.

Bills read and referred –

Balance 23276.00

Disbursements 1093.15

Income 302.42

Communications read and disposed of –

Stacy Thomason talked with Lizzie Martinez who will be happy to accept the $500 discussed last meeting and will welcome us back next year.

Reading of application for membership – none

Report of Interviewing Committee –

Trustees Report

Report of Committee on finance – (Robert, Angela, Lisa)

Report of committees

Logistics committee: Member feedback asks for a shorter event. The initiation is the most complicated degree and can be done at another lodge before the degree day. Davis, San Pablo and Cupertino all confer the Initiatory in full form.

Installation of officers could be Friday evening or early Saturday morning instead of Sunday morning.

The dance could be moved to Saturday evening as the capstone of the event.

Paul Goodman asked about the rent to San Pablo #43. Elizabeth Pidgeon said that the San Pablo Lodge agrees a shorter event will pay a smaller rent.

The proposed schedule is

Noon to 1 pm: lunch (1st Degree Prep)
1 - 2 pm: First Degree
2 - 3 pm: Open (possible breakouts/ 2nd Degree Prep.)
3 - 4 pm: Second Degree
4 - 5 pm: Open (possible breakouts/3rd Degree Prep),
5 - 6 pm: Third Degree
6 - 7 pm: Dinner
7 - 10 pm: Dance.

Paul Goodman asked about the outdoor space for the 2nd Degree. The breakout times before and after the 2nd Degree would allow travel time. Mason Wolf would like an outdoor degree, but it would not be moonlit. Tom Blackburn pointed out the building has windows on the third floor that would allow the moon to be visible during the dance. Perhaps a Moon Cake Break during the dance when the moon is visible from the hall.

It was moved by Andrew Crockett and seconded by Mason Wolf to hold Installation of Officers on Friday evening. The people who care about the Installation are the members of the Degree Lodge. It would be nicer to have the installation after the completion of the degree weekend, but this year is a special case. Annie Cronin pointed out that having the degree teams meet together on Friday would be good for us. Elizabeth Pidgeon suggested that the rent for Friday be reduced because it would only be a couple hours. The motion carried. Grand Master Carlos Juarez had offered to install our officers on Sunday morning. We will ask him for Friday evening.

The Degree Team captains have been to the Vallejo Hall to check spaces and props. The teams are pretty complete. The main hall has a lighting loft. Elizabeth Pidgeon shared the layout of the main hall.

Props and regalia reported that they are working on white collars and reversible pink/blue collars. Banners for the third degree are needed. The Degree Lodge has lots of white robes from multiple sources.

Mariko Kawaguchi has looked into badge holders and lanyards. For 100 registrants, the budget would be $300. It was moved by Mariko Kawaguchi and seconded by Debbie Wolf to spend no more than $300 on registration supplies. The motion carried.

Ambassadorial Committee –

Unfinished business –

It was moved by Andrew Crockett and seconded by Larry Guenther to untable the motion to offer a loan to San Pablo #43 to get their elevator door repaired before the Degree Weekend. We would want to get the loan repaid in a year, so the money will again be available for cave work. It was moved by Mason Wolf and seconded by Howie Spero to amend the motion to charge 4% interest. The amendment carried.

The main motion is to loan San Pablo #43 up to $5000 for a term of a one year at 4% interest. The motion carried.

Nominations for Officers

Degree Master
    Stacy Thomason
    Debbie Wolf declined.
Deputy Degree Master
    Debbie Wolf

Katrina Hazen was nominated by Debbie Wolf.

Secretary

Debra LaVergne

Treasurer

Annie Cronin

Mason Wolf declined.

Financial Secretary

Mason Wolf

Larry Guenther declined.

Trustee until 2029

Stacy Thomason

Larry Guenther was nominated by Mason Wolf.

New business –

It was moved by Mason Wolf and seconded by Jane Beckman to have breakout sessions. The motion carried. Breakout sessions are incompatible with an outdoor 2nd degree.

It was moved by Jill Bonner and seconded by Debbie Wolf to include the Saturday evening meal in the $65 registration fee. Elizabeth Pidgeon has a couple options for a caterer to provide a dinner at the hall. These are local restaurants that allow the food to be picked up. Dining would be on the fourth floor. Debbie Wolf pointed out that we do not need to make everything a fundraiser. Treasurer Annie Cronin pointed out that financially we are okay. Carol Wahrer asked about registration fees for people not getting the degree. Registration is required for observers as well. There can be a separate price for just dinner and dance. The motion passed.

FRIDAY
5:30 - 7pm: Optional Dinner for RBDL190 members (location TBD)
7pm - 9pm: RBDL190 Opening, Business Meeting & Installation

SATURDAY
9am - Noon: Degree Blocking & Practice
Noon to 1 pm: Lunch (1st Degree Prep.)
1 - 2 pm: First Degree
2 - 3 pm: Open (possible breakouts/ 2nd Degree Prep.)
3 - 4 pm: Second Degree
4 - 5 pm: Open (possible breakouts/ 3rd Degree Prep.),
5 - 6 pm: Third Degree
6 - 7:30 pm: Dinner
7:30 - 10 pm: Odd Ball
[At an appropriate break point during the dance: MOON acknowledgement with mooncake]

Financial Secretary Mason Wolf read the name of the only member who has not paid his dues for over a year, who is Michael Steineke.

Receipts and Disbursements

Income $540

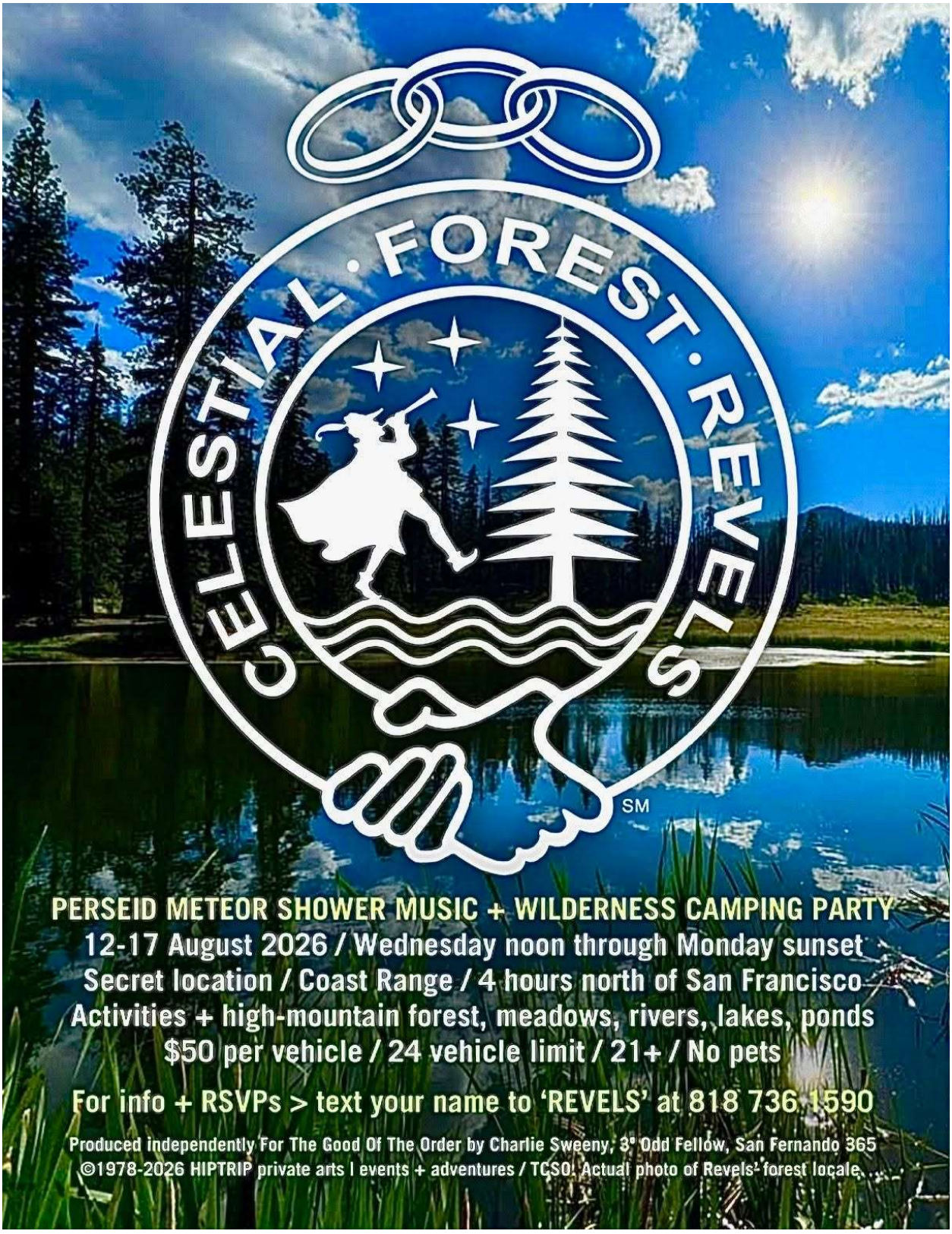
Disbursement $623

Good of the Order

Stacy Thomason will bring Gold Hill t-shirts. Mountain View #244 has some good designs on stickers that will be also on t-shirts. There will be merchandise at the Degree Day!

Tom Blackburn spoke in favor of Grand Master Carlos Juarez who has been forced to solve problems that should have been handled previously.

Andrew Crockett posted an announcement for a celestial forest revel for the Perseid meteor show on August 12-17.



Closing Prayer:

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we may be still and know that *thou art* God.

Closing of the Degree Lodge at 9:56 pm.