

The Florida Mason

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The Official Newsletter of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

Volume 4, Issue 1



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Grand Lodge Officers
2010 - 2011

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: J. Dick Martinez
(Tampa)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: Jim Harris
(Sebastian)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: J. L. "George" Aladro
(Palm Bay)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith
(Orange Park)

GRAND TREASURER
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, PGM
(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, PGM
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues of *The Florida Mason* should be sent to, Larry Scott, Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339, larry.scott@gflmason.org

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December 9, 2011



M.: W.: J. Dick Martinez
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

Brethren it seems like yesterday that we commenced this year, yet here we are just a few weeks from the 182nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Brethren of our great State of Florida and the sojourning Brothers who have visited our Lodges while in Florida for their genuine support. Not support for me, but support of their Lodges along with the support that our sojourning Brothers entrust to our Lodges.

Brethren, as it has been mentioned before, we are at a crossroads within our Fraternity. We have taken the right steps to get on track to where we need to go as a Fraternity. However, these steps were taken by YOU the Brothers of every Lodge in Florida. You have been open minded about the steps we as a Fraternity have taken to begin to turn things around. For that I am grateful. That being said, we have yet to turn the corner, we have just begun.

We have embarked on a journey, not a destination, for we will never fulfill our true destination which is PERFECTION. However, as I've said numerous times "It starts with one man in one Lodge, that leads to two men in two Lodges and it will grow to the District, Zone, and State levels."

My Brothers this is beginning to happen and I am overjoyed watching this occurrence or renaissance taking place. But we have just begun and we need to be alert that we don't allow "APATHY" to sneak back into our Lodges. We must stamp it out and be on constant guard.

I must tell you that this has been the most enjoyable time for me these last six years. Two of those while running for office and the last four serving you the Craft. The education/lessons I've learned are invaluable and probably the most important one is keeping my passions within due bounds (or my short fuse). I was advised to leave that out, however I always speak from the heart and I'm not going to change now. You have made the journey extremely enjoyable and I thank you for that.

We will be commencing our Grand Lodge communication on May 30, 2011 at the Rosen Plaza. It will be Memorial Day and as Masons we need to again Rise To The Occasion and celebrate the men and women who have fought for our Freedoms and for those who continue to fight for our Freedoms.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you all 47,500 (or as many as can come) Masons at this gathering to let not only ourselves know that we are not only Masons but also Patriots of this Country. Let us show

that "MASONS ALWAYS RISE TO THE OCCASION".

Let us remember that the principles of this country were founded on Masonic Principles and that we, our Fraternity was very involved in the founding and organization of this country we call HOME "The United States of America."

We also have important legislation to review and ballot on and you are Grand Lodge, so without you we can not do anything.

I want to leave you with some thoughts to ponder and some quotes from which I gather a lot of strength from. I have been told by many that sometimes it's best not to set goals and if you do, not to share them. That to me is against everything I believe in, because if others involved in the goal or project don't know where you're going and why, there is no purpose.

I will quote Tom Peters "Share information... it allows people to join the boss in playing "the great game of business"... When people are privy to the numbers, where they come from, what they mean, and how the individual influences them, miracles of engagement, commitment, and contribution occur."

Another very important quote from the same author Tom Peters has always been a great motivator for me "Leadership in the 21st century A.D. is exactly what it was in the 21st century B.C. Leadership is about the development, the inducement of people to grow, to go way beyond where they believe they could go. Nothing has changed."

The leadership that is beginning to occur in our Lodges is a breath of fresh air. The accountability that each of the Lodge officers are taking upon themselves is the beginning of our Fraternity's turn around along with all knowing that we who are in some kind of office are there to serve our Brothers. The Brothers are not there to serve us.

Albert Schweitzer said and I quote "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Brethren, this has occurred this year because you are aware of the goals that were set and the outcome we all want to accomplish. You are to be commended for your foresight. Of course at the beginning it was a tough road to hoe but once you were aware of the mission you all pitched in and we are beginning to make great strides.

Again, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at this gathering to let not only ourselves know that we are not only Masons but also Patriots of this Country. Let us continue to show the world at large that "MASONS ALWAYS RISE TO THE OCCASION".

Fraternally,
J. Dick Martinez
Grand Master



"Masons Always Rise To The Occasion"



R.: W.: Jim J Harris
Deputy Grand Warden

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Brothers All:

I hope this message finds everyone healthy and blessed. I anticipate everyone is getting ready for Grand Lodge and looking over all of the Legislation that will be presented. The many legislative meetings around the State are in full swing at the time of this message and the Brothers attending those meetings are asking very good questions. It is inspiring to see the participation from the Craft. I can't stress enough how important it is for all Brothers to get involved.

I am looking forward to the new Grand Lodge year with positive thoughts and great anticipation. In my travels around the state I have found the Brothers to be very supportive and eager to assist in any way they can.

So I ask every Brother to participate and get involved in the operation of your Lodge and District. Masonry has been around for hundreds of years but we shouldn't take anything for granted. The Brothers that served this great Fraternity before us passed the gavel and it is up to each of us to take part. Maybe you will be that Brother that visits a sick Brother in the hospital or maybe you are the Brother best suited to serve on a committee to check on the Brothers that haven't paid their dues and have lost interest in our Fraternity. You may want to help with the maintenance of the Lodge and start a beautification program and get other Brothers to participate with you. You may be the Brother that is able to visit one of the Widows in your Lodge, checking on her from time to time and give a report to the Brothers at Lodge on how she is doing. Every Brother has something to offer his Lodge and District and each one of us needs to discover that area that you personally enjoy. Be active and make the difference, we are all Masons and this is our time to shape our destiny not for just tomorrow but for years to come.

On a positive note it is evident the Masonic Leadership Training

Committee is making an impact with Brothers looking to learn more about the operation of a Lodge. If your Lodge has not yet taken the plunge it is time to start. The hours and effort to create this manual were immense so please take advantage of the opportunity.

The (MLT) Masonic Leadership Training Manual is for all Brothers whether you are an officer or not. It explains every appointed and elected position in the Lodge along with important information on how to prepare for that position. It also explains how to prepare for a fund raiser, special occasion, or dinner. It gives detailed steps from sending the invitations, food preparation, scheduling a guest speaker, decorating the dining room, to forming the committee needed for all aspects of each event. It will aid with understanding and preparing a Lodge Budget to insure the Lodge is on sound footing. Brothers the MLT manual is a reference guide designed to instruct you so you can personally support and assist your Lodge, please take advantage of it.

Brothers in the upcoming year I have plans to encourage every Lodge to implement a Widows Program. It is something that is needed and no longer can be ignored. We need to have in every Lodge a complete list of Masonic Widows from your Lodge. The Worshipful Master should appoint a Committee to check on each widow and assist them when and where possible. We need to invite them at no charge, to attend any open function and make sure they continue to be part of our Masonic Family. We promised to take care of our Widows, just as you would want your lady to be taken care of in the event she became a Widow. I encourage every Brother of every Lodge to truly make a difference and build an association with our departed Brothers Widows.

In closing, I want to thank every Brother that attended Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home. We enjoyed a great turnout and had a fun filled day with the car show, games for the kids and the young at heart. Our First Lady's project was truly a transformation to the Board room. Our Grand Master M.: W.: J. Dick Martinez and Lady Nancy should be very proud. If you were unable to attend please mark your calendar now for next year's Pilgrimage Day, March 17, 2012.

Thank you my Brothers,
Brother Jim D.G.M.



R. W. J. L. "George" Aladro
Senior Grand Warden

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

My Brothers:

Once again, we are coming to the close of another Grand Lodge year and the beginning of another. Exciting things have happened as we look back at some of our many accomplishments such as:

- Masonic Leadership Training has made an impact in those that have participated in the program. The Committee is looking for better ways to communicate with those attending the seminars and expanding their knowledge in Masonry. If you are a Mason and the operations of the Particular Lodges are important to you, then this program is for you. If you are an Elected or Appointed Officer this is a must for you to develop and improve your knowledge on how to better manage and operate your Lodge's current and future activities.

- Masonic Education committee has been reorganized and its importance at the Lodge level cannot be overemphasized. Educating our existing members as well as new Members is essential if we are going to succeed in attracting new men into this Fraternity and keep them interested in Masonry. Remember, today we have more information at our fingertips than ever before. We need to be ready to provide the right information and be a source of knowledge for those seeking the mysticism and symbolism of Freemasonry with information we can engage them in dialogue to inspire them to higher goals and greater achievements.

• Mentoring new Members will be a source for building Brotherhood between men of different generations. Our Lodges today find that we may have as many as four different generations among them with different needs and forms of communication. However, the one thing that will bind us all will be education, mentoring and nourishing of Brotherhood between men of different interests. Learning and teaching each other the things that make-up our generational differences will strengthen our Fraternity and give us a window of understanding and appreciation for each other not provided in our society today. All the while, we are mentoring and teaching Freemasonry symbolism and the mystic art in its full glory.

- The Florida Child ID Program has grown more this last year than ever before. It is gratifying to observe the work of this committee and their cooperation is inspiring. I see a greater and brighter future for them, as we work towards a goal of greater service to the communities and standardization of the program across the jurisdiction.

- The Masonic Medical Research Laboratories our Flagship Charity has seen a renewed dedication and effort. This committee is succeeding in making it a premier Charity in Florida. Your Grand Lodge Officers seek other Grand Lodges to join us in this endeavor so that one day in the not to distant future this research laboratory which carries the brand name "Masonic" can become the Nations Symbolic Lodge Charity. Their medical discoveries have led to the saving of countless of lives and have carried the name of Masonry to the most unusual places across the world. In the Medical Journals we are recognized as sponsors for life saving techniques and treatment. Masons helping humanity through medical science. No greater or nobler act of kindness and love can man give to humanity.

My Brothers this is just a snippet of what has transpired and we owe it all to you. Yes, YOU! YOU for taking the task on. YOU for giving of your time to perform your duties. YOU for making the events possible. YOU for making them a success. YOU my Brothers are our most valuable and precious assets. As I have said before, you are what make everything worth doing, with YOU, everything is possible, without you, nothing is worth doing.

For one, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve Brothers such as yourselves whom I recognize as Men and Masons of the highest caliber. This year my Brothers I had the opportunity to meet many of you in the Town Hall forums that were conducted across the state. It was gratifying to visit with so many of you. The purpose of these meetings were three fold :

(1) To deliver information on the state of our Fraternity, which I thought was important for the Craft to know.

(2) To get feed back from you, the Craft, on the information presented and answer any of your questions.

(3) To give me an opportunity to ask questions on how we, your elected leaders, are doing, and what additional things we are doing to help aid and assist the Craft.

I for one learned much from you and hope you learned from the presentation as well. My Brothers, I cannot stress enough, the importance of getting our house in order. We need to start tending to other more important and pressing programs, such as better participation on Masonic Leadership Training, Masonic Education and Mentoring. This will be the only way that we can attract new members and pro-

vide them with the knowledge and aspects of Masonry they are seeking. Otherwise, we will lose yet another generation or two of men.

As we have educated ourselves in Masonry, and respond to the needs of those seeking participation in Masonry, we will reap greater participation across the board in all the other programs. As they will have the knowledge to see the value and importance of these programs for the greater good of our Craft.

My Brothers, I suggest a business approach to our Fraternity. We are in the business of creating life long bonds between men who are Masons the world over. We are good men looking for like minded individuals by creating a Brotherhood for the service of mankind. We are in the business of service of others. Remember, next to our service to our God, there is no greater or nobler deed can a man than that of caring for others. That my friends and Brothers is the business we are engaged in.

In as much as Freemasonry is an institution with no distinction except that of service. We need to have all different types and level of service. We must honor all the different levels equally for they are an integral part of the whole. Although not all have the capabilities, skills or desire to be leaders, and the leaders may not have the capabilities, skills or desire to do the groundwork, one without the other is but a fracture institution, incapable of performing the necessary task to get the job accomplished.

Recognition and importance of all participating is paramount in our success. Only qualified Brothers should be used at all levels, as in business. Always look for the best suited for the particular job. No social promotion, remember that the definition of a good leader is that individual that does not create a vacuum when leaves, but one that is not missed because he has empowered those behind him with the knowledge and ability to lead and teach others.

My Brothers if you are a Brother that is infirm and/or cannot attend the meetings, please let us know of your distress, so we can come and visit you and stay in touch with you. If you do not contact us with an update of your infirmity, we have no way of knowing how to help, aid or assist you. We want to do better, our Craft is one that is suffering from a small group doing more than they can sometimes handle. However, we realize that we need to do more and are willing to do it, but only if you would communicate with us and give us an opportunity to serve you. Working together, we can and will do better.

My Brothers, if you are the Brother that sits at home. I am asking you to get involved and to help us meet the challenges before us. As a Mason, you have a unique opportunity to do something for the Fraternity you belong to and obviously care for, as demonstrated by your annual financial support of the Craft, which is very much appreciated. We want you to know that our Fraternity needs you now, more than ever to help us succeed.

My Brothers, if you are the Brother that attends once in a while I encourage you come more often as no one is dispensable. We need everyone working together in order to over come these challenges before us. Together there will be less of a task for everyone, and working together we can build a stronger Fellowship and Fraternity.

My Brothers, if you are the one that is doing the day-to-day work to keep the doors open, I know that you are overloaded. However, I will ask you to do more. Because you will need to provide the guidance to meet the needs of those that will be coming in and those that will be coming back. I ask this of you because I am also asking this of myself to do more for the Craft you gave me an opportunity to lead.

In general, I ask all of my Brothers to look themselves in the mirror and ask themselves if they are doing all they can. If the answer is no, I ask you to please give your Fraternity 10% more of your love and attention. If the answer is yes, I ask you to also give this love of your life 10% more in order to give us the push we need to get us going in the right direction. Remember MASONS ALWAYS RISE TO THE OCCASION.

Fraternally your most humble servant,
Jorge L. "George" Aladro
Senior Grand Warden



R. W. Danny R. Griffith
Junior Grand Warden

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

Brethren,

As I am about to complete my year as your Junior Grand Warden, I want to thank each of you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. It has truly been a great learning experience about the internal operations of our Grand Lodge. I have worked closely with our Senior Grand Warden in preparing the budgets for the coming year and attended meetings with our Endowment Investment Committee where I learned that we have been fortunate to recover most of our lost endowment funds which were lost during the recent recession. This committee has done a superb job in managing our resources.

Many young men are joining our Fraternity and it is obvious after traveling throughout the State this past year that these young men are creating a renewed enthusiasm in our Lodges.

The implementation of the Masonic Leadership Training Program has also been a huge success in improving the operations of our Lodges and it is hoped that this success will continue to grow in the coming years as this program is refined.

Brethren, as I have said in my previous articles, our loss in membership due to non payment of dues is having a huge impact on our Fraternity. We can not just sit back and ignore this problem or we will eventually lose our Fraternity. We must be proactive and do something NOW!! Our Lodges have a huge investment in time and effort in bringing these Brothers into our Lodges and we must do something. I would suggest that the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries act now by creating telephone calling lists and writing letters to those who are in arrears. Don't wait until the required late dues notices are mailed. Remember that your Lodges are required to pay the per capita taxes until the Brothers have been suspended. It does nothing to raise 10 Brothers in a Lodge for the year if we are losing 20 to NPDs.

I want to thank you for your continued support in the coming years and vow to continue to do my very best to fulfill your wishes for the Fraternity.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Danny R. Griffith
Junior Grand Warden



M.:W.: **Richard E. Lynn, PGM Grand Secretary**

A Message From The Grand Secretary

It's very hard to realize the Annual Grand Lodge Communication is approaching. Time sure passes fast when you are having fun. The staff at the Grand Lodge continues to develop new and exciting programs to assist the Lodges and Secretaries in the day to day activities.

Your Grand Lodge Officers are revamping our Masonic Education Programs. And have done a fantastic job they have made tremendous inroads.

Technology remains one of our goals with the ever-changing electronic environment this is a challenging task. Albert Einstein said, "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." How true it is. We are very fortunate to have a Technology Committee appointed by the Grand Master to assist the Grand Lodge Office and the Particular Lodges with these challenges. Take time to visit with them at the display table in the lobby at the Rosen Hotel during Grand Lodge, or contact the Chairman, Right Worshipful Patrick Farrell at pdgdm@comcast.net

The Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Elmer G. Coffman, and I have enjoyed traveling the State presenting Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars. We still have several Zones in which to make the presentations; please check the Grand Lodge Monthly Mail for dates and locations. All Masons are encouraged to attend for Masonic Education.

We have a Masonic Museum located in the Grand Lodge Building in Jacksonville. Several Districts have organized a tour of the museum and the Grand Lodge Office on a Saturday and Most Worshipful Coffman and I are thrilled to conduct tours and have even provided lunch. Why don't you endeavor to organize one for your District. It will prove to a day filled with Florida Masonic Education.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary



M.:W.: **Elmer G. Coffman, PGM Grand Treasurer**

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brothers,

Once again our Grand Lodge year is about to come to an end and a new one to begin with a new Grand Master, new programs, and new ambitions. This year was filled with many accomplishments under the leadership of M.: W.: Dick Martinez, including a successful Grand Master's Charity for the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and an enhanced Masonic Education Program. Both of these programs are very important to us as Masons and we would like to thank all the Brothers who worked so hard to make them successful.

Another successful program was Lady Nancy's Program to upgrade the Board Room at the Masonic Home. She and many of the ladies around the state worked so hard all year to raise the funds to refurbish the Board Room and turn it into a beautiful room to be enjoyed not only by the Brothers and Sisters during our monthly meetings there, but by the Residents as well. Nancy is certainly to be congratulated on a job well done.

If you find yourself in the Jacksonville area, I would certainly invite you to stop by your Grand Lodge Building and visit with us. We would be happy to give you a tour of our building and the museum which contains many historical items from the past years of Florida Masonry. We would also be happy to arrange a Lodge visitation day for your Lodge to visit the Grand Lodge Building as a group and tours could be arranged for that as well.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Annual Grand Lodge Communication and may you enjoy safe travels as you make your way to Orlando.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

South Miami Lodge No 308: Walking For Autism

By W.: Sergio J. Perez, PM; South Miami Lodge, No. 308

On Sunday, February 27, 2011, Brothers, friends, and family of South Miami Lodge No. 308 participated in Walk Now For Autism, an event meant to raise awareness and money for Autism Speaks (www.autismspeaks.org). South Miami Lodge has raised over \$7,000. in its three years participating in this event. Autism Speaks is a charitable organization dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism. Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. One in 110 children is diagnosed with autism annually, including one in 70 boys. This represents a staggering 600 percent increase in just the past 20 years. Autism impairs a child's ability to communicate, socialize and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive and obsessive behaviors. Autism costs the nation over \$35 billion per year. The cost will only increase. If a cure is not found, the long term cost to society will be staggering as many of these otherwise, healthy children will need permanent care throughout their lives. South Miami Lodge is proud to be doing its part to help in this important cause.

Shrine Award Given at Cherry Hill Lodge No. 12



Brother James Willard Clark receives his 50 year pin and certificate from Arnold L. Gibson, Worship Master of Cherry Hill Lodge No. 12, located at Fort White, Florida.

Reenactment of the Battle of Olustee

Members of the 10th Masonic District enjoyed an afternoon of Fellowship with Brother Masons from other Florida Districts and Georgia. They took part in a Masonic Gathering during the annual reenactment of the Battle of Olustee. The social event was hosted by Masons who were taking part in the reenactment.



Pictured are Brothers of the 10th District; Leaman Alvarez, Tom Sorenson, Stan Harvey, Noah Davis, Larry Scott, Aaron Stokes, John Bellovich.

EA Degree Feb. 16, 2011 at Baldwin Lodge

From left to right the new Brothers are Fredrick Roland Pekarek III, David Gary Reynolds and Bradley.



Phoenix Lodge Holds Their First Installation of Officers



On March 1st, 2011, the newly formed Phoenix Lodge No. 346, held their first Installation of Officers. It was an exciting event attended by over 120 Brothers, family, and friends. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, J. Dick Martinez, was the Installing Officer, and was assisted by R.: W.: Joseph Meketsy, Grand Marshal, and R.: H.: Aubrey Cross, Chaplain.

The consolidation of Cary B. Fish Lodge No. 346 and The Builder's Lodge No. 376, is bringing a renewed spirit and excitement to the newly formed Phoenix Lodge. This consolidation is a prime example of Masons Rising to the Occasion. Phoenix Lodge is the first new Lodge to be formed in the 27th Masonic District since 1977.

Rear row (L to R): Treasurer, W.: "Skip" Land; S.D. Eddie Osika; J.D. Jim Benjamin; Secretary, W.: Derl Smith; Tyler, W.: John Griffin.

Middle row (L to R): S.: W.: Br. "Dutch" Neihart; Chaplin, W.: Joe Goggin; J.S. Br. Dane Wallace; S.S. Br. Joe Reynolds.

Front row: J.W. Br. Al Dahlberg; Marshal, W.: Nyle Davenport; R.: W.: Joe Meketsy, Grand Marshal; W.: Mike Davenport; M.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Grand Master; R.: W.: Frank Albinson, DDGM of 27th Masonic District.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

Roy L. Weiland, secretary of Lawtey Lodge No. 189 F. & A. M. and Past Master, received the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award on February 17, 2011 for outstanding service to youth and Freemasonry by serving as a dedicated member of Lawtey Lodge No. 189 and a devoted scouting leader of the North Florida Council No. 087 Boys Scouts of America and Lawtey Cub Scout Pack 400.



Presenting the award is Worshipful Master David Neiman of Lawtey Lodge.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is a national recognition approved by the Boy Scouts of America and promoted by the Grand Lodges of Masons in the United States. It may be presented to any Master Mason who has made significant contributions to youth through Scouting. This is a selective award. The purpose of the award is to recognize the recipient's outstanding service to youth through the Boy Scouts of America.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Donates to Fallen Officers

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach has donated \$300.00 to the Suncoast Law Enforcement Charities in memory of fallen St. Petersburg police officers Jeffrey Yaslowitz, Thomas Baitinger, and David Crawford. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge appreciates the selfless service that our law enforcement officers render to the community, and hope that other businesses and organizations will also support the Suncoast Law Enforcement Charities located at 14141 46th St. No. 1205, Clearwater, FL 33762. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291



Three Masons Receive Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

During a Stated Communication at the Orange Park Lodge 267, three Master Masons received the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award. These three Master Masons are Brother Al Roby, Brother Jerry Linder, and Brother William Stevens. Each received a certificate from the Grand Master of Florida, a Masonic neck medallion, and a Boy Scouts of America approved knot patch.

The neck medallion is a silver metallic medal of the square and compass resting upon a sunburst and supported by a blue and silver ribbon.

Daniel Carter Beard was a Freemason and the first National Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. At the June 2001 Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Grand Master approved the creation of the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

This award is an honor due to countless Freemasons who practice the ideals of Freemasonry and act as role models to the young men who are part of one of our nation's most outstanding youth organizations, the Boy Scouts of America.

The award will be presented to a Master Mason who is currently a registered Scouter and active in a Scout unit, district, council, or national affiliate, and has displayed outstanding dedication to the Scouting program through exemplifying the Scout Law and Masonic virtues, Scouting volunteers, and strengthening the relationship between Freemasonry and Scouting. Work accomplishment and dedication will be the criteria for this award.

Brother Al Roby has served Scouting at the Troop and District level in Clay County. He served as a Scoutmaster of a Troop. Following his successful tenure as Scoutmaster, Brother Roby was appointed to serve as the Commissioner for the Black Creek District, Clay County. Upon completing his responsibilities, Brother Roby served on the District Committee. The District Committee plans the work of the District and assists the other volunteers of the Scouting program in Clay County.

While serving on the District Committee, Brother Roby served on the Annual Black Creek District Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner. This Dinner recognizes all of the Boy Scouts who attained the rank of Eagle Scout in Clay County. Additionally, he served as the Head Chef for the Dinner.

He also serves as one of the two adults who approved the projects that are a requirement for a Boy Scout to become an Eagle Scout.

Three Men On A Journey!



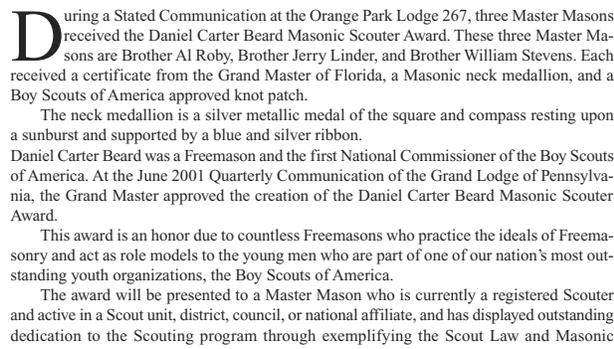
A unique situation in the life of Masonry has occurred in our 17th Masonic District of Florida. It all began as three young men began their journey through Masonry about the same time over 25 years ago. Ricky Ricks who was Initiated, Passed, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1976. Randy White who was Initiated, Passed, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1979, and Garland (Gary) Story who was Initiated, Passed, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1986.

Something unique happened to these three gentlemen recently. All three have strong ties to law enforcement, each one are members of a Lodge in the 17th District of Florida for 25 years or better, and in 2011 each one of these gentlemen was elected as Worshipful Masters of their respective Lodges. Ricks, Worshipful Master of Orlando No. 69, White, Worshipful Master of Pine Castle No. 368, and Story, of Winter Garden Lodge No. 165.

Ricks, White, and Story are all members of the 17th Masonic District of Florida,

as well as members of the Scottish Rite, Ricks and Story members of the Bahia Shrine, and each were law enforcement officers, employed by the Orange County Florida Sheriff's Office for over 25 years. While employed with the Orange County Sheriff's Office for all of those numbers of years they each knew they could trust each other for reason beyond just being deputies together, but being bound by the strong cord of a moral obligation.

Ricky Ricks is now employed by Walt Disney World as the Emergency Operations Manager. He has been married to Sue Ricks for 33 years, have two children (son who is also an Orange County Deputy Sheriff) and a brand new grandchild. Randy White is now employed with the Orange County School Board as a licensed security officer. He has been married to Beverly White for 35 years and has one daughter. Garland (Gary) Story is now self employed with Garland Story's Handyman Services. He is engaged to Susan Beard, and has three children.



Brother William Stevens has served on the District Committee of the Black Creek District. On the District Committee, he was instrumental in the improvements and incentives for the boys to achieve rank. Brother Stevens serves on the Black Creek District Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner. He also serves as the other adult who approves the projects that are required for Boy Scouts to become Eagle Scouts.

Brother Dr. Jerry Linder is an Eagle Scout. He served as the Chairman of the District Committee of the Black Creek District. (The District Chairman is the head volunteer of Scouting in the District.) He served on the Board of Directors of North Florida Council. Following his stint as a member of the Council's Board of Directors, Brother Linder served on the Council's Advisory Board.

Brother Linder was one of the two men who started the Black Creek Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner. This past February, the Dinner celebrated its 29th anniversary. After reading the Scouting contributions of each of these Brothers, I know you can agree that each earned the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

To submit an article for the next issue of *The Florida Mason*, please contact Larry Scott at Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339, or via email: larry.scott@gflmason.org

The deadline for the Winter Issue is October 14, 2011.

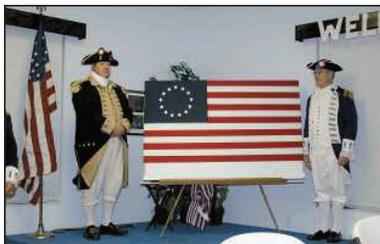
Building The Flag Program at Hyde Park No. 370

Andrew Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76, from Northeast Florida Chapter No. 435 of National Sojourners, on March 24, 2011, presented the "Building the Flag" program for Family Night at Hyde Park Masonic Lodge No. 370.

The Family Night program had an Americanism theme and consisted of Barry Collins, PM, in period costume, giving Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death," speech; R.: W.: Robby Stokes, 33rd, giving a historical talk on American patriots, their sacrifices, and the American Flag; and the Northeast Florida Chapter of National Sojourners presenting the "Building of the Flag." There was a nice turnout of Masons, family and friends for the program and it was received very enthusiastically.

Shown, from left to right, in the top "Building of the Flag" photo are: narrator Charles R.: Cooper, PM, PP & Secretary, N.E. Florida Chapter No. 435, Sojourners, and Past Commander, Andrew Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76; Thomas Sorenson, Sojourner and Asst. Chief of Staff, Andrew Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76; and Corbin P. Elliott, Sojourner, and Officer of Andrew Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76.

Seen in the second photo bottom, are, from left, Thomas Sorenson and Corbin P. Elliott, showing the original flag design with thirteen stars. It is worthy of note, that R.: W.: Alan McQuaig, PM, PDDGM, Secretary of Hyde Park Lodge No. 370 is the current President of Northeast Florida Chapter No. 435, National Sojourners, and Chief of Staff of Andrew Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76. Several other Past Masters and officers of Hyde Park Lodge are also past officers and members of National Sojourners, Inc.



Cape Coral Masons Receive Prestigious Scouting Award



R.: W.: Jack Fleming, W.: Ron Ward



W.: Herm Cardona, R.: W.: Sam Scardina, E.A. Matt Hannam, R.: W.: Jack Fleming, W.: Ron Ward



R.: W.: Sam Scardina, W. Herm Cardona, E.A. Matt Hannam, R.: W.: Jack Fleming, W.: Ron Ward

R.: W.: Bro. Jack Fleming, PDDGM and W.: Bro. Ronald Ward, PM on February 10, 2011 were presented the prestigious Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter award in a beautiful ceremony held at Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 F.&A.M. in Cape Coral Florida. Both Brothers were profoundly moved by this recognition of a lifetime of service to the Boy Scouts of America. The awards were presented by R.: W.: Sam Scardina, DDGM for the 29th Masonic District, assisted by W.: Herm Cardona, PM, Masonic Youth Activities Committee Chairman for District 29, W.: Matt Blaisdell, sitting Worshipful Master of Cape Coral Lodge, and E.A. Matt Hannam, Scoutmaster of Cape Coral Lodge Boy Scout Troop No. 4, and one of the newest members of Cape Coral Lodge.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is a national recognition approved by the Boy Scouts of America and promoted by the Grand Lodges of Masons in the United States. It may be presented to any Master Mason who has made significant contributions to youth through Scouting. This is a very selective award. The purpose of the award is to recognize the recipient's outstanding service to youth through the Boy Scouts of America. The Daniel Carter Beard Scouter award consists of a certificate endorsed by the candidate's Grand Master, a Boy Scouts of America-approved Masonic neck medallion, and a knot patch to be worn with a scout uniform. For more information on this award contact your District Masonic Youth Activities Committee Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,
Herm Cardona, PM
Chairman Masonic Youth Activities, District 29

Perpetual Members Receive Certificates

By W.: Mike Davenport

At the April 5th Stated Meeting of Phoenix Lodge, W.: John Griffin, P.M., W.: Darren Denney, PM, and his father, Brother James Denney were presented their Perpetual Membership Certificates and pins by Brother John Kosmas, the 27th Masonic District Committeeman for Perpetual Membership and Masonic Renewal.

We can think of no greater gift that these three members can bestow upon the Lodge. It not only helps the member, but guarantees the financial security of the Lodge for the future.



Riverside Lodge Learns Lesson



On the 4th of April 2011 the Craft and visitors present at Riverside Lodge No. 266 in Jacksonville, Florida were treated to an impressive lesson in Americanism by seven year old, 1st grader Miss Emily Hansen who proudly stood before everyone and lead them with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Miss Ella Hansen a nine year old, 3rd grader conducted Masonic education by reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States from memory. Both young ladies attend Hendricks Avenue Elementary School in Jacksonville and did an excellent job. After reciting the preamble Ella Hansen also donated \$10.00 to the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless that she had earned from doing chores around the neighborhood. This is a reminder that we can all learn something from everyone who we come in contact with, no matter their age. Oh, by the way, Ella and Emily Hansen are the granddaughters of Brother Mike Pease a Past Master of Riverside Lodge.

With Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love,
W.: Michael G. Pease P.M.

Wounded Warriors & Child ID Project

On April 2, 2011, the Camp Blanding Rod and Gun Club sponsored the Wounded Warriors Fishing Tournament and Family Day at Camp Blanding, Florida. Proceeds from the tournament went to the Wounded Warriors Project to be used to assist military personnel who had been wounded in combat. The 10th Masonic District Child ID Program was honored to be a part of that day. Members of the 10th Masonic District set up their cameras and made ID kits for those kids in attendance. Child ID is a worthy endeavor and this day made it doubly so!



Pictured are: Edna Akridge, Camp Blanding Rod and Gun Club event Co-ordinator, Capt. Adam Bailey, 254th Transportation Unit and new petitioner to Ashler Lodge, Mark Griffith, Leaman Alvarez, Larry Scott, Brian Sutton, Scott Roberts, Gerald Coutts, Clethan Johns, Stan Harvey, Mike Key, Roy Weiland, Joey Delacruz, Ken Stepp.

50 year Pin Presented



(L to R): Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of the 27th Masonic District Frank Albinson, Worshipful Nyle Davenport, PM and Worshipful Michael Davenport.

At the April 5th Stated Meeting of Phoenix Lodge No. 346 in Sarasota, Florida, Worshipful Nyle Davenport, PM was presented his 50 years in Freemasonry certificate and pin. The certificate was presented by Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Frank Albinson with grand honors. His son, Worshipful Michael Davenport presented him with his pin.



"Masons Always Rise To The Occasion"

The Founding and Early History of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, F. & A.M. Presented at the Southeastern Masonic Conference 2009

By Right Worshipful, Jim J Harris

Trying to establish the exact birth date of Masonry in Florida is much like trying to establish the exact birth date of Masonry in general, as many of the old historical facts were either not properly recorded, or the records were either destroyed or lost. And even the ones which survived were for many years hidden from the world, lying dormant in unmarked and forgotten files. But, fortunately in 1898, the first authoritative record of early Masonry in Florida came to light in the form of a rare and very old copy of "Preston's Illustration." It had been presented to the Grand Lodge of Florida by Dr. F. F. Bond of Thorncliff, Brighthouse, England. On the title page of this prized gift the following words were inscribed, "The gift of James Murray to Saint Andrews Lodge No.1, West Florida on June 27, 1776." This was the first reliable information that a Masonic Lodge had existed in Florida at such an early date. In 1898, Deputy Grand Master Silas B. Wright was assigned the duty to further investigate the possibility of any other existing records of early Florida Masonry. He discovered there were indeed further records being held by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania which proved the existence of Masonry in Florida during the early years of our country. These records, some covering the periods of 1768 through 1785, were graciously made available to the Grand Lodge of Florida for research and appropriate copying. A special report by R.W. Wright was included in the 1899 Grand Lodge Proceedings and many of these records are now in the archives of our Grand Lodge. These records indicated that on March 15, 1768, a Charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to "Grant's East Florida Lodge No. 143" to be located in Saint Augustine, in the Territory of Florida. And although it is almost certain that Masonry had existed in some form prior to this date; this is the first documented Masonic Lodge that was established in what is now the State of Florida. On that same date, the "Provincial Grand Lodge over Lodges in the Southern District of North America" was created and was also to be located in Saint Augustine. The Honorable James Grant, who was presently the Governor of the Territory of Florida, was named the Provincial Grand Master. This Grand Body functioned until 1783, when it was suppressed by the Dominican Priesthood and the Spanish Government, and all the records were either destroyed or carried away. All the available information was later located either in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania or the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The fate of Grant's East Florida Lodge is not actually known but it is assumed that it was suppressed at the same time as the Provincial Grand Lodge. The records held by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania provided a much clearer picture of the operations and fate of Florida's second Lodge, Saint Andrew's Lodge No. 1 of Pensacola, which was chartered on May 3, 1771. Ten years later, Pensacola and the Territory of West Florida were returned to the control of Spain and the Masonic Fraternity was again suppressed by the Dominican Priesthood and the Spanish Government. The local Masons were forced to flee for their lives. However, in spite of the great danger, the Brothers did not leave the area until they had rescued their Lodge Charter and all the records, which included Minutes of every meeting held since their Charter had been issued. They finally reached safety in Charleston, South Carolina, and reports were sent back to the Provincial Grand Lodge at Saint Augustine detailing their plight. In 1772, they were granted Dispensation to work in South Carolina while under the Charter from the Territory of Florida. But when the Provincial Grand Lodge was suppressed in 1783, Saint Andrews Lodge No. 1 was without authority to function. The Grand Lodge of Philadelphia came to their assistance and re-Chartered the Lodge, but the name was changed to Lodge No. 40, Saint Andrews Lodge No. 40 continued to work until it surrendered its Charter in 1817, and together with four other Lodges formed the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. Lodge No. 40 then assumed the name of Saint Andrews Lodge No. 10 and continued to work until 1881 when its Charter was surrendered. It is interesting to note that Albert G. Mackey, who is very prominent in the

records of Freemasonry, was Initiated, Passed, and Raised in Saint Andrews Lodge No.10 in 1841. Saint Augustine seemed to be the hotbed of Masonry in the Territory and the Grand Lodge of England issued a Warrant to Lodge No. 58B, again to be located in that city, but unfortunately, in an only short while it became a dormant Lodge. However, on March 20, 1776, the Warrant to Lodge No. 58 was renewed. On January 3, 1778, the Grand Lodge of England also granted a Warrant to Lodge No. 204 in Saint Augustine but the Warrant was later ordered returned due to the necessary fees not being paid. The Grand Lodge of South Carolina provided much assistance to the Masons of Florida and issued a Warrant to Lodge No. 30, again in Saint Augustine and to Lodge No. 56 in Pensacola. Both Lodges were short lived as the Spanish Government suppressed all Masonic activities throughout its domain. In 1806, St. Fernando Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia to meet in Saint Augustine but as was the case in so many times before, the Lodge was suppressed by the Spanish Government in 1811. In 1820, Floridian Virtues Lodge No. 28 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina but like many of its predecessors; it could not survive the politics of the day. In 1824, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina also Chartered Esperanza Lodge No.47 in Saint Augustine. This Lodge was a Spanish speaking Lodge but went defunct in 1827. There are other reports of several other Lodges being chartered in the early years of our history, but in some cases there are no records available to document the claims. Even with all the suppression of the Spanish Government and the Dominican Priest, Masons were still meeting in small groups, underground, and out of the eyes of the general public, even though they did not have recognized Lodges or a governing Grand Lodge. It was the dream of the Masons in Florida, however, to be part of a regular Lodge and operate under the authority of a recognized Grand Lodge. This dream was fulfilled and Masonry came to Florida on a permanent basis on December 19, 1825, when the Grand Lodge of Alabama issued a Warrant to Jackson Lodge No. 23 to be located in Tallahassee in the Territory of Florida. A year later, the Grand Lodge of Georgia issued a warrant to Washington Lodge No. 1 to be located in Quincy and on December 8, 1829, they also issued a Warrant to Harmony Lodge No. 2 in Marianna. At this time the political pressures had diminished and these three Lodges, which were the only three surviving Lodges in the Territory, operated under their respective Grand Lodges until 1830. In July 1830, they came together at a called conference and the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Florida was born. One of the first orders of business was to renumber these three Lodges and identify them as Jackson Lodge No. 1, Washington Lodge No. 2, and Harmony Lodge No. 3. I am happy to say that all three of these original Lodges are still in existence and active Florida Lodges today. The convention to form this new Grand Lodge was chaired by W.: John Pope Duval, who was the most senior Past Master present. He was later elected as our first Grand Master and served our Grand Lodge for two years, 1830 and 1831. But, during the early years, our Grand Lodge was a Gypsy type Grand Lodge, inasmuch as it did not own any property and had no permanent home. For the first forty years the early Grand Communications were held in Tallahassee, but in 1870, the Grand Lodge of Florida was officially transferred to the city of Jacksonville, where it remains today. During that span of time in Jacksonville, our Grand Lodge has owned and occupied three different Grand Lodge Buildings. As the history of our Grand Lodge was recorded on the pages of time, we find the lives and actions of Florida Masons played a very important role, not only in the development of our Fraternity and our State, but our nation as well. These were many of the men of destiny who would lead our new State and Country into an uncertain future, and some were the men who would lay down their lives to make the future happen. Many of our Past Grand Masters were high ranking military officers, influential businessmen, or men who held high political offices. Twenty-one of our State Governors and four of the Governors of the Territory of Florida

were Masons, and four of these distinguished Brothers also served as Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction. Several of our Past Grand Masters served under General Andrew Jackson and some of them were close personal friends, and others served as members of his staff. In the 179 years as a Grand Lodge, we have been honored by the leadership of 114 different Grand Masters and each have their own special story to tell, many of which are very unique. One such story involved our 4th Grand Master, M.: W.: Jesse Coe, who was an Ordained Minister and served as Chaplain under General Andrew Jackson. He rose to the rank of Major and served in the army through the war of 1812. He served as our Grand Master for a total of ten years but asked not to be reelected due to health concerns. After his death in 1860, M.: W.: Coe had five different Particular Lodges named in his honor, but unfortunately, as the years passed, they have all gone defunct. Our 8th Grand Master, M.: W.: John Bradford Taylor, being a military man in his early years, stood in defense of Fort McHenry during the twenty-four hour bombardment which inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner," which would become our National Anthem. M.: W.: Thomas Henry, who was our 16th Grand Master, was the grandson of Patrick Henry of Revolutionary fame. Our 30th Grand Master, M.: W.: Angus Paterson, had a very interesting Masonic History, which began by having his petition for membership being rejected 22 times. But he was a very persistent man and each year he would re-petition the Lodge and soon after his 4th birthday, he was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1882. Evidently, he progressed rather well as he served as Senior Warden the first year he was Raised and Worshipful Master of his Lodge for the next five years. He then served as our Grand Master nine years later in 1891 and again in 1892. M.: W.: John Leroy Brandon, who was our 54th Grand Master, certainly had a unique situation during his term of office, as he served six weeks of his term as an unaffiliated Mason. He had requested a Dimit from his home Lodge which was granted and it was six weeks later when he finally affiliated with another. Our Grand Lodge, in its wisdom, has also seen fit to elect posthumously to the office of Grand Master, four additional Brothers who were called to the Celestial Lodge Above while progressing through the Grand Lodge Line. The Grand Lodge of Florida had only been in existence for a little over five years when it experienced its first Grand Lodge Trial. It seems as if the Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge was challenged to a duel by another Brother of the Lodge. The challenge was accepted and the parties met at the appointed time and place, and the Worshipful Master, evidently being the better shot, engaged in the duel and killed the other Brother. Masonic Charges were filed on the Worshipful Master for unmasonic conduct. But, after considerable testimony at the trial, the Craft concluded that the Worshipful Master acted in self defense and was honorably acquitted. During the history of our great Grand Lodge, we have seen 544 different Particular Lodges Chartered, along with 14 Memorial Lodges and the Florida Lodge of Research. Although during our 179 years of existence many of the Chartered Lodges have either merged with other Lodges or simply gone defunct, we still have 296 active Lodges in the State with almost 49,000 Florida Masons, serving mankind and our beloved Fraternity. We also estimate that there are approximately 225,000 sojourning Masons in the State of Florida representing almost every State in the United States and even some foreign countries. Many of these Brothers regularly attend our Lodges and enjoy our Fraternal Fellowship. For the past few years we, as most Grand Jurisdictions, have witnessed a decline of members on our rolls. But we look forward to a bright future and hopeful that an influx of new members will once again raise our membership rolls to heights known in the decades past. And although we may never increase to that number again, Masonry in Florida is alive and well and working under the concept that Basic Masonry is the key to our future.

Special thanks to Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman for his research and collaboration



Guess Who?

W.: Dennis Smith, Past Master of Orange Park Lodge No. 267 shaking hands with Vice President Joe Biden in Afghanistan. W.: Dennis should return home in the late spring. (photo left)

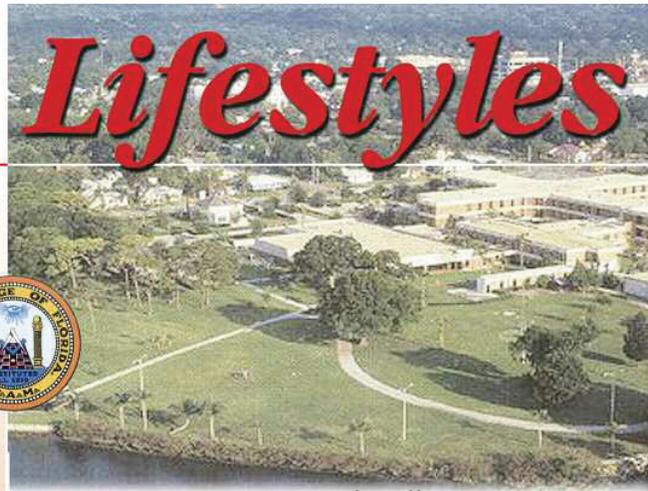
(L to R): Dennis Smith, P.M. Orange Park Lodge No. 267 and Dale Prevatt Callahan Lodge No. 33 Florida Army National Guard, currently Serving in Afghanistan.



Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING



On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou

First Lady's Dream Becomes A Reality!!

On March 19, 2011, we had the pleasure of dedicating our First Lady Nancy Martinez's Masonic Home project. Thanks to your generous donations and her commitment, the Masonic Home Board Room /Auditorium and Ante-Room were completely renovated. This area is very important to the Residents since it is the location of many activities and programs. It had been over 22 years since any changes had been made in this area and it looks beautiful! Improvements included new carpet, chairs, seating area, window treatments and even a video which includes photos and messages from the Residents. We appreciate all those who contributed to this worthwhile project. Thank you First Lady Nancy, we love it!!!



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Welcome



Grand Lodge of Florida
220 North Ocean Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
P.O. Box 1020 • 32201
Tel: 800.375.2339
www.gjflamason.org

Grand Lodge Officers
2010 - 2011

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: J. Dick Martinez
(Tampa)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: Jim Harris
(Sebastian)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: J. L. "George" Aladro
(Palm Bay)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith
(Orange Park)

GRAND TREASURER
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, PGM
(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, PGM
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues of *The Masonic Lifestyles* should be sent to,
Lisa Tsotsos, Toll Free at 866-868-6749 or E-Mail: masonichm@aol.com



From Our Administrator Greetings To All,

We always look forward to composing this newsletter, but realize it is impossible to summarize the prior six months. Each day at the Masonic Home is filled with interesting events, extraordinary stories, generosity, compassion, determination, joy and sometimes sadness.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of professionals that take on many important roles within the Resident's Home. Our Employees understand the mission of the Grand Lodge of Florida and work towards this goal. Their performance along with the satisfaction of Residents is what enables the Masonic Home to maintain the highest quality of care and service. Of course, without you and your commitment to providing the resources necessary, this achievement would not be possible.

In December, the 33rd Masonic District continued their tradition of providing a holiday celebration for the Residents which is second to none. Venice Lodge No. 301, the wives of the Grand Lodge Officers and Bahia Chapter Order of the Demolay brought joy, laughter and gifts. Suncoast Masters and Wardens of the 20th and 21st Districts along with the Order of the Eastern Star 21st District brought Santa by to deliver gifts to our Employee's families. On Christmas morning, the Egypt Shrine Clowns greeted the Residents with love and kindness.

The Order of the Amaranth's Annual Masonic Home Day was held in January and their gifts of time and resources are always appreciated. In February, the 36th Masonic District made sure every Resident had a valentine! The month of March was filled with events, including Pilgrimage Day. This was the day which saw First Lady Nancy Martinez's dream come to fruition. Hundreds of visitors witnessed the dedication of this project, and entered the renovated board room /auditorium which had new carpet, window treatments, chairs, sound system, lighting and furnishings. After 23 years, it was time for an update and this area is beautiful! The Residents are enjoying the improvements and are appreciative of the First Lady and Grand Master's efforts and your generosity. Another highlight of Pilgrimage Day was the presence of the Widow's Sons. Over 100 motorcycles arrived to enjoy the day. This fundraiser for the Home was in the 4th year and gets bigger and better as was evidenced by the outstanding donation they presented the following day.

Once again, we will have a Masonic Home resource table available at your Annual Grand Lodge Communication. Please stop by to say hello or let us know how we can be of assistance. We look forward to seeing you soon.

With My Sincere Appreciation For The Opportunity To Serve This Outstanding Organization,

Lisa Tsotsos, Administrator
masonichm@aol.com

Like Father, Like Son

Joseph Gonzalez, Senior Warden of Hillborough Lodge No. 25, is showing his son, Joseph, Jr., the ropes early by attending the Masonic Home board of Trustees meeting on April 17, 2011. Thanks to you both for showing your support and we enjoy see you!



Why Is Our Grand Master Smiling?



- A) He is surrounded by beautiful women.
- B) They are serenading him with a "swan song" written by M.: W.: Elmer Coffman, Grand Treasurer
- C) He is in awe of how beautiful the Masonic Home Board Room looks due to First Lady Nancy's hard work
- D) This is the final Masonic Home Board of Trustees meeting of the year 2010-11
- E) All of the above

We have polled the Residents and they have selected "E" - All of the above.

Our 36th Masonic District Valentines' Day Party

On February 12, 2011, The Residents enjoyed the Annual Valentine's Day celebration provided by the families of the 36th Masonic District. As usual, they put their loving effort into making this day special and making sure everyone had a "Valentine." Thanks for all you do 36th!



The dedicated families of the 36th Masonic District



L to R: James "Buck" Raulerson, Resident, Sponsored by Dunnellon Lodge No. 136, Robert McCranie, Resident, Sponsored by Braidentown Lodge No. 99, Arthur Bauman, Resident, Sponsored by Acacia Lodge No. 355 (PA), Ernie Hutcherson, Resident, Sponsored by Nitram Lodge No. 188



Masonic Home King and Queen: Gerald and Rosalie Buzik, Residents, Sponsored by Cypress Lodge No. 295



Masonic Home King and Queen: Ralph and Helen Swanker, Residents, Sponsored by Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held in the Dining Room April 13th with about 65 community, Service Guild, and Resident volunteers in attendance. The Theme this year was: "Volunteers are Rays of Sunshine." Special recognitions were awarded to the following Volunteers: Diane Reese, Jim Edwards, Denise & Bill Lindberg, Sue Garbart, Elsie Weldy, and John Lampo.

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful menu, the program, and the raffle of prizes. All the Volunteers truly are the Home's Rays of Sunshine – they brighten all the Residents lives!!



First Lady's Dream Becomes A Reality! continued from page 7



Our Service Guild Volunteers in Action



Library Open House



The Library Open House was held, April 12, and Librarian, Elsie Weldy was in attendance as was our newest Librarian, Runette Vizandiou. Everyone in attendance enjoyed cheese, crackers, fruit, and Sparkling cider.

Pilgrimage Day



Grand Master, Dick Martinez greets members of Widow's Sons on Pilgrimage Day

Not A Bad Way To Spend The Afternoon



Alyce Kerce, Resident, sponsored by Sanford Lodge No. 62 and Elizabeth Barker, Resident, sponsored by Melbourne Lodge No. 143

Residents recently visited the St. Petersburg Pier for fishing, relaxing in the sun and fresh air. Although their "catch" was not enough to feed all for dinner, they sure did have a great time!



Guy Wilson, Resident, Sponsored by Moore Haven Lodge No. 61

Masonic Home of Florida Wish List



The Masonic Home of Florida would like to thank all of you who have made contributions to this wish list in the past year. Through your generosity we have received many items.

We can still use the following:

- **REFINISHING OF 20 CHAIRS IN RESIDENT'S KITCHENETTES** Approximately \$105 per chair
- **NEW FULL SIZE REFRIGERATOR FOR 2ND FLOOR RESIDENTIAL CENTER EAST HALL** Approximate cost \$500
- **NEW CARPETING FOR 2ND FLOOR RESIDENTIAL CENTER LOBBY AREA** Approximate cost \$1,500
- **NEW DESK FOR 2ND FLOOR RESIDENTIAL CENTER LOBBY/NURSING STATION** Approximate cost \$500



We Are Pleased To Announce A New **OUTREACH** Program & **WEBSITE** Serving Members Throughout Florida!

Whether you have a need for residential services on our St. Petersburg campus, or in your local community, please call the Masonic Home of Florida toll free at (866) 868-6749 or go to www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org for assistance with aging services.

Masonic Lifestyles is a complimentary semi-annual newsletter produced by the Masonic Home of Florida and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Florida. Story requests, comments or suggestions for future issues may be e-mailed directly to: masonichm@aol.com or mailed to:

Masonic Home of Florida, Attention: Lisa Tsotsos • 3201 1st Street NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home cordially invites you to attend monthly meetings at the Masonic Home, 11:00 A.M. in the Board Room. Chapel service starts at 10:00 A.M.

June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, September 18th, October 16th, November 20th & December 11th

To submit an article for the next issue of *The Florida Mason*, please contact Larry Scott at Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339, or via email: larry.scott@glflamason.org The deadline for the Winter Issue is October 14, 2011.

ADMISSION PLANS

Lifecare Plan

This traditional plan is available to any Master Mason who becomes a member of a Florida Lodge prior to the age of 70. He must be a member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for at least ten years and continually for the last three. The wife or widow of a Master Mason is eligible for residency based on his membership. Contact your Lodge or the Masonic Home for an application. Upon completion, the application is signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary. It is then presented to the District Deputy Grand Master for review. The application is then forwarded to the Admissions Committee, Board of Trustees, and Grand Master for final approval. This process takes approximately 30-60 days. Dual members are also eligible.

Under the Lifecare Plan, assets owned by the Resident such as property, bank accounts, stocks, social security, pensions, etc., are deposited with the Masonic Home. These assets are then converted to cash to establish a Resident Maintenance Account. Each month, this account is debited to cover the cost of care. Residents retain 10% of any liquid assets, initially and subsequently, in excess of \$10,000 for personal use. When assets are exhausted, the Masonic Home continues to provide care throughout the lifetime of the Resident regardless of his/her ability to pay.



Pay As You Go (Private Pay)

In May of 2005, the Grand Lodge of Florida approved Private Pay admissions for Florida and non-Florida Masons. This plan provides an opportunity for Florida and non-Florida Master Masons and their wives or widows to retain control of their assets while enjoying all the Masonic Home has to offer. Residents pay a three month deposit and \$3,650* monthly for Assisted Living and \$6,083* monthly for Skilled Nursing care. Most fees and services are included except medication. For couples entering the Masonic Home, the first person pays this monthly fee and the second person fee is \$600* monthly. Applicants for Pay As You Go should get in touch with the Masonic Home directly to begin the admission process which can take as little as one week for approval.

*Rates subject to change.

Lake Butler Florida celebrated 150 years

Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, Lake Butler, Florida celebrated 150 years of Masonry on March 26, 2011. Lake Butler Lodge was chartered on January 17, 1861 and was 150 years old on January 17, 2011. The celebration was attended by members of Lake Butler Lodge and their spouses, Brothers from District 10 and other Districts and their spouses. Fine food, entertainment and good Fellowshiping was enjoyed by all. Some of the members in attendance that were recognized was the oldest member of Lake Butler Lodge, R.: W.: Kenneth M. Clyatt, 92 years young and the youngest member Bro. Daniel Rengerig, 20 years old. The Worshipful Master of Lake Butler Lodge, Tim Giebeig introduced the Past Masters in attendance: Albert Dowling, Cecil Clemons, Seabie Rucker, Leaman Alvarez, Kenneth M.



Clyatt, William McGill and Randolph Croft. The honored guest was Bro. George D. Coon of Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348 A. F. & A. M., Richland Hills, Texas. Bro. Coon is the Great Grandson of the first Worshipful Master of Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, W.: Issac S. Coon. Pictured is R.: W.: Leaman E. Alvarez, District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th District and Secretary of Lake Butler Lodge presenting Bro. George D. Coon with an Honorary Membership in Lake Butler Lodge.

Jimmy Phillips Receives 50 Year Membership Recognition



L to R: R.: W.: Jim Cumbie, PDDGM; M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, PGM, Grand Treasurer; Jimmy Phillips, PM, 50 Year Honoree; and Jack Collier, PM, Secretary of Ionic Lodge No. 101.

Worshipful Brother Jimmy Phillips, received his 50 Year Masonic Membership Certificate and Pin from R.: W.: Jim Cumbie, PDDGM, District 12, on March 17, 2011 in Ionic Lodge No. 101 of Jacksonville.

Present on the happy and memorable occasion were Most Worshipful Brother Elmer G. Coffman, PGM, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida, as well as many other Past Masters and Brothers who have known and worked with Worshipful Brother Jimmy Phillips over his long career in Masonry.

Child ID program at Kidfetti

On February 26, 2011 members from the 26th Masonic District, 24th Masonic District, and 15th Masonic District along with the International Order of Rainbow Girls Chapter 66 and Marion Chapter DeMolay joined together in Ocala Florida to provide a Child ID program at Kidfetti. I will be sending additional pictures in a separate email.

I had the original returned.

Laurie W. Zink, Development Director for the Center describes Kidfetti as a one of a kind, kid-centric, music and fun fest held in Central Florida. Kidfetti features performances by youth-oriented entertainers and musical performers, as part of a large, outdoor music and cultural festival focusing on the importance of protecting and nurturing the mental and physical wellness of our children.

The Kidfetti events have proved to be an uplifting celebration for the 10,000+ children and families that have attended the festivities. It provided valuable opportunities for families of all types to reconnect through activities that built and strengthened communication.

Picture parents and children laughing together as they interact in workshops focusing on art, music, health, and literacy while fostering better communication skills. All of these sessions focus on fun with the goal of bringing children and their parents, grandparents or caregivers closer together. This captures the spirit of Kidfetti.



together. This captures the spirit of Kidfetti.

The Centers, a Central Florida based 501 (c) three private behavioral health and substance abuse center, hosts this event in an effort to raise money to help children and adolescents achieve their highest level of functioning. By supporting Kidfetti, you make a difference in the lives of many by enabling the Centers to bring this interactive and creative event to families while providing funding for a very worthwhile cause.

Gainesville Chapter No. 2, R.A.M. Holds Table Chapter

Gainesville Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons, held an Ancient Craft Table Chapter on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at the Gainesville Shrine Club. There were a good number of Companions and Sir Knights present, including Most Worshipful Brother Dick Martinez, GM of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida; Most Excellent Companion Anthony Marotta, MEGHP of the Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Florida; and Sir Knight David Aponte, VEDGC of the Grand Commandery K.T. of Florida. There were also a number of other Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery present.

Worshipful Brother James W. Ford, Senior Grand Deacon, running for Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida, was the speaker for the evening. There were also several presentations, as well as toasts and Masonic historical or educational vignettes.

Pictured here were the Brothers and Companions at the head table, and also the presentation of two honorary Gainesville Chapter memberships.



(L to R): Head table, M.: W.: Dick Martinez, W.: Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida; Kurt R. Morauer, Sr., Excellent High Priest of Gainesville Chapter No. 2; Most Excellent Companion Anthony J. Marotta, M. E. Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter R. A. M. of Florida; Dennis Haskins, DDGHP, District 8; and Charles T. Jones, PHP, Chaplain of Gainesville Chapter No. 2, R.A.M.



(L to R): Charles T. Jones, PHP, left, presenting honorary Gainesville Chapter memberships to M.: W.: Brother Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, and R.: W.: Brother J.L. "George" Aladro, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida. Seen in the background, from left were: Anthony J. Marotta, M. E. Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter; and Dennis Haskins, DDGHP, District 8, of the Grand Chapter.

Not pictured, Frank T. Camacho, PDDGHP, D. I. of District 8, also was presented an honorary membership in Gainesville Chapter No. 2, from current Gainesville Chapter No. 2 R.A.M. High Priest, Kurt R. Morauer.

Three New Brothers Initiated

Three new Brothers Initiated Entered Apprentice Masons during Degree on Oct. 19, 2010 in Callahan Masonic Lodge No. 32..

Front Row (L to R): Jack Tucker (Sr. Warden); Herbert Ray; John Beck, Darrell Lane; Kevin Reintz (Master during Degree)



Trail Ridge Festival in Lawtey

March 5 & 6, 2011, The 10th Masonic District Child ID took part in the annual Trail Ridge Festival in Lawtey, Florida. Free ID kits were made for the kids in attendance. This is the second year that the 10th District Child ID Program has been a part of the Trail Ridge Festival. A weekend of fellowship and enjoying the kids was had by all. Pictured are: Leaman Alvarez, David Neiman, John Rosado, John Paul Mann, Scott Roberts, Roy Weiland, Clethan Johns, Stan Harvey, Larry Scott, Gerald Coutts and boggie the therapy dog. Not pictured Coy and Nancy Pacetti.



Holyrood Lodge Spreading The Word Of Freemasonry

By Luiz A. Bisacchi, Worshipful Master at Holyrood Lodge No. 257.

The Brothers at Holyrood Lodge No. 257 went out in the community spreading the "Masonic name" to the public at a hockey game and also having a good time. They had a total of 17 Brothers, family members, and friends at the game. This is part of one of the programs W.: Luiz A. Bisacchi, is implementing this year to promote Fellowship in and outside the Lodge.



Melbourne Lodge No. 143 Holds Successful Child ID Event

By Christopher Durie and Bob Bauer

Melbourne Masonic Lodge No. 143 F&AM recently sponsored a successful Child ID event on Feb 12th, 2011 at Long Leaf Elementary School. The event was held in conjunction with the 6th grade class's book sale fundraiser, and was well attended by children and their parents. Throughout the course of the morning, 58 children were processed and had Child ID kits created for them and their families to take home. In addition to providing Child ID kits, the Masons were able to provide a hot breakfast of sausage and pancakes to all attendees thanks to generous donations of time and supplies by the Masons and several business partners. In total, over 250 people were provided breakfast at the event. The event also featured storytelling by some of the 6th grade students as well as professional storyteller Susan O'Hara. The members of Melbourne No. 143 would like to thank the District 25 and 26 Child ID committees for the use of their kits, as well as the Hiram's Riders Chapter of the Widows Sons and the ladies of OES Chapter No. 106 for their hard work and help during the event. Without their donation of time, this event would not have been such a great success.

Over 800 thousand children are reported missing in the United States each year, meaning one every 40 seconds. The Florida Masonic Child ID Program uses computers, finger print scanners, cameras, and DNA kits to create a Child ID package which parents and guardians can provide local law enforcement in case their child goes missing. These services are provided free of charge to the parents and guardians due to generous donations from Masons around the state of Florida.



Hiram Lodge No. 5 Attend Cemetery Plot of M.:W.: Grand Master Samuel Pasco

On a chilly Saturday morning, Brothers of Hiram Lodge No. 5 F. & A. M. arrived at Monticello City Rosemont Cemetery ready to get to work. Over the decades, moss and dirt had covered Most Worshipful's tomb stone, the Pasco Family marker and a grave marker from the Grand Lodge of Florida. Past Master Buddy Westbrook, Brothers Paul Klug & Steven Klug and Worshipful Master Jim Billberry paid homage to our past Grand Master by scrubbing and pressure cleaning over 93 years of grime from the monuments. Out of respect to M.:W.: Pasco's family and in appreciation of his service to our country, the Brothers also cleaned the head stone of M.:W.: Pasco's son who was killed in action in the Spanish - American war.

M.:W.: Pasco served as the Grand Master of Florida in 1870, 71 & 72. He was also the High Priest of the York Rite, Royal Arch Masons of Florida in 1909. He served in the Florida Legislature and as the Court Clerk for Jefferson County.

Although he came to the US from England, he moved to Jefferson County and subsequently joined the Confederate Army. He was honored for heroism for saving a fellow wounded soldier and after being captured, served out the war as a POW. He was the Headmaster of an academy in the Lloyd area and Pasco County was named for him.

Samuel Pasco served the people of Jefferson County and our fraternity with exceptional distinction. It was an honor to pay our respects to his memory.



"Masons Always Rise To The Occasion"

On February 12, 2011, the third Child ID event for the 26th Masonic District (Brevard County) was held after just recently being reactivated last June. The Child ID / Pancake Breakfast was organized by W.: M.: Kevin Gholston of the Melbourne Masonic Lodge No. 143 and sponsored by Longleaf Elementary School. Longleaf was represented by sixth grade teacher, Tiffany Fleegeer, who also conducted a book fare for the school during the event. Fifty-eight students were processed through the Masonic Child ID program.

W.: M.: Kevin Gholston put many hours into organizing the Brothers for the event, coordinating the event with the school and then directing the set up on the day of the event. Among his many tasks were the procurement of breakfast items and the logistical items needed for the Child ID event. None of this could have happened without the support of the many Brothers, Sisters, and friends from the Melbourne Lodge as well as a few other Lodges. Even District 25 (Lakeland) was represented by their Child ID team who came to help with processing.

Because of W.: M.: Gholston's planning and foresight, everybody seemed to know just exactly what their responsibility was. Starting with the "Greeting Crew" at the front door who gave direction and answered a lot of questions the parents had, to the sign-up station, to the height and weight station, to the orientation station, to the three data input stations, to the DNA station, and lastly to the laminating station; all did a fantastic and outstanding job.

The "kitchen crew" did a superb job of preparing the pancakes and sausage and making sure there was plenty on hand. The "serving crew" kept the coffee hot and flowing and had plenty of OJ ready to go with the pancakes. And after-wards, everybody helped everybody clean up. Awesome!!!

Please forgive if the names of volunteers are not specifically listed at this time- the list is just too long. It must be noted, however, that the support was over whelming and Melbourne Lodge No. 143 was exceedingly represented. That in its self made a resounding impression on the public. The very important end result is the benefit to the children and peace of mind for their parents.

Least we not forget our professional story teller, Susan O'Hara who happily provided her services. Susan may be contacted at booking@storyhub.com

Pat Chadwick, bless her heart, provided the color tri-fold brochures and made them look professional. Many thanks are extended to all who gave of their time and energy to support this most vital endeavor to help protect the children in our community.

Thank you very much.
Fraternally,
Rod Bornefeld, PM
District 26 Chairman
Child ID Program



Marion Dunn Lodge Endowed Scholarship



Submitted by Ken Shaw

On February 17, 2011 the members of Marion Dunn Lodge No. 19 contributed the balance of private gifts necessary to make the Marion Dunn Lodge Endowed Scholarship in Memory of Benjamin Ayres operational.

Worshipful Master Tracy M. Pick of Marion Dunn Lodge No. 19 is congratulated by Lisa Ellspermann Lombardo Director of Development from the College of Central Florida Foundation.

The scholarship will provide financial aid for students attending the College of Central Florida.

Right Honorable Jeff Wood Selected

Subject Matter Expert for the National Special Activity Airspace and Program (NSAAP)

By Ted Barber, Pine Hill Lodge Secretary and PDDGM 97

Brother Jeff Wood was selected at the end of 2010 out of 15,000 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Controllers to represent the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) as a subject matter expert for the National Special Activity Airspace and Program (NSAAP). NSAAP is a collaboration of FAA, NATCA, Department of Defense (DOD) and Civil Aviation entities. The goal of NSAAP is to build and measure a system focused on the dissemination of the operational status for special activity airspace to include warning, restricted, and other special use airspace areas. Brother Wood will be establishing a fundamental approach that will be widely acceptable and standardized for "real-time" scheduling, processing, and reporting within and for special use airspace. The select group that Brother Jeff will be working with includes two terminal controllers, two en-route controllers, and two traffic management/ military operations subject matter experts.

Right Honorable Jeff Wood has served as the "Friendly" 10th Masonic District Instructor since June 2, 2010 and is also the present Worshipful Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, F. & A.M. in Brookier, Florida. He is a plural member of Baldwin Lodge No. 217 in Baldwin, Florida. Brother Wood is an air traffic controller at the Jacksonville Florida's Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in Hilliard, Florida. His radar facility covers over 400,000 square miles from Wilmington and Charlotte in North Carolina to Tampa and Cocoa Beach in Florida to Alabama in the West and 200 miles East of our Atlantic coast line. Brother Wood and his family make their home in Hilliard, Florida. Right Honorable Wood as a result of attending a widow's night honoring his mother-in-law, Jeanette McKibben, petitioned Pine Hill Lodge and was Raised as a Master Mason on December 3, 2003.



J. Edwin Larson Lodge No. 361 holds installation

J. Edwin Larson Lodge No. 361 held its installation of officers on January 4th, 2011 in Tallahassee, Florida.

Echoing M.: W.: J. Dick Martinez's theme of Masons Always Rise to the Occasion, newly installed Worshipful Master Roger L. VanLandingham challenged the Brothers of J. Edwin Larson Lodge No. 361 to look within themselves and forge a bold path forward this year. With a program agenda that includes new committee assignments, leadership training and enhanced Masonic Education, Brothers are excited about the new innovation sure to embolden the "Light In Masonry" for the Lodge and the Seventh Masonic District.



R.:W.: Rosenthal Visits Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291



Right Worshipful Rosenthal

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach, was visited by Alan Scott Rosenthal, District Deputy Grand Master of Masons for the 21st Masonic District on Thursday evening February 3, 2011.

Right Worshipful Rosenthal was honored with a wonderful dinner, prepared by Brother John Anthony, Junior Warden, prior to the Lodge's meeting. During the visit the District Deputy Grand Master made a Perpetual Membership presentation to Brother Russell Wood.

The District Deputy Grand Master was also accompanied by the District 21 District Instructor and five committeemen. Other special guests in attendance were the District Deputy Grand Master from the 20th Masonic District, Robert Matheson, the Zone 6 Chairmen for Committee on Work, Scott McAllister, and the Past Grand Lecturer for the State of New York, Bill Ritterbusch.



Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 Claims Travelling Gavel

On May 13th, 2010, twenty-two Brothers from Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 in Hollywood, Florida, travelled to J. Dewey Hawkins Lodge to claim the Travelling Gavel. Never in the history of the Travelling Gavel has there been such a magnificent turn out for its acquisition. Every elected officer, the majority of our appointed officers and many of our Brethren travelled there to stake our claim. The support and commitment to our Lodge by our Brothers was expressed in a manner befitting the most excellent tenets of Masonry.

In the true spirit of the Travelling Gavel, it was reclaimed when both Coral Springs Lodge No. 373 and J. Dewey Hawkins Lodge No. 331 came to claim it during the official visit of our new D.D.G.M. R.:W.: Wallace Fine on June 17, 2010.

J. Dewey were successful in its acquisition, however they lost it to Doric Lodge No. 140 shortly afterwards.



Rumor has it that W.: M.: Stewart Davies has yet again set his sights on bringing it back to Roe Fulkerson in the near future.

Busy October at Callahan Masonic Lodge

Six (6) new Brothers Raised to Master Mason during Degree on Oct. 12, 2010: Front Row (left to right): Eddy Edwards, Krist Bennett, and Allen Personnett
Second Row (Left to right): Brian Sebastian, Gary Gaskill, and Brian Fair



Havana Lodge Working With New Canaan Baptist Making Their Holidays Special

Submitted by W. Bro. Tom Rawsthorne

As part of the celebration of the holidays, Havana Lodge No. 167, Havana, FL, working with the New Canaan Baptist Church provides a supermarket gift certificate to a less fortunate area family.

Shown here is W. Bro. Larry King, 2010 Master of Havana Lodge No. 167, presenting the certificate to Carol Sherman who thanked the Brothers of the Lodge for their generosity.



Pictures are W. Bro. Tom Rawsthorne presenting Evelyn with the card and a bag with additional food staples.



Each year, Havana Lodge No. 167, Havana, FL, with the assistance of the New Canaan Baptist Church, presents a needy member of the Havana community with a gift card to a local supermarket. This years recipient was Evelyn Moore, a grandmother who is helping raise her grandchildren. She thanked the members of the Lodge for their generosity and love, and said the card will help in setting the families Christmas dinner.

Grand Lodge F.& A.M. of FL Certificate Presented to Dr. Jeffrey Levenson



Pictured here were Dr. Jeffrey H. Levenson, M. D., left; and M.: W.: Brother Samuel E. Cowan, M.: W.: Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida, presenting the Certificate of Appreciation.

At the 11th and 12th Districts Masonic Association meeting on January 26, 2011, at Ribault Lodge No. 272, in Jacksonville Beach, M.: W.: Brother Samuel E. Cowan, P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Jeffrey H. Levenson, M.D.

The award was given by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida in recognition of the great humanitarian work done by Dr. Levenson and his group in providing free eye care and surgery to poor patients in rural and backward areas overseas. Dr. Levenson had just spoken to the Masonic Association about his trip, and the charitable work that they did in Peru last summer.

Three Brothers, Plural

Submitted by W. Bro. Tom Rawsthorne, PM, Secretary, Havana Lodge No. 167

2011 is a special year for Havana Lodge No. 167, Havana, FL. Why? Because this year, we have the privilege and honor of having three Brothers, two are plural members, serving as Worshipful Masters.

From left to right, plural member W.: Bro Pat Hodges is the Master of Gee Lodge No. 21, Chattahoochee, FL, W.: Bro. Ivey Hill, Havana Lodge No. 167, and plural member W.: Bro. Roger VanLandingham, the Master of J. Edwin Larson Lodge No. 361, Tallahassee, FL.



60 Masons Attend EA Degree at Gulf Beach Lodge Madeira Beach, FL



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach, announces it's newest Masons. Brothers Marc Appgar, Sumner Darling, Steve Fetherman and Jim Steinke were made Entered Apprentice Masons at a ceremony held at the Masonic Temple on January 27, 2011 in the presence of 60 members and visiting Masons. Masons from as far away as England, Scotland and Italy were in attendance.

A wonderful meal was prepared by Brother John Anthony, Junior Warden, and enjoyed by all. The ritual ceremony was presented by the newly installed Officers of Gulf Beach Lodge under the direction of Worshipful Master Joseph P. Finocchiaro.

50 Year Pin Awarded

Master in 1966. Barry D. Hart, Worshipful Master of Venice Lodge No. 301 for 2011 presented Richard Geraci, Past Master of Venice Lodge No. 301 in 1966 with his 50 year Masonic Pin on January 27th, 2011. W.: Geraci was Raised in Venice Lodge on November 18, 1960 in Venice No. 301.



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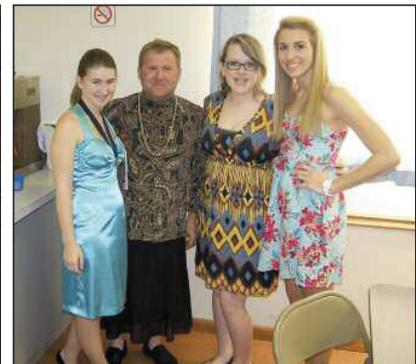
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Troy Slips into a Dress After Raising \$500.00 for Grand Master's Charity

Troy Usina, St. Augustine, wore this lovely dress to the 13th Masonic District Meeting to show his appreciation for all his Brothers who reached into their own pockets to meet his challenge to raise \$500.00. Troy told them if he could raise \$500.00 for the Grand Master's Charity he would put on a dress and come to the meeting. Well, he raised \$519.00 to be exact.

First photo, right, is Troy Usina, in his "dress for charity."

Shown in photo, far right, is (L to R) Troy's daughter, Jordan Usina; Troy; Taylor and Casey; (Jordan's friends) who all helped to dress dad.



Presentation of School Supplies

Stories by Wayne Wert, Secretary, Past Master, P.D.D.G.M., Parker Lodge No. 142

Parker Lodge adopted Parker Elementary School as its primary local charity many years ago and has often helped the school in its activities and projects. This year, the members of Parker Lodge decided to also participate in the Grand Lodge of Florida's Adopt-A-Teacher Program. The Lodge adopted the Special Education Program which has two multi-grade classes. The teachers are Mrs Johnson and Mrs Blue and their aides. Worshipful Master, Michael Miller, and Wayne Wert, Secretary, presented the classes with school supplies for the teachers and students as well as personal sanitation supplies. These articles were donated by members of Parker Lodge.



Back row, left to right: Ms Stallings, aide, Wayne Wert, Parker Lodge Secretary, Ms. Blue, Teacher, Michael Miller, Parker Lodge Worshipful Master, Ms. Johnson, Teacher.

Presenting \$160 Check to Parker Elementary School

Parker Masonic Lodge's Worshipful Master, Michael Miller, and Wayne Wert, Secretary, present Ms. Black, Assistant Principal, Parker Elementary School with a \$160 check so that all of the Safety Patrol would be able to go on a planned field trip to Wonderworks in Panama City Beach. Parker Masonic Lodge has participated in many of Parker Elementary School's activities and projects over the years. The funds were donated by members of Parker Masonic Lodge No. 142.



Pictured, back row: Ms. Burson, Parent Liaison; Ms Black, Assistant Principle; Michael Miller, Parker Lodge Worshipful Master; and Wayne Wert, Parker Lodge Secretary.

Holiday Cheer to Local Families

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach helped bring Holiday cheer to eight local families in need. Holiday food baskets were prepared and delivered for Thanksgiving and Christmas, along with \$100.00 gift cards for holiday toys. Gulf Beach Lodge was pleased to be able to assist in making this a great holiday season for those less fortunate this year.



Lodge members pose with gift boxes for the Holidays

Masons honor long-time members

Bradford Masonic Lodge No. 35 honored two Members with 55-year and 60-year Masonic Pins on Nov. 22, 2010, while friends and family enjoyed dinner and Fellowship.

(L to R): Pictured here is 55-year Member Chris Anderson and 60-year Member Robert "Doc" Mullins with District Deputy Grand Master Leaman Alvarez.



Dear Grand Lodge,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for including the notice of the Gainesville Charitable Foundation, Inc. Masonic Scholarship in the V.3 No.2 issue of the Florida Mason.

We had an almost immediate application from a young active Tampa based Mason (Doug McDuffy) who is a UF graduate student, and I immediately approved the \$1000.00 for his education at the University of Florida.

If you could continue to remind the Brethren of the scholarship in one issue of The Florida Mason each year, I believe that we would have eligible applicants, and thus award the scholarship every year. Based on this response, we did approve an additional \$4000.00 donation to the UF for the Masonic Scholarship fund.

Thank you again for this assistance, as it has certainly assisted a young Florida Mason with his graduate education.

Sincere Fraternal Regards,
Will Edge Murphy

Administrator, Gainesville Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Hiram Lodge No. 5 Fish Fry a Flippin' Success

By Jim Billberry, PM

On Friday January 14, 2011, Hiram Lodge held its 8th annual Fish Fry. Sec. Roy Faglie and his team of Master Mulletiers, "Faglie's Famous Fryers" cooked up one heck of a meal. The public turnout was fantastic and there were many compliments to the Chef.

It was great to see so many members of Hiram Lodge in attendance. This was a lot of fun and it got so busy that we forgot to take pictures. Perhaps the best visual image may be an analogy of the jobs at the building of King Solomon's Temple;

As Master of Hiram Lodge, Jim Billberry was King Solomon – Stand around, look important and rely on competent staff.

A.C. Tharpe was Hiram, King of Tyre – Big money guy, sells the most tickets of any member of Hiram Lodge.

Roy Faglie was Hiram Abiff – Architect, Promoter, Supervisor of Fellowcraft fryers, and organizer of the Fish Fry.

Members and Past Masters of Hiram Lodge – Fellowcrafts working the deep fryers and the serving line. Including an honorary Fellowcraft, Nancy Banks who worked the ticket table.

Will Hartsfield, Travis Richards, and Steven Klug were the youngest Entered Apprentices – Will & Travis on the fry line and Steven on the ticket table.

If there were any ruffians, they were too busy eating to cause trouble and peace and harmony prevailed. Thanks to every who worked on this event and who bought tickets!

How about that for a Masonic lesson?

Are You A Master Mason? I am Working On It

By Ted Barber

I recently read a very good article in the Masonic Service Association's Short Talk Bulletin entitled, "Are You A Master Mason? I am But..." Our initiatory prayer included the words, "Grant that this candidate may dedicate his life..." and the Apron Lecture included the words, "It is yours, yours to wear throughout an honorable life..." all alluding to the fact that Freemasonry is a journey of a lifetime. We as Freemasons are continually searching for light that our brethren willingly share. Truth, honor, and fortitude light our way as we gain wisdom. Our Brotherhood is made up of good men with different life experiences, education, needs, and desires. The freedom we have to discover the light of our Fraternity is based upon our own interests, needs, and talents. This diversity unites us with the cement of Brotherly love and affection. We adapt to change yet we transmit, unimpaired, those most excellent tenants that lead good men to become better men, Masters of our own Crafts where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. At the root of the controlling force of our Universe are immutable laws of unity and harmony. We learn to seek unity and harmony in our lives and in our Fraternity of Freemasonry, a Brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God. So when we are asked if we are Master Masons, we should smile and say, "I am working on it."



"Masons Always Rise To The Occasion"

Sanford Lodge No. 62 had a picnic on November 6, 2010. The first three pictures highlights the picnic. We had approximately 45 to 50 Brothers and their families that came and enjoyed the day. The last picture shows Right Worshipful Dick Schmith and myself Worshipful Master Allen Harralson, delivering school supplies that the Lodge collected for the art teacher Ms. Maddock at Forest Lake Elementary School on November 1, 2010





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Special Double Feature

We will keep you up-to-date on current events in and around the Masonic Home inside each issue of *The Florida Mason*.

60 Years a Mason Norman "Norm" Froitzheim

During a ceremony on Oct. 19, 2010, Norman Froitzheim was recognized for his 60 years of membership in Callahan Masonic Lodge No. 32. He was presented a 60 Year Lapel Pin and Certificate from the Grand Lodge F&AM of Florida by Past Master John Page. Brother Froitzheim was Initiated on July 20, 1948, Passed to Fellowcraft on January 18, 1949, and Raised a Master Mason on February 1, 1949. When Brother Froitzheim became a Mason he was a young sailor serving in the U.S. Navy of which he went on to serve a distinguished military career.

Picture (L. to R.): Past Master John Page; Norman Froitzheim; Paul Potrok (Sr. Deacon)



"Masons Always Rise To The Occasion"