

# The Florida Mason



**Grand Lodge of Florida**  
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**Grand Lodge Officers**  
2013 - 2014

**GRAND MASTER**  
M.: W.: **Danny R. Griffith**  
(Orange Park)

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**  
R.: W.: **James W. Ford**  
(Valrico)

**SENIOR GRAND WARDEN**  
R.: W.: **Steven P. Boring**  
(DeLand)

**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**  
R.: W.: **Stanley L. Hudson**  
(Port St. Lucie)

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

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
M.: W.: **Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.**  
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues  
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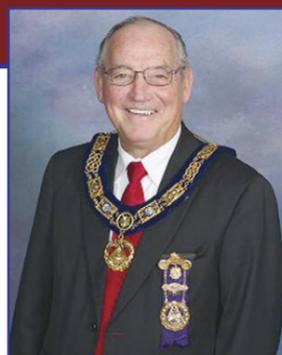
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March 4, 2014



**M.: W.: Danny R. Griffith,**  
**Grand Master**

## A Message From The Grand Master

Brethren,

I want to thank you for the honor to serve as your Grand Master. It is a daunting task which no one man can perform without the assistance of all he serves. My motto this year is "Together We Can Accomplish Anything" and is something I truly believe in. Your Grand Lodge Officers are endeavoring to improve the relationships existing between our Lodges and the Grand Lodge and I have asked all of you for your thoughts and ideas over the coming year, both positive and negative.

The Grand Master's Charity again this year is the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) which is also the Flagship Charity of The Grand Lodge of Florida. This Laboratory is truly on the cutting edge of Heart Research and many of its research projects have been adopted as the preferred method for care of heart patients. I urge each of you to support this Charity.

The Ladies Project this year is to renovate the Chapel at the Masonic Home. The Residents of the Home have asked that we undertake this project. The Chapel has not been improved over the last 25 years and drastically needs some work. If enough funds are raised, wall coverings will be replaced, pews refinished, carpet replaced, dais replaced, ceilings insulated and the ceiling tiles replaced. There are several other items which will need attention if possible; your donations are very much appreciated.

Our official District visitations have concluded and much remains to be done. During those visits you have heard me speak of the need to address the loss of membership due to Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) and that I have again approved the Amnesty Program to help bring suspended Brothers back into our Fraternity and other topics. Thank You for your input on this and other matters we discussed.

On the afternoon of August 11, 2013, I was contacted by Most Worshipful Brother Mark Genung, Grand Master of Masons in Indiana. The widow of Brother Kenneth Reeder Stemler, an Indiana Mason, who resides in Florida contacted M.: W.: Genung and was very distraught that she could not find his white leather apron and also wanted him to have a Masonic Funeral Service the next afternoon. Her hope was that someone from a Florida Lodge could get her an apron and perform the Masonic Funeral Service. M.: W.: Genung offered to personally pay our Lodge for the apron.

My Brothers all, I have stated that "Together We Can Accomplish Anything", and a number of Florida Masons, again, proved we can. I called W.: Brent Bishop, Worshipful Master, Clearwater Lodge No. 127, and explained the request, urgency and limited time frame of the request.

In summary, Clearwater Lodge No. 127, their Acacia Committee, and several Brothers from surrounding Lodges were able to plan and deliver a Masonic Funeral Service for Brother Kenneth Reeder Stemler, a 58 year Mason, who may have never received proper recognition to the Supreme Lodge on High. All accomplished in less than 24 hours. W.: Brent Bishop noted in a response to me, "Together We Can Accomplish Anything" and our answer is "simply because it was the right thing to do."



**R.: W.: James W. Ford,**  
**Deputy Grand Warden**

## A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

As we approach the holiday season, we look forward to great times with family and friends. It's a time to look forward and remember the good times and all the many blessings for which we should be grateful. I want to take this time to wish everyone a Most Happy and Glorious Holiday Season and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I also want to thank everyone for the support you have given my daughter Tracey and I as we have traveled the State of Florida. Your comfort and support has been

overwhelming!

This is also a very busy time within our Fraternity. As the Lodge year ends, we find ourselves involved with the Elections of Officers and their Installation, as well as, the process of implementing the plans and programs for the new year as established by the Worshipful Master. It's a time to reflect on the past with the opportunity to better the future.

Each newly elected Worshipful Master should have in his possession a copy of the Committee Programs 2013-2014 Booklet as printed by Grand Lodge. This Booklet contains the Grand Lodge Programs as outlined by the respective State Chairmen. The Booklet provides the information necessary for each Lodge to comply with the Grand Lodge Programs and receive the appropriate recognition by the State Chairmen and Grand Lodge. The Booklet is an essential tool for the three principle Officers in furthering their knowledge, involvement, and experience with these programs and may be used to answer questions regarding what we do as Masons. What we do as Masons include programs, such as, Child ID, MMRL, Masonic Home, and Youth Activities just to name a few. Other programs that are outlined in this Booklet and provide guidance are the Masonic Leadership Training Program and the Masonic Education program.

A new program not listed in this Booklet is the Masonic Tag Program and

We here in Florida, "The Sunshine State," live, work, and play in a transit state. Many of our Brothers, and our Brothers of outside jurisdictions, spend only months here and up-there each year. Our Masonic obligations cross jurisdictional lines when the Grand Architect calls us to his loving side. To all my Brothers wheresoever dispersed, who give of their valuable time and become proficient in our Funeral services, Thank You, know your labors are appreciated by many.

Always remember that a Masonic Funeral Service is the final tribute we can pay to our fallen Brother. That is the appropriate time to thank the Brother's family for allowing him to share his time on Earth with our Fraternity. No, you may not have known the Brother personally, but if he was a member of your Lodge, he certainly deserves your presence at his funeral service. If he was a Brother, then he is entitled to all of the "lights, rights and benefits" of being a Freemason - and that certainly includes a well-attended Masonic Funeral Service. Attending these services are, in many ways, just as important as attending Lodge meetings - as we can do nothing more for our Brother, the Funeral Service is really for the benefit of the deceased Brother's family and friends, and it exhibits our genuine care and concern for one of our own.

The Masonic Funeral Service is one of the most beautiful pieces of literature ever written. Simple, honest, and straight-forward, it offers each of us an opportunity to reflect upon our own mortality, and to reaffirm our individual faith in the Supreme Grand Master of Heaven and Earth. It draws forth its inspiration and words of comfort not only from our Volume of Sacred Law, but also from many of the world's greatest literary geniuses. No one can listen to our service and not be impacted by the gentle, yet powerful, words that touch the heart of every person present.

One day, and we know not when, each one of us will be that Brother who has passed from sight. One day, each one of us will have ended our journey in this life. As your then cold and lifeless body is commended to the grave eternal, will you want your Masonic Brethren to be present and among those that mourn you, and to offer comfort and consolation to your loved ones?

As stated in our funeral service, you can do nothing more of a material nature for the departed Brother. Nevertheless, you can cherish his memory, and offer the tribute of respect and love to the late Brother's memory. Of even greater importance, you can be there to extend our fraternal sympathy to our Brother's deeply afflicted and sorrowing family in their bereavement. We must tell his loved ones, and demonstrate it by our physical presence, that our promises to be true to them are not hollow or empty words. We owe our Brother something, and this may be the very last opportunity we will ever have to repay that debt.

In closing my Brothers, Please help me to accomplish my goals as your Grand Master and I promise to do my very best to make you proud of your Grand Lodge and our relationships with each other. May God Bless each and every one of you and your families and may God bless the USA.

*Sincerely and Fraternaly;*  
M.: W.: **Danny R. Griffith**  
Grand Master

**"Together We  
Can Accomplish  
Anything"**



I want to congratulate everyone for their efforts in purchasing the vouchers and making the Florida Masonic License Tag a reality. Our challenge now is to make all our Brothers aware of the tag, especially those Brothers from other jurisdictions living in Florida.

Membership and NPD's remain a constant topic of discussion throughout our Fraternity. We need new members - men of the highest possible character who are willing to help perpetuate our Fraternity. Men who are of like mind, who believe that "Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love" are standards to live by.

We have many Brothers who have not paid their dues for 2013. Now is the time to contact these Brothers to renew their interest in Masonry. Now is the time for each Worshipful Master, Secretary, and Lodge Officer to work together to minimize or even eliminate the number of Brothers your Lodge will suspend for NPD. These are Brothers who are already on our Membership Rolls. These are Brothers we want to bring back to Lodge. These are Brothers we want to involve in the Lodge. Many are just waiting for the proper invitation. Let's not suspend these Brothers. Let's give them the opportunity to be active. Suspension for non-payment of dues is not the answer. Let's not lose them. Let's communicate with them, bring them back to Lodge, and put them to work. Many are just waiting to hear from us.

The terms MMRL and CRI are well recognized by the Masons in Florida and are fast becoming known to the general public. I congratulate the State, Zone, and District Chairmen for their efforts in fundraising and public involvement. They are also raising awareness about the importance of heart research. We need to continue our efforts to make heart research and Masonry synonymous.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Deputy Grand Master and I look forward to meeting, and being with you as I travel around the State. Again, my Brothers, I wish you, and your families, the very best for the future.

*Sincerely, and Fraternaly,*  
R.: W.: **James W. Ford, Deputy Grand Master**



**R.:W.: Steven P. Boring,  
Senior Grand Warden**

## *A Message From The Senior Grand Warden*

Brethren,

There was a time when deals were sealed with a handshake. A man's word was his bond. Masons helped Masons. Do you remember those days?

Well the time has come for us to go back to practicing those principles. Yes, in many ways, we need to go back to the good old days. I'm not saying that we should not continue to progress into the future. Advances in technology are everywhere in our lives, but we need to remember the principles upon which our Fraternity is based. We are a Brotherhood! A Family! We need to renew the feeling of an honorable handshake; keeping our word as Brothers.

As you look into the mirror each morning, can you say "I would pass the ballot today"? We need to govern ourselves on a daily basis as if we

were going to be put to the test of the ballot. We need to be True Masons. We need to be Masons ready to help Masons!

Brothers, we are having a good year, let's keep up the good work.

If we haven't seen you yet this year, we hope to meet you on the level very soon.

*Sincerely and Fraternally;*

R.:W.: Steven P. Boring

Senior Grand Warden



**R.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson,  
Junior Grand Warden**

## *A Conversation With A Resident*

I recently had a conversation with a Resident of our Masonic Home. I have used this conversation during my time to speak at the Grand Master's Official Visits and I have been asked for the transcript. I did not have a written version of my talk; I will share it here with you.

Last year when the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home sat down to prepare the Budget for the ensuing year we knew we had to make cuts to the budget. We also knew we had to get our employees on board with the cuts as they have not received a pay raise in three years and we needed to offer them something.

We called a meeting with the Department Heads and laid out our plan. If they would cut their Department budgets by 5% or more we would give them incentive bonuses. After much discussion they agreed that they would work towards our goal. One Department Head came up with a solution right away to cut \$8,000 to \$10,000 out of her budget and this is what leads to my conversation with the Resident.

The cut came from the Dietary Department and what it entails is a cart that is filled with various snacks that the Residents have access to once a week and is called the "Kountry Kitchen".

The Residents got to choose from cereals, boxed raisins, bottled water, various crackers and other snack foods that they could take back to their rooms to enjoy at their leisure.

What we had not taken into consideration is what affect this would have on the Residents. Some of the cuts they would never see but the one that they could did have immediate affect that became verbal.

The main concern and questions were that we were in "trouble" and that we were going to close the Home. What a shock this was. After I assured him we were not going to close the Home I did let him know money was tight and we had to make some cuts to meet our budget, and when things get set better, we could bring back the "Kountry Kitchen."

What this conversation made apparent to me is we put the security of the Residents in turmoil. We gave them some doubt as to their future needs being taken care of. We made them make a sacrifice without asking them, or explaining to them the reason.

This brings me to the point of what sacrifice can we make to make our Masonic Home solid? What sacrifice will we make to put the trust back into today's Residents as well as those to follow?

It really is simple my Brothers, if each of us would make a \$100 a year donation we can fix this problem.

There are approximately 32,000 dues paying Masons in the State. If we could all make a small sacrifice, some personal thing we each do for ourselves and pay as little as \$8.34 a month that will work out to \$100 a year in as little as 5 years we can put \$15,000,000.00 in our Endowment Fund. Do think this is possible? Just remember "Together We Can Accomplish Anything".

I hope this answers some questions, feel free to call me anytime or post a message on Facebook to me. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future.

As you can tell from the first part of this article the dust has settled and the 184th Grand Lodge Communication has occurred. I have taken a few days to gather my thoughts and come down off an emotional high that can only be described as euphoric.

I want to take this time to first thank my wife, I could not have moved forward without her help and support. Second, I want to thank everyone in my Lodge and District, again without whom I could not have achieved my goal. There are many other Brothers I want to thank as well; you all know who you are, whether you made arrangements for my visits to your Districts or let me crash on your couch or in your spare room and even traveled with me, I could not have accomplished half as much as I did without your assistance.

To the Brothers of this great Fraternity whom put their faith in me, I will do my best to not to let anyone down. The journey has just begun and I look forward to a great year and better years to come. As we travel around the state for our Official Visits, please talk with me and share your concerns and your highlights. I am here to help make a difference and with your help I know we can.

*Sincerely and Fraternally;*

R.:W.: Stanley L Hudson (Stan)

Junior Grand Warden



**M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.,  
Grand Secretary**

## *A Message From The Grand Secretary*

Brethren,

The Office of the Grand Secretary is committed to providing the Lodges with the most current records for use by the Lodge Secretaries.

The Office of the Grand Secretary and all of our dedicated employees are committed to serve you, the Particular Lodges, and our Elected Grand Lodge Officers. It is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated staff. In recognizing that so many of our Lodge Secretaries and Brethren now have computers with email, our endeavor to save you money by implementing a move towards paperless mailings has made great strides. All of the required forms are available in electronic format.

The Secretaries Portal has been developed to ease the necessary changes and inquiries in reference to Membership information needed by the Lodge Secretaries.

Right Worshipful Roger McKay has developed the new Secretary How To Guide. This has proven to be a great tool for the Lodges. It is hoped each Lodge will take advantage of this Guide.

Please do not hesitate to call or email our office with your problems, cares and concerns. We serve at the will and pleasure of the Craft. Therefore, we wish to optimize our resources to meet your needs and answer your requests.

*Most Sincerely and Fraternally;*

M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.

Grand Secretary



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

## *A Message From The Grand Treasurer*

Brethren,

Our Annual Grand Lodge Communication has passed and a new Grand Lodge year has begun. This is always an exciting time of the year in our Fraternity when new programs are presented, new charities named and new goals set, with many dedicated Brothers around the State working hard to make these goals a reality. Our Grand Master has revamped several programs to enable them to serve the craft in a more productive manner.

This is also an exciting time in our Fraternity as we are seeing an increase of Membership in most of our Particular Lodges. Many of the other Grand Jurisdictions in the United States are reporting an influx of new Members as well, telling us that Masonry is alive and well and on the move. What a great time to be a Member of the oldest and largest Fraternal Organization in the world.

One of the most visible programs to the general public is our Masonic Child I.D. Program. Many of our Child I.D. Programs around the state are working diligently in conjunction with their local Police Departments, schools and other civic groups as they process thousands of children through the Program. One of the greatest rewards we as Masons could ever receive would be to have our Child I.D. Program assist in saving the life of some child in danger. I strongly urge you to

support this program with your time, effort and monetary donations as well.

If you happen to be in the Jacksonville area, I would urge you to visit your Grand Lodge Building, spend a little time with us and meet the staff.

We would be happy to assist you with a tour through the Grand Lodge Museum, where you will find Florida Masonic history on display or you may wish to browse through at you own pace. The library will also be open should you wish to spend time there possibly doing research on Florida Masonry.

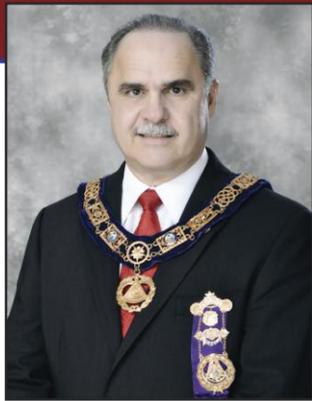
Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to again say thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me by allowing me to continue to serve as your Grand Treasurer. This allows me to continue working with a great line of dedicated Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Lodge Staff and be involved in Masonry every day. We are here to serve you, the Craft, and if I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. May God richly bless you all and may God continue to bless America.

*Fraternally;*

M.:W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.

Grand Treasurer

## A Message From The Past Grand Master



M.:W.: **Jorge L. Aladro,**  
Past Grand Master

Dear Brothers:

It has been an interesting journey and I have enjoyed communicating with the Craft for nearly three years. I cannot tell you how much your comments and feedback have meant to me whether positive or negative, whether we engaged in an exchange of emails or just received your comments.

It has been wonderful to find that we had Brothers that have received the Discourse as far out as Australia and the British Isles or who knows maybe further. I was really amazed as some of the Brothers in these countries made commentary of receiving the Discourse that had been forwarded to them by friends.

I thank all the Brothers that recognized the value in the messages to forward them to other Brothers and more especially those that used some of the Discourses for educating their Membership in their Lodge, that was especially nice to hear and it inspired me to continue in this endeavor.

I always wonder how many Brothers received the Discourse not just through my email but also those that had been forwarded. It's interesting how this thing called the internet can reach such long distances instantaneously. I don't know if we will ever find out, but it sure would be interesting to know. If you can help by dropping me a note telling me where you are and how many you forwarded it would be interesting tracking this last Discourse.

It has been a true pleasure communicating with Masons that have the best interest of the Fraternity at hand and want to raise the bar in an effort to improve the quality of the Membership and practice Masonry as it was intended.

Masonry has always been selective, even in its operative state it was not open to everyone, and the trade was handed down from fathers to sons. As a matter of fact, the concept of Grand Lodges was created to slow down the indiscriminate acceptance of individuals and create a standard with minimum requirements as to age, reputation, servitude, and belief in a supreme being. The concept started three decades ago of one day classes to turn around the eroding numbers due mainly to the non-payment of dues at least in the Grand Lodges in the United States. This has clearly not worked and has not had the effect of turning around the loss of Membership. This is a cyclical event much like others in society and we have experienced them before, during the 1800's and 1900's also followed by periods of growth.

Anytime you experience a large influx of people during a certain period of time you must also expect to lose a large number of people down the road by normal attrition. We have been experiencing this the last three to seven decades depending on what part of the country you are in and when your Grand Lodge peaked its Membership. There were several reasons for this, one, we didn't worry for quite some time and by the time we started to address the situation we were behind the eight ball.

Two, those that experienced it later ignored what was happening in their Sister Grand Lodges as they were still having positive growth. Three, when everyone decided that there was a problem as they saw it (I don't believe there is a problem) the response was to keep the De-

gree fees low and keep the dues down so as to bring in more candidates that can afford it, we lowered the requirements in the sense that catechisms were shortened or eliminated, no education required, we created the one day class and we basically laid to rest the high requirements and moral standards we had for nearly 250 years, and still we have not turned the loss around. Guess what you will never do it this way, it has never worked before, and it will not work in the future.

You may ask yourself why he is saying that. The answer is simple, men coming to Masonry who are looking for a social club will never fit in and will soon leave or never participate, men who are looking for value such as personal and spiritual growth do not find it in our system today or let's say in very few places, and by far leave because you promise to make him better and you failed to deliver by lowering the requirements and not providing him the vehicle by which he can achieve your promise to make good men better, you failed to deliver on your promise.

We are so afraid to stand up for the great things our Fraternity should represent and are tearing at the very fabric of this great Institution trying to make it inclusive of everyone. We have erased the clearly black and white issues of morality and have made a great shade of gray; we make excuses for wrong doing, we have lost our sense of justice, we continue to erode the department required in our assemblies and finally have lost all sense of gentlemanly conduct.

The turnaround of our Fraternity will not depend on a leadership that by far changes yearly, the turnaround will depend on the Membership which remains a constant and continuity of the Craft and therefore it will be even more difficult when the majority of the Craft have not been educated in Masonry and the only thing they know is the present system of lower standards and requirements. Only through research and education can we start to learn how to properly observe how our Craft was meant to be practiced. Stay the course, "Be a Leader, Make it Happen," on your shoulders rest the salvation of the Craft.

YOU need to be the one Brother in your Lodge that can make the change by educating and leading by word and deed those who have truly come to the Craft looking to improve themselves in Masonry both personally and spiritually. I charge each and every one of you to make a difference.

In closing, this will be my last Discourse, I like you will continue to work in the quarries of Freemasonry trying to educate my Brothers and promoting the best this Noble and Ancient Institution has to offer for higher quality, greater achievements, and better men around the world.

I raise my prayers to the Great Architect of the Universe that we can turn this Fraternity around. Make this your commitment as a dedication to our three hundred year anniversary which is just around the corner. We may not get there by 2017 but at least we can be well on our way, we did not get here overnight but we can certainly start the movement towards the right direction one Brother at a time, one Lodge at a time and be the beacon of light and hope for this Fraternity's third century.

Farewell my Brothers, God speed in all your undertakings may they be fruitful and influential, to the benefit of our great Fraternity. God Bless Freemasonry.

*Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted,*

*I remain your most humble servant*

Jorge L. Aladro, Grand Master – 2012-2013

## Boynton Lodge Youth Night & Scholarship Awards

Submitted by Bro. Scott Schwartzberg

On April 25, 2013, Boynton Lodge No. 236 and Worshipful Master Brian Work welcomed the public to its Annual Youth Education Night. After a catered dinner, Mr. Charles Shaw, a Member of the Palm Beach School Board addressed the members of the audience, paying particular attention to the younger faces in the crowd. Mr. Shaw encouraged everyone to write the story of their lives, making each day count.



L to R: W.:M.: Brian Work, R.:W.: Wayne Hansen, Ms. Briana Atul Patel, Ms. Dominique Luongo and Mr. Charles Shaw.

R.:W.: Wayne Hansen, State Chairman of Youth Activities, and a Past Master of Boynton Lodge No. 236, presented two \$1000 scholarships to Dominique Luongo and Briana Atul Patel, both graduating from Atlantic High School in Delray Beach. Dominique Luongo is going to attend Harvard College, and Briana Atul Patel is going to go to the University of Florida.

## Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group Welcomes W.: Arturo de Hoyos

Submitted by Bro. Scott Schwartzberg

Worshipful Master Brian Work and the Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group (BLERG) welcomed Worshipful Arturo de Hoyos to deliver an educational presentation on April 27, 2013.



L to R: Dean Alban, W.:M.: Brian Work, W.: Arturo de Hoyos, M.:W.: Jorge L. Aladro, R.:W.: John Karroum, Bro. Scott Schwartzberg.

W.: de Hoyos is Past Master of a Lodge in Texas, and currently serves as Grand Archivist and Grand Historian for the Supreme Council, 33° of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. He is also Grand Archivist for the Grand College of Rites of the United States of America, a regular Masonic body, dedicated to preserving the history and Rituals of defunct and inactive Masonic Orders.

W.: de Hoyos spoke on "What Masonry is and what it isn't," as well as Masonic Emblems of Mortality. There was also a lively discussion with questions asked by members of the audience. There were over 40 Brethren present, including M.:W.: Jorge L. Aladro. Traveling with W.: de Hoyos was Dean Alban, Director of Membership for the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction.

## Approved by the Legislature & Went Into Effective Oct. 1, 2013



### For Voucher Purchase

**The code to purchase: Freemasons Tag FQR**

Approved by the Legislature to be effective October 1, 2013, for voucher purchase. You can now obtain a voucher from your local Tag Agency to pre-order the tag. 1,000 vouchers have been purchased and The Masonic License Plates are now in production. The cost for the voucher is \$35.00. All funds received from the sale of these plates will benefit the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.

**Please order yours today!**



## John Darling Lodge No. 154 and Universal Lodge No. 178 Hold Master Mason Degree

By W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo

John Darling Lodge No. 154 and Universal Lodge No. 178 held a Master Mason Degree on June 11, 2013. The Degree was in both English and Spanish using the Florida approved work. Brother Jose Hernandez was Raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason by Brother Andres Morin.



Degree Team of Universal and John Darling Master Masons.



Worshipful Master Anthony A. De Angelo, John Darling Lodge, Brother Jose Hernandez, Worshipful Master Mario J. Tamayo, Universal Lodge.

## Master Mason Degree Zephyr Lodge 198

Zephyr Lodge had the privilege of Raising two Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at its regular Communication held on April 25, 2013.

With about 45 Brothers on the sidelines Brother Jack Johnson gave an excellent Lecture after the Lodges Degree Team prepared the candidates to be Raised. Included in the sidelines were first time visitors, four Brothers from Michigan and three from Ohio.

Chuck Smith, P.M., was surprised that two of the Ohio Brothers, a father and son, were from his old Lodge and the father/ grandfather actually held the Stewards position with Chuck way back when.



Shown in photo with Worshipful Master W.:M.: "Bill" Clark is Brother Christopher Joseph Mandia (left) and Brother Corey Paul Sommers (right).

## Fun Day With The Masons & The Rainbow Girls

The Masons of Districts 1 & 2 joined the Rainbow Girls for their 2nd Annual "Fun Day with the Masons." A picnic was provided by the Rainbow Girls with everyone bringing side items to go with fried chicken. The girls joined the Masons in teams and played softball. Congratulations to Pace Lodge No. 349 on the win. They took home the trophy to proudly display until next year's event.



## M.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig Honored By New Jersey Grand Lodge

Submitted by W.: Patrick C. Palmer

On April 24, 2013, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey bestowed the distinguished honor of Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey on Most Worshipful Dale I. Goehrig, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida and Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida, of the Supreme Council of the Southern Division of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

In addition, the Grand Master of Masons of New Jersey, Most Worshipful Glen Trautman, presented Most Worshipful Goehrig with the Daniel Coxe Medal for Distinguished Service to the Craft.

The Daniel Coxe Medal is a high honor given, by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey to only a chosen few who have made a profound impact on the Fraternity. Congratulations to Ill. Goehrig on this prestigious Award and Honor.



## Haines City Mayor Presents Haines City Lodge No. 219 With Proclamation



Brother Keith N. McHome (Marshal), W.: Dennis L. White (Worshipful Master), W.: Robert "Bob" A. Howland (Secretary), Brother Paul L. Hamlin (Senior Steward) and Haines City Mayor Joanna Wilkinson



In honor of Haines City Lodge No. 219, Free and Accepted Masons of Haines City, Florida, reaching their 100th Anniversary, Mayor Joanna Wilkinson presented representatives of the Lodge a Proclamation at the City Commission Meeting held February 7, 2013, in the newly built City Hall.

(Photo top right) Accepting the Proclamation on behalf of the Brethren of Haines City Lodge No. 219 was W.: Dennis L. White (Worshipful Master), W.: Robert "Bob" A. Howland (Secretary), Brother Keith N. McHome (Marshal) and Brother Paul L. Hamlin (Senior Steward). An interesting historical note from the Proclamation showed that the City of Haines City, FL, was established in 1914 whereas Haines City Lodge No. 219 was established in 1913.

## Boy Pioneers

In the late 1800's, Daniel Carter Beard created a program called the "Boy Pioneers". This program inspired Lord Baden Powell to create the Boy Scouts in England. The Boy Scout Program came to the United States in 1910 when Daniel Beard merged his organization into the Boy Scouts of America and became its first National Commissioner.

Daniel Beard was a Master Mason in New York and stood as a fine example of how a Master Mason can live a life of Masonic service to mankind by reaching out and working with the youth in the local community.

Both William Hudson and Arthur Allison were nominated by their Masonic Lodge, Orange Park Lodge, approved by the local Boy Scouts of America Council, and authorized by the Grand Lodge of Florida.



## More Light

By W.: Welbourne C. McDuffie,  
Past Master of Zephyr Lodge 198, December 2011

When just a youth my journey began, unknowing to me just when it would end.  
The Order of DeMolay kept me straight as the chairs I did ascend.  
Each step along that path, began to mold the man I would become at last.  
Many years I looked from without, while searching for myself.  
Tho I often considered to take the next step, it seemed the time just wasn't right.  
My journey on this path began again when I was in my prime.  
Those from my youth prevailed once more and with a since of fulfillment I opened that door.  
Again I ascended the chairs of the Lodge, learning more as I took that road.  
With each step measured in degrees and through the words on bended knees.  
I entered once again on my search for more light.  
Arriving at the highest point obtainable in blue, I am still seeing there's so much more to do.  
I do not know if or when, this journey for light may come to an end.  
However having traveled this enlightening path, with the final light just out of reach, I have truly learned that the good men who are Masons will help me find the light, that's been my journey to reach.

## Outdoor Rocket Degree, District 26

By W.: Jimmy Hawkins

District 26 again hosted an annual Outdoor Rocket Degree. Masons from all the Lodges in the District participated as well as Grand Lodge Officers. Unfortunately, the weather for the first time in as many years as the ceremony has been performed did not hold up and rain caused the Zuhlke Plantation to be far too wet for the degree to be held outdoors.

The backup plan worked out just fine as the degree was moved inside to Harbor City Lodge No. 318. The Lodge was opened as Merritt Island Lodge No. 353, the true host lodge and was chartered by virtue of representation of the Worshipful Master in attendance, W.:M.: Mike Bauerfeind. The vittles were provided by the Zuhlke Plantation smoke-house and were a fine festive board of refreshment featuring fresh caught pulled pork and all the fixin's.

The highlight of the event was the honor of Brother Robert Wesley Bauer being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Most Worshipful Grand Master Jorge L. Aladro (2012-2013). There were about 75 Brothers in attendance, even with the inconvenient weather. Brother Mike Ovens of Palm Bay Lodge was the Chairman of the degree. It was a very well planned and enjoyable event.



Pictured are newly Raised Brother Robert W. Bauer and M.:W.: Jorge L. Aladro

## Rusty Nail Degree, District 26

By W.: Jimmy Hawkins

April 30, 2013, the 26th Masonic District of Florida held a Rusty Nail Degree at Harbor City Lodge No. 318 that began at 7:00 pm. The following Brothers served as officers for the degree:

Worshipful Master – W.: Mike Bornfeind	Secretary – R.: W.: John Paniccia
Senior Warden – W.: Terry Hill	Chaplain – Brother Toxey A. Hall
Junior Warden – W.: Everett Morris	Tyler – Brother David Martin
Senior Deacon – Brother Jason Tepper	Junior Deacon – Brother Bob Chadwick
Senior Steward – Brother Mike Ovens	Junior Steward – Brother Chris Davis

The Lecture was delivered by R.:W.: Tom Johnson and the Charge delivered by Brother Chris Davis. The candidates for the Degree were Brother William Frickie of Palm Bay Lodge No. 397 and Brother Michael Sparks of Steven Decatur Lodge No. 979 in Decatur, IL.

The Degree was attended by W.: Shaun Arner, District 26 Chairman for Masonic Development and W.: Jimmy Hawkins, Zone 5 Chairman for Masonic Development. A total of 32 Brothers were present for the Degree.

After a great Degree, all of the Brothers sitting in the Officer's chairs were congratulated on an outstanding job. The Degree was concluded at 7:55pm and the Brothers were invited to stay for refreshments provided by Brother Jay Rodgers, Junior Warden of Harbor City Lodge.



## Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Initiates Two Entered Apprentices

By Howard W. Knapp P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M., Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291



Fifty-one Masons from as far away as Scotland and Canada attended the Entered Apprentice Degree at Gulf Beach Lodge in Madeira Beach for Brothers Bobby Burkett II and Adam Wolf. The ritual work was exemplary! The lecture was delivered by Brother Ed Scott and the

Charge by R.:W.: Howard Knapp. Brothers from Star Lodge were also in attendance and retrieved the Traveling Gavel (the Traveling Gavel is to promote visitation between Lodges). Congratulations to Brothers Bobby Burkett and Adam Wolf!!



## District 17 Awards \$20,000 in Scholarships

The Masons of Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 F&A.M., several additional Masonic Appendant Bodies, and Masons of Central Florida's 17th District Masters & Wardens Association, have partnered with other community organization's to award 20 deserving young High School Seniors in the area with \$1,000.00 Scholarships to assist in their quest for higher learning.

A banquet reception event was organized and coordinated by Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80's own Brother Ed Smallwood, who, along with his Lady, Rhea Smallwood, are Directors of the Langley Golf Foundation. Brother Ed is also a retired Administrator of Osceola County's School System, and served as Chairman of the 2012 - 17th District's Golf Tournament, which was a rousing success last September. The recognition service for the 2013 Scholars was held at Kissimmee Bay Country Club. Brother Ed was assisted by Members of the 17th District and OBL80 to make this one of the most successful fundraising events of this type in our history.

Hosting this occasion was the Burton and Barbara Langley Family Foundation, Curators and Patrons of the Museum at the Kissimmee Bay Country Club, also providing the icing on the cake with a 100% matching donation from the Foundation which contributed and aided our success story by providing dollar for dollar matching funds to enhance the goals of each fund raising contributor.



## Operative Masons Using Primitive Equipment Restore A Fragile Cultural Resource

Photos and Story by Brother Ron Bogner & Brother Nick Evangelisti

On May 11, 2013, Brothers from Doric Lodge No. 140 and J. Dewey Hawkins Lodge No. 331 teamed up to volunteer with the Florida Park Service. The name of the project is "Mother Earth Day" and is held annually at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale. This year, the park has been in the process of cleaning out a historic canal that was created by Mr. Hugh Taylor Birch and was once used as a bird sanctuary. Assistant Park Manager (and Brother) Ron Bogner conceived the idea to restore it back to its working condition by assembling a large volunteer group and establishing a day for the work to happen.



Mike Lewis, Alvin Crow, Kurt Stone Bogner



Nick Evangelisti, Ron Bogner

The canal is connected on both ends by a fresh water lake. Up until the 1980's it was a favorite spot for canoeists and kayakers to pass through a pristine ecosystem that was part of Mr. Birch's estate. Since then, the canal has continued to fill up with branches, logs and muck. By excavating it out, the park will once again be able to provide this unique recreational opportunity for children and adults. The canoe trail will also be used by Park Staff to conduct Ranger guided tours.

Prior to the Mother Earth Day project, Brothers from the lodges in District 33 were notified of the intent and several were willing to get right in the canal to pull out the debris. Brothers Scott Burnett, Kurt Stone, Alvin Crow, and Mike Lewis from Doric Lodge and Brothers Ron Bogner, Bill Schmidt, Nicholas Evangelisti, and Ryan Schwartzberg from J. Dewey Hawkins Lodge clearly demonstrated their skills in Operative Masonry. The logs and muck were removed by using ropes, pulleys, and buckets. Eighty-five percent of the job was done by the end of the day. Phase 2 of the project will take place on the weekend of Father's day of this year. The Staff at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park will be presenting plaques of appreciation to both lodges for their support.

## Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Presents Scholarship Award

Article and photo by R.:W.: Howard Knapp, P.D.D.G.M

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located at 14020 Marguerite Drive in Madeira Beach, presented its annual Albert T. and Tupper MacMillan Scholarship to Mr. Craig T. Thacher a graduating Senior at Seminole High School in Seminole Florida. Mr. Thacher will be attending College this Fall at St. Petersburg College and will be pursuing a career in the electronic arts field.

Ernest J. Freeman Jr., Master of Gulf Beach Lodge in 1984, had a vision. This vision was to create a Scholarship Program that would grant deserving local students funds to assist in their college tuition. It was also his vision to create a program which would be self-sustaining, thereby being a source of assistance well into the future. After the passing of Ernest Freeman the Scholarship Program was renamed in his memory and has helped support four college students each year since its inception.

In 2008 Albert T. MacMillan, a Member of Gulf Beach Lodge, passed away leaving monies from his estate to create a memorial scholarship. The winner of the annual Scholarship, now called the Albert T. and Tupper MacMillan Scholarship receives \$2,000.00 to assist in their College or University expenses.



L-R: Fernando Salazar, Scholarship Chairman; Mr. Craig Thacher; Michael Pagnotta, Senior Warden

## Interactive Leadership

Identifying and developing successful candidates for line positions within the lodge, is one of the greatest challenges confronting our Fraternity today. Furthermore, given the breadth of interest in the continuing goal of achieving, more pressure is being placed on Masters to identify capable Brothers, and to accelerate their development to fulfill these positions with greater responsibilities and leadership.

A Masters challenge is to ensure the capable Brothers are identified and receive aggressive Masonic training in leadership skills, responsive monitoring in role attainment, and initial guidance for role performance. This is apparent. Masters will need assistance in order to add this challenge to their list of top priorities.

An organization is a relatively permanent interaction system to coordinate the placement and development of the Membership from the common good of task accomplishment. To the extent that Masters assume responsibility in getting new officers to thoroughly understand their role and its relationship to organizational goals, the officers will internalize the need for role competency, task accomplishment and personal commitment.

Masters and their officers need not to be in conflict, but rather on a continuing path for growth. Our fraternity has purposes, aspirations and values. These dictate the manner in which individual capacities are developed and used for task accomplishment. Some newly appointed officers will need to develop their strengths, others to learn to use unused talents, yet others will need to acquire new approaches. In contrast to a conflict model, the values associated with changes such as these will dictate that Masters be directed toward using experiential-learning tools in exploring the capacities and expectations of Brothers being considered for line positions.

Whether the emphasis is on the tasks associated with getting things done, or on human relationships associated with interpersonal growth, the process of interactive leadership must reflect task and personal growth as simultaneous attributes of leadership excellence. This is imperative if we are to influence effectively our Brothers opportunity to grow and to develop, and just as important, use the rich resources and talents within our fraternity.

## Bicycle Program for Student Improvement, Ornan Lodge No. 117



Pictured L to R: R.:W.: Art Bishel, Bro. Glen Garner, Secretary and Committee Chair and Worshipful Master Bill Catsulis who represented the 75 Brothers of Ornan Lodge No. 117 by presenting a new bicycle and helmet to the student who made the most improvement in reading; this young man improved 51 points.

In the Williston Elementary School Auditorium, packed with students, teachers, parents, grandparents and guardians, the Brothers of Ornan Lodge No. 117 presented the 6th bicycle this year to a student at Williston Elementary School.

This is the 6th year of the program which provides incentives for the best attendance during the FCATS study days and improved reading skills. Each grade level, 3rd, 4th and 5th is guaranteed a bike. Also pictured is (below) Mrs. Marla Heirs, Principal of Williston Elementary School, with student.



## Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314 Presents Annual Scholarship

Harry Jackson Masonic Lodge No. 314 in Lynn Haven presented an Annual Scholarship Award to Joey Hair. Congratulations to Joey for a well deserved award and recognition.

## Shamrock Lodge No. 268 Presents 55 Year Certificate

Shamrock Lodge No. 268 was proud to present Honorable Marshall Marrow Clements his 55 Year Membership Certificate and Pin on Thursday night at our District Deputy visitation meeting. The Certificate and Pin was presented by R.:W.: Allen Wood. Brother Clements is a Past Master of our Shamrock Lodge and served as Chaplin for many years.



## Branford Lodge No. 130 Honors 50 Year Members

By Bro. Robert See, Secretary, Branford Lodge No. 130 F&A.M.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2013, Members, Family and Friends of Branford Lodge No. 130 in Branford, Florida met to honor our Brothers who have been Master Masons for more than 50 years.

Three of the 50 Year Members were able to attend. Those attending were: Brother James (Bob) Fletcher, Brother Jesse Wood, and Brother James K. Davis. Because of age and health concerns Brothers Oscar Munch and Lester Bunting were unable to attend.

A covered dish dinner with food and Fellowship was enjoyed by all. After dinner everyone adjourned to the Lodge room where the Worshipful Master, Harvey Buchanan presented the Brothers with their 50 Year Certificates and Pins. Each Brother was given a



short resume of their Masonic History by the Secretary.

After the Honoring of our 50 Years Members, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Brother Manuel Starling for his dedication to Masonry and work in our Lodge.

It is truly an accomplishment to obtain 50 Years with any organization and we appreciate all of our Brothers whatever their time of service.

## Gulf Beach Lodge Supports Masonic Home Service Guild and Corky's Cupboard

Story & Photo by R.:W.: Howard Knapp.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, presented The Masonic Home Service Guild with a \$200.00 donation in June for Corky's Cupboard. Gulf Beach Lodge encourages all Lodges to support the Masonic Home, and the Service Guild, in the wonderful things they do for the residents. Coreen Brownell, "Corky", came up with the idea of "Corky's Cupboard" in 1990, to hand out sundry items and health & beauty aids to residents, received from donations. She was a Member of the Masonic Home Service Guild whose members volunteer here and who are also Eastern Star Members. She initiated a state-wide plea for donations and they started coming in from Lodges and Chapters, and since then, twice a week, "Corky's Cupboard", named in her honor, opens for the purpose of supplying the residents with their toiletry needs. Corky ran the Cupboard for many years until her passing. It continues to be run by the Service Guild, and is located inside the "Now & Then" Gift Shop. It is entirely sustained through kind donations of items, and cash to buy the items the residents need the most!



(L-R) W.: Jon Vonderau, Bonnie Perry, and W.:M.: John Anthony. W John Anthony presents Bonnie Perry a check for \$200.00 from Gulf Beach Lodge

## Ensley Masonic Lodge No. 278 Honors Local Law Enforcement and Firefighters

By Brother John Mick

Worshipful Master Juanito Agustin is shown presenting plaques and certificates of Appreciation to representatives of the Escambia County Sheriff's Department, Escambia County Fire Department, The Pensacola City Police Department, and the Pensacola City Fire Department on Saturday, May the 8th, 2013 at Ensley Masonic Lodge No. 278 in Pensacola, Florida.



## 37 Attend Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Master Mason Degree

By Howard W. Knapp P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Thirty seven Masons attended the M.M. Degree for Brother Dan McKnight at Gulf Beach Lodge. A wonderful dinner was prepared by the Junior Warden prior to the Degree. We would like to welcome Brother Dan as our newest Master Mason.



## Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Initiates Entered Apprentices

By Howard W. Knapp P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

We want to congratulate our newest EA Brothers, Peter Plautz and John Wisely III, who were Initiated in the presence of 37 Masons last night at Gulf Beach Lodge. A wonderful lecture was delivered by W.: Derryl O'Neal, the Charge and Lambskin Poem was delivered by R.:W.: Howard Knapp. The officers put on a GREAT Degree.

Also, the Lodge Master, W.: John Anthony, was presented a folio carrying case from W.: David Gregory, one of our regular visitors.



## Masters Project Family Luau

By Howard W. Knapp P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Gulf Beach Lodge held its Masters Project Family Luau on June 9th at Lake Seminole Park. W.: Tom Willmot cooked the pigs, Brother Buck Owens set the mood with Hawaiian Luau music, and everyone enjoyed the festive decorations, food, homemade punch, and desserts. W.:M.: John Anthony's, Masters Project, this year is to install a starry decked heaven lighting system in the Lodge, replace existing lighting and sound system, and install a new projector system in the Lodge room. The Project is scheduled to begin July 1st and be completed by September 1st. More photos can be seen on Gulf Beach Lodge Facebook page.



## Pensacola Child Id Event ID's 54

By Brother John Mick

A Child ID outing in Pensacola on May 25th, 2013, resulted in the videoing of 54 children. Pictured are those who participated in the event.

L to R: Bob Aultman, James Draeving, Jane Denard, McKaila, Debbie Whiteman, Brittany, Lynn Aultman, Bob Denard and Tom Hood.



## Florida Governor Attends Wausau Lodge No. 39 Possum Festival Breakfast

By Gary D. Eldridge II - Worshipful Master

On Saturday, August 3, the Town of Wausau held its annual Possum Festival. Every year the Lodge holds a pancake breakfast to start the day's activities. This year Florida Governor Rick Scott stopped by with his wife for breakfast and visited with us at the Lodge. This was a real treat for all in attendance.

## 60 Year Mason Brother James A. Baker

By Randall Bolen, J.:W.: Pineland

Congratulations to our newest 60 Year Mason, Brother James A. Baker, (left) who was Presented his Certificate and Pin by W.: Willard Hammond at Pineland Lodge No. 86 on July 18th, 2013. Brother Jim was Raised on July 9th, 1953 and has been an Active Member in good standing and continues to serve on many committees even to this day. We congratulate Brother Jim on such and wonderful achievement and look forward to many more years in Lodge with him.

## Venice Lodge No. 30 Presents 60 Year Service Award

W.: B. John recently received his 60 Year Service Award & Pin from Venice Lodge No. 301. During his 60 Years as a Mason W.: B. John has served as head of 14 Appendant Masonic Bodies.



L to R: W.: Jeff Pick, Grand Master of Venice Lodge No. 301, W.: B. John Ross, and R.:W.: Rodger Craig

## Sanford Lodge No. 62, Leadership in Action & DDGM Visitation

By Brother Ed Slauson

Sanford Lodge No. 62 of the 16th Masonic District holds the distinction of being the only Lodge in the District to have four District Deputies and two District Instructors as Active Members of their Lodge, Right Worshipful Thomas Turlington, District Deputy Grand Master of the 16th Masonic District, Brother Patrick Velasquez, District Deputy Eminent Commander of the Knights Templar, Worshipful John Bowers, District Deputy Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch, Right Worshipful Bernard Schlenk, District Deputy Supreme Tall Cedar of the 23rd District Supreme Forest Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Right Worshipful Michael Hartman, District 5 Instructor of the Royal Arch and Right Honorable Sebastian Guarneri, District Instructor of the 16th Masonic District.

On the first official visit of Right Worshipful Thomas Turlington to their Lodge on Tuesday night July 2, 2013 all were in attendance except Right Worshipful Michael Hartman who had suffered an injury to his leg earlier in the week and could not attend. Right Worshipful Turlington was received by 28 Master Masons, one State Committeemen and nine District Committee Men.



## Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Passes Three to Fellowcraft

By Howard W. Knapp P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Forty Four Members and visitors attended a Fellowcraft Degree at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 in Madeira Beach on Saturday July 27th for Brothers Devon Wiggers, Frank Koulianos, and Jim Wittstruck. A great morning and afternoon was had by all! Congratulations to these Brothers on their second step in Freemasonry.

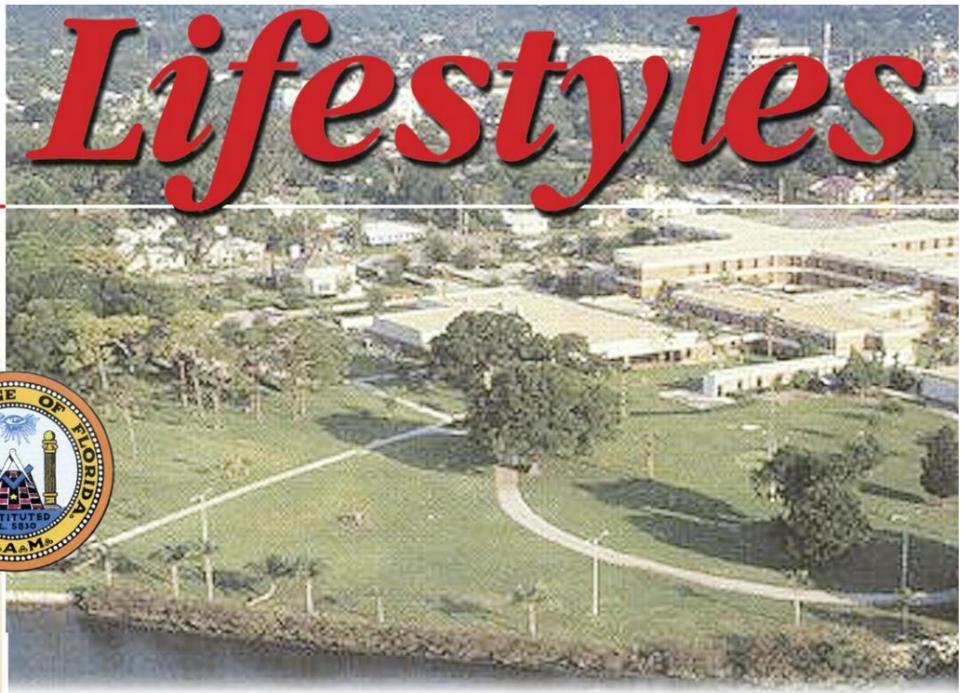


## Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

*On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou*



## Programs Which Benefit Masonic Home Of Florida



As you can see, there are many ways in which your contributions help to secure the future of The Masonic Home Of Florida



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**Grand Lodge Officers  
2013 - 2014**

**GRAND MASTER**

M.: W.: **Danny R. Griffith**  
(Orange Park)

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**

R.: W.: **James W. Ford**  
(Valrico)

**SENIOR GRAND WARDEN**

R.: W.: **Steven P. Boring**  
(DeLand)

**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**

R.: W.: **Stanley L. Hudson**  
(Port St. Lucie)

**GRAND TREASURER**

M.: W.: **Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M.**  
(Orange Park)

**GRAND SECRETARY**

M.: W.: **Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.**  
(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

Next Issue Deadline:  
**The Florida Mason**  
Vol. 7, Issue 1  
& **Masonic Lifestyles**  
Summer 14

Submission Date  
March 31, 2014  
Print Date  
May 10, 2014



# Welcome

## From Our Administrator

### Seasons Greetings To All:



If you look back over the past few Winter editions of this newsletter, I am sure this letter always starts out the same way-it is hard to believe the year is coming to an end! This has been another outstanding year with many accomplishments including the addition of the Masonic License Plate tags which will help to support our Masonic Home in the future.

Beginning in early January 2014, we will begin work on renovating the Masonic Home Chapel for the benefit of the Residents. This room is highly utilized and has not had any significant improvements in over 20 years. We are thrilled that First Lady Betsy

Griffith selected this worthwhile project and look forward to the official dedication on Pilgrimage Day, March 15, 2014, at 11 am. We thank all of you who have contributed and hope to see you for the "grand opening"!

We are thankful to have such a wonderful group of caring, dedicated staff members who enhance the lives of the Residents they serve each and every day. We are also thankful to each member of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons Of Florida for your continued support of the Residents and the mission established almost 100 years ago.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season,

Lisa Tsotsos  
Administrator

## It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas In October...

For the 37th consecutive year, our friends from Masters and Wardens of Dade County put on an outstanding Christmas In October celebration for the Residents. Several months in advance, Residents write their wish list for Santa to bring that day and they are never disappointed.

In addition to their individual gifts, there is also a store stocked with brand new clothing, blankets, robes, perfume, cologne, calendars, etc. where the Residents go to fill up on all the goodies. We appreciate the love and dedication shown by the wonderful men and women who make this event so special. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts Districts 34 and 35!



Lady of Masonry and Karen Boatright, wife of Grand Marshal, Rudy Boatright. We appreciate all those who made this day so much fun for all.

## 30th Masonic District's Annual Western Day

On August 17, 2013, our friends from the 30th Masonic District were here to celebrate the 3rd Annual Western BBQ put on for the Residents. There was music, dancing and wonderful food including slow-cooked pork prepared with the Junior Grand Wardens's secret recipe seasoning! The party was topped off with ice cream served by Betsy Griffith, First



## Thank You Lake Lodge No. 72!

The generous Members of Lake Lodge No. 72 in District 13 presented the Residents of the Masonic Home with a gift certificate to Winn Dixie to use as needed. Well, the Residents thought since Winn Dixie is the "Beef People" that meant a good old cookout is what they "needed"! Delicious rib eye steaks were prepared and enjoyed by all.



Chef Michael gets some help at the grill from (L to R) Maryanne Mello, Ramona Cruz & Sheryl McKesson, Activities Department



Chef Michael Pelusi displays the steaks for Residents prior to cookout



Lee and Lois Gibbins, Residents, sponsored by Pineland Lodge No. 86 sample the delicious meal

## I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Krispy Kreme!

The Residents of the Masonic Home were some of the first in line to try out the new Krispy Kreme which just opened in St. Petersburg. The official results are in-we loved them!



Nancy Dela Cruz, Resident, sponsored by Community Lodge No. 292



Ernie and Mary Elliott, Residents, sponsored by Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80



## Helen Hula Turns 105 Years Young



On July 19, 2013, the Residents and Staff joined Helen Hula, Resident, sponsored by Hollywood Chapter No. 150, Order of the Eastern Star, in celebrating her 105th birthday! All of us hope to be as beautiful as she is, inside and out, at 105 or any age. Best wishes Helen!

## Rainbow Girls Make Our Day

The Residents were thrilled to get a visit from the Members and advisors of Space Coast No. 99 and Hope No. 82 Chapters of the International Order of Rainbow For Girls. These outstanding



young woman came ready to volunteer their time and talents to make the day brighter for all. Thank you for being here!



## Ladies Oriental Shrine Of Sarasota Visits

On July 17th, the Members of Sar-I Court No. 79, Ladies Oriental Shrine of Sarasota visited to put on an interesting program for all Residents to enjoy. We appreciate the effort they displayed and hope they will return again soon.



## Masonic Home Residents Support Their Hometown Tampa Bay Rays



The Residents always support their team, the Tampa Bay Rays, and on August 29, 2013, they did so in person at Tropicana Field. It was a great afternoon filled with baseball, hot dogs, Pepsi, and friendship!

## Residents Attend BBQ At Nitram Lodge



The Members of Nitram Lodge No. 188 never forget to include Masonic Home Residents in any fun events they hold. On June 29, 2013, Residents were invited to Nitram Lodge for a bbq dinner which they all talked about for days.

*Thanks for always thinking of us Nitram Members!*

*G. Scott Pankonie, Worshipful Master of Nitram No. 188, back row left, is joined by Residents of the Masonic Home of Florida*

## Caring Team Helps Make July 4th Even More Of A Celebration



The Masonic Home is fortunate to have wonderful, caring individuals who help to provide care and service to our Residents. Here are 4 outstanding examples!

*photo top to bottom:  
Jason Stransky, Maintenance Department  
Maryanne Mello, Activities Department  
Ramona Cruz, Activities Department  
Bob Robertson, Maintenance Department*

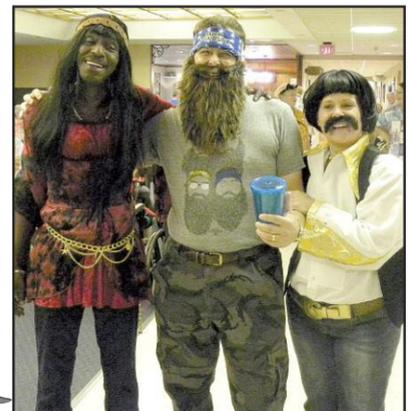


## The 2nd Annual Districts 11 And 12 Luau

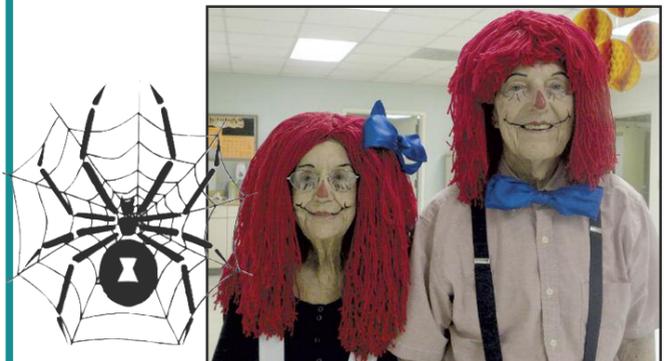
On September 21, 2013, the Residents spent the day with all their friends from Districts 11 And 12. The day had all the key ingredients for a celebration of fine food, music, dancing, and fellowship! Many thanks to all those who put the effort into this event.



## Halloween Fun 2013



The Masonic Home was "the" place to be this Halloween. Just ask Raggedy Ann and Andy, Minnie Pearl, Sonny and Cher, and even a member of Duck Dynasty!



## Masonic Home Residents Attend Grand Lodge Communication



Residents and Staff Members of the Masonic Home of Florida traveled to Orlando on May 27, 2013, to attend the Annual Grand Lodge of Florida Communication. They enjoyed participating and visiting with both old friends and new ones!



*Coming Soon:*  
An Updated  
2014  
Masonic Home  
Wish List



## Christmas In July

The wonderful Members of the Masonic Home Service Guild volunteer throughout the year to enhance the lives of Residents. In July 2013, they held a Christmas In July Program which the Residents absolutely loved!



Check it  
Out!

We Are Pleased To Offer An **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](http://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](mailto: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 invite 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.

January 19, February 9, March 16, April 13

## ADMISSION PLANS

### Life Care 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 Life Care 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, widows and mothers 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 \$1,800\* 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.

\*\*Please Note that effective June 2012, Women who are qualified Members of the Order of the Eastern Star are now eligible to apply for the "Pay As You Go" Plan.

\*Rates subject to change.

## Masonic Cooperation And Fellowship



By Corbin Elliott

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, and Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Florida all met with other Grand and Past Grand Officers, Brothers and Companions at the Jacksonville Chapter No. 12, Royal Arch Masons Table Chapter on August 8, 2013. A wonderful turnout of over fifty Companions joined in the camaraderie and fellowship.



Pictured here were the Grand Presiding officers with other Grand and Past Grand Officers and dignitaries, standing in the east after the Table Chapter festivities.

Shown, from left to right, were Rudin "Rudy" Boatright, P.H.P., R.:W.: Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Florida; William Walker, P.H.P., P.D.D.G.H.P.; Glenn E. Chandler, MEPGHP, Grand Historian of the Grand Chapter; I. Grand Steward of the Grand Council; Charles L. Hollister, M.I.P.G.M., Grand Council, R.&S.M., General Grand Treasurer,

General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International; Darryl A. D'Angina, M.E.P.G.H.P. of the Grand Chapter; M.:W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.H.P., M.W.P.G.M., Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Florida; M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, M.W.P.G.M., Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Florida; M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Florida; Corey D. Kosciuszko, PIM, EHP of Jacksonville Chapter No. 12, D.D.G.I.M., Cryptic District No. 7; M.:I.: Dayle L. Schrock, Grand Master of the Grand Council, Royal & Select Masters of Florida; R.:E.: Henry A. Adams, Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knights Templar. of Florida; M.:E.: John F. Wermann, Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Florida; Jimmy A. Dorsey, E.C., P.H.P., D.I., Capitular District No. 7; and Benjamin L. Ross, P.H.P., R.E.D.D.G.H.P., Capitular District No. 8, Grand Chapter, R.A.M. of Florida.

Seen in this second picture are the four current Grand Presiding Officers standing together for photo. From left, they are: M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Florida; M.:E.: John F. Wermann, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida; R.:E.: Henry A. Adams, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar. of Florida; and M.:I.: Dayle L. Schrock, Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of Florida.

## Haines City Lodge No. 219 Joins the Ranks of Centennial Lodge

By Dennis White, Worshipful Master

On Tuesday, January 22, 2013, Haines City Lodge No. 219, Free and Accepted Masons of Haines City, Florida, reached the ranks of Centennial Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction. Haines City Lodge No. 219 was chartered January 22, 1913, to meet at Haines City in Polk County, FL. This Lodge was set to work September 13, 1912, as Composite Lodge, U.D. The name was changed to Haines City Lodge at the time it was Chartered.



On Saturday, January 26, 2013, in commemoration of this milestone, M.:W.: Jorge L. Aladro, Grand Master of Masons in Florida and his Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers and Brothers pro tem Conducted a Ceremony of Re-Consecration, Rededication, and Re-Constitution of Haines City Lodge No. 219 in celebration of their Centennial Anniversary as their fore fathers did in days gone by, agreeable to the Ancient Usages and Customs of the Fraternity. A record number of over 115 Brothers, family members and friends attended this celebration.

## Brother Carlton P. Peters Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Brother Fred Pryor

Brother Carlton P. Peters, Member Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 in Niceville, Florida celebrated his one hundredth birthday on July 17, 2013, at a party held in his honor at Superior Residency in Niceville. In addition to being an active Mason, Mr. Peters was prominent in the real estate business and the business and civic affairs of the Niceville area.



L to R: R.:W.: Kenneth K. Eichorn, Secretary of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312; Mr. Peters; M.:W.: James A. Durham, Past Grand Master of Masons in Florida.

## Brother Thomas G. Miller Receives 65 Year Service Award

By Brother Fred Pryor

Brother Thomas G. Miller, Member of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 in Niceville, FL, received his 65 year Masonic Service Award on July 12, 2013 at the Third Masonic District meeting and banquet held at the Civic Center in the Niceville City Complex. The award was presented by M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master of Masons in Florida. Almost 200 masons and their guests were present at the banquet.

In addition to his Masonic service, Brother Miller built the Valparaiso Television Cable System and served as its first director. He also served for many years on the Valparaiso City Commission.



L to R: Mrs. Diane Miller; M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master of Masons in Florida; and Brother Thomas G. Miller.

## New Smyrna Lodge No. 149 Has Another 60 Year Mason

By Bro. T. C. Wilder, Jr

At an August Stated Communication Meeting of New Smyrna Lodge No. 149, former New Smyrna Beach Mayor Breece McCray was recognized for being a 60 Year Member. During the Meeting Worshipful Master, Eric Ellis, requested that Brother McCray, along with Fellow Brothers Bill McGee and T. C. Wilder be Escorted to the East.

He then announced that the Florida Grand Lodge was recognizing Brother Breece McCray for his 60 Years as a Mason by having his Lodge present him a Grand Lodge Certificate certifying and thanking him for being a 60 Year Member, along with a 60 Year Gold Lapel Pin.

The Certificate was presented by District Deputy Grand Master, Tommy Turlington, (Deltona) and the Lapel Pin by Worshipful Master Ellis. Brother McCray now joins Brothers McGee and Wilder as 60 Year Members of the Lodge. Brother Wilder was recognized in February of 2012 and Brother McGee in June, 2012.

The three Master Masons are graduates of the former Live Oak Street High School, Class of 1948 and have remained friends throughout the years.

Brother McCray was elected New Smyrna Beach Mayor in 1954 at the age of 24, and at that time was recognized as the youngest Mayor in the nation.



L to R: Bro. Bill McGee, Bro. T. C. Wilder, Bro. Breece McCray, R.:H.: Sam Guerni (District Instructor and Senior Deacon) and R.:W.: Tommy Turlington

## Maybe Mike's On To Something

By W.: Harry Boyett, Naval Lodge No. 24

I was at home the other day when the phone rang. A lady was calling me to ask me if I would play my bagpipes at her husband's funeral. You see, he had cancer and other serious problems and Hospice had been called in. Time was short for Mike and his family.

We talked for awhile and I told her I would be happy to but due to the fact he was still alive it was hard to commit. I have faced this problem before and knew sometimes even Hospice gets it wrong. Of course she realized this and would call back when it was time. We talked for awhile longer, and she told me Mike was a Mason, but, his calling was as a Missionary. Her cousin was a Mason and many of her relatives were Masons. I knew then I was going to grant this man's wishes unless the creek was rising and I couldn't get there. We said our goodbyes, but, I felt I would hear from her real soon. Way too soon.

She called the next day to ask if I could play the following day. I met her cousin at a crossroads as he was going to lead me to the location. I followed him up a small lane to a house set back next to a lake. I thought as there were only a couple of other cars there it was just a memorial service as I could not see any family plot. Sharon met me as I got out of the car and thanked me for coming and then I got the shock.

Mike hadn't passed yet. You see he got to thinking about it and decided he wanted to be there, (alive) when I played "Amazing Grace" He told his wife "what if when I'm dead I can't hear it?" This way we can video it and I can enjoy it over and over till I am satisfied. Well I can tell you six people in a small bedroom with one loud set of bagpipes were a first for me.

I had a nice talk with the family, even the families on the other ends of all those cell phones. I hope I played well because everyone was crying as I played. We did share several laughs and I told Mike he was the only person who ever cried at his own funeral. Mike passed a few days later and I was told they played the video at his funeral.

I received a card in the mail which I wish to share part of it with you. "Thank you so very much for giving of yourself and time to do something so special for someone you don't even know." Michael said, "I can't believe he did that for me." He loved it. He watched the video several times. He lived past the time doctors gave him, I guess they just don't know the Lord's Plans.

I went to the 1st and 2nd Masonic Association Meeting and shared my story with others. You see, while I gave of myself to grant a Brothers' Wish, he gave me a great lesson in return. While I have played the pipes for many Brothers, wives, friends, and family etc., it's the first time I got to see the joy he received. Who knows maybe Mike was on to something?

## Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352 Presents 60 Year Membership

Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352 was proud to present W.: Bro. Angus Comerford a 60 year Membership Certificate and Pin on May 9th at a regular stated communication. Brother Comerford was Raised in Escambia Lodge No. 15 in May 1953. He is a Charter Member and served as Master of the Myrtle Grove Lodge in 1974. The certificate and pin was presented by W.:M.: Harry Lowe.



L to R: P.D.D.G.M. Bruce Fortner, W.: John Hartley, W.: Angus Comerford, 65 yr. Member Ed Singleton, D.D.G.M. Jim Lendt and W.: M.: Harry Lowe

## Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385 Charity Yard Sale & Child ID

Submitted By R.:W.: Howard Knapp, PM, PDDGM, PDI

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385, held a Charity Yard Sale and District Child ID event from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. Refreshments were provided, and all donations from the refreshments went to local charities.

The District 21 Child ID Program was attended by the following: R.:W.: William B. "Billy" Garrett, Jr., DDGM 21st Masonic District, Bro. Pete Bengston, District 21 Child ID Chairman, Bro. Bob Meeks and Bro. George Clinton. It was a wonderful experience for the District Child ID Committee.



L to R: George Clinton; Pete Bengston; Bob Meeks

## St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139 Adopts A Class



L to R: Mrs. Karen Zwissler, Bro. Thomas Quay, W.: John Livingston, W.: Charlie Clinker and Bro. John Ferguson. St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139 is located at 114 4th St. South in downtown St. Petersburg.

For the second year, St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139 has adopted Mrs. Karen Zwissler's I.V.E. Class "Individual Varying Exceptionalities" at Skyview Elementary in Pinellas Park, FL and has made a donation of \$300.00 for classroom supplies. Mrs. Zwissler's students call her "Mrs. Z." and she is a dedicated teacher with a passion for helping children succeed both in and outside of the classroom.

Mrs. Z says that her primary motivation is having a student accomplish a small single step in their learning, which fuels her passion daily. Teaching 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students with special needs is both challenging and rewarding. "My goal," says Mrs. Z, "as an exceptional educational teacher, is to meet the needs of all children while guiding them toward achieving their academic potential and developing a lifelong love of learning."

## Naval Lodge No. 24 Recognizes Youth & Teacher Of The Year



L to R: Husband David and Jennifer Hausner, parents, Debbie and Jake Knight.



L to R: P.M. Harry Boyette, Jennifer Hausner, and R.: W.: A.J. Larose

Submitted by Harry Boyette. P.M.

Naval Lodge No.24 held a dinner recognizing our youth and our teacher of the year. Checks were given to the Rainbow Assembly Chapters, Marvelous No. 101 and West Florida No. 91 and additional check was given to Escambia Chapter of DeMolay by R.: W.: A.J. Larose.

Our Adopted teacher of the year Jennifer Hausner, was presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Grand Lodge of Florida for her service to our youth. R.: W.: A.J. Larose and P.M. Harry Boyette made the presentation along with a check to assist in the many out of pocket expenses teachers occur. Mrs. Hausner has quite a background in Naval Lodge as her grandfather was a Member and her father, Brother Jake Knight is our current Tyler. Her grandmother was a Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star at Naval Lodge. She was accompanied

by her husband David, a police officer with the City of Pensacola, and her parents, Jake and Debbie Knight.

## St. Andrews No. 212 Centenary Celebration

Submitted By Brother Jack Lloyd, Secretary, St. Andrews Lodge No.212



On August 29th 2013, St. Andrews Lodge No.212 used its normal Family Night to celebrate the 100th Hundredth Anniversary of the Chartering of the Lodge. Fifty and sixty-year certificates and pins were presented to several Members. The names of the Lodge's Charter Members were read and several Members remembered sitting in Lodge with some

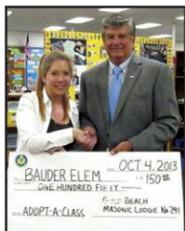
of the Charter Members, demonstrating unambiguously the continuity of the Lodge from its founding.

Also, a commemorative Lodge Pin was Commissioned for this Centenary. (shown above).

## Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, Adopts Two Classes



W.: John Anthony presents Ms. Steimer a donation



W.: John Anthony presents Ms. Suttrick a donation

Submitted By R.: W.: Howard Knapp, Madeira Beach, FL

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 recently took part in the Adopt-A-Class program at Bauder Elementary School in Seminole. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 donated \$150.00 to Ms. Christine Steimer's 4th grade class and Ms. Alicia Suttrick's 1st grade class, in an effort to help, aid and assist with their classroom expenses. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is proud to be a part of this worthy program and encourages other organizations and individuals to do the same in their community.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1950 and has been an active presence on the Gulf Beaches since that time. For years the Masonic Lodge has been a part of the Adopt-a-Highway program and takes care of the periodic cleanup of portions of Gulf Boulevard, and the Tom Stewart Causeway. The Lodge is a strong supporter of many charitable organizations such as the American Heart Association, PARC, the American Lung Association, the St. Petersburg Free clinic, and many others.

Meetings are held weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM, all Masons are invited to attend.

## Gulf Breeze Lodge No.347 Hosts "Sea No Limits Fishing Clinic"

Submitted by W.: Harry Boyette, Publicity, Citizenship



R.: W.: Jim Gillis baits a hook to start the adventure



Interactive touch tank containing live sea critters

Over a hundred kids participated in the event. Free fishing poles, tee shirts, child I.D., bait, lunch, and a well organized machine began. The day turned out to be as special for the volunteers as it was for the kids. There were five educational stations the kids had to "pass" in order to get their fishing poles. To watch these kids get so excited catching a fish just makes it all worthwhile" said R.: W.: Jim Gillis while baiting up a line for a young angler. "I think everyone had a great time" said Harry Lowe, and a host of others.

This couldn't happen without all the lodges, volunteers, and businesses stepping up. With the help of Cat Country, Fish Florida, Gulf Breeze Tackle, Strong Street Studio, Star Bucks and others this was a "special" day said a humble Scott Harms. Of note several Membership Applications were handed out.

Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 hosted the "Sea No Limits Fishing Clinic" Benefitting Special Needs on October 13th, 2013. Worshipful Scott Harms and the Brothers of Gulf Breeze Lodge are to be commended for their hard work in making this event so successful. The special needs kids were so excited to have this day finally come.

You see, a potential hurricane was barreling down on Pensacola and the event had to be rescheduled for safety reasons. Many phone calls later, it was a go and the Brothers and volunteers poured out to assist to make this a day to remember for the kids.

Over a hundred kids participated in the event. Free fishing poles, tee shirts, child I.D., bait, lunch, and a well organized machine began. The day turned out to be as special for the volunteers as it was for the kids. There were five educational stations the kids had to "pass" in order to get their fishing poles. To watch these kids get so excited



W.: Scott Harms, the man responsible for so many smiles on this day.

## West Pensacola Lodge No. 296 Adopts A Teacher

Submitted By P.M. Harry Boyette, Publicity, Citizenship



L to R: David, Daniell, and P.M. Bill Smith

Past Master Bill Smith presented a check to Ms. Daniell Gruden in the presence of her family members, along with a certificate of appreciation from The Grand Lodge of Florida. Ms. Daniell Gruden is a teacher at Brentwood Elementary School in Pensacola. She commented that she was so appreciative of the gift from West Pensacola Lodge No. 296 and she assured us that it would be put to good use. "So many of us have to pay out of pocket to assist our kids," Daniell said.

Her family had gathered for a birthday party for two year old Gwenie. Thanks to the Lodge, Daniell received quite a nice surprise herself.

## Two Brothers Bill Receive The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

Submitted By R.: W.: Jeff Foster, Orange Park Lodge No. 26



L to R: Honoring their life's work in Scouting, Illustrious Dennis Green, M.: W.: Danny R. Griffin presented the awards to Brothers Bill Hudson, and Arthur Allison, at right, at Orange Park Masonic Lodge

Two Clay County Residents and Brothers have been honored for their life's work with the Boy Scouts of America. Brothers Bill Hudson and Arthur Allison, Orange Park, were presented the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award by the Grand Lodge of Florida and the Morocco Shrine Center in Jacksonville. Brothers Bill Hudson and Arthur Allison, were given the national award in a Sept. 9th ceremony.

Both men were nominated by the Orange Park Masonic Lodge, approved by the local Boy Scouts of America Council, and authorized by the Grand Lodge of Florida.

The award is named after Daniel Carter who, in the late 1800s, started an organization called Boy Pioneers. Carter's organization inspired Baden Powell to create Boy Scouts in England, which would eventually cross the pond and become Boy Scouts of America.

Having achieved Scouting's highest honor of Eagle Scout in 1944, Brother Bill Hudson's scouting work includes serving as a scoutmaster in four different states, advancement director for the Mohawk District in Jacksonville and various positions with the Black Creek District, which serves Clay County. He became a Master Mason in 1954.

Brother Arthur Allison, who became a Master Mason in 1988, helped stabled Cub Scout Pack No. 389 and Boy Scout Troop No. 389 and has served as a trainer with the North Florida Council's University of Scouting.

## Escambia Lodge No.15 Selects Teachers Of The Year

Submitted by W.: Harry Boyette, Public Relations and Citizenship Committee



L to R: W.: Anthony Warrington, Mrs. Karleen Hemming Roll, Mrs. Summer McLellan, and R.: H.: Jon A. Davies.

Escambia Lodge No.15 held a program honoring their living Past Masters and two Teachers of the Year on Saturday, September 21st, 2013.

W.: Anthony Warrington recognized the Past Masters, and then introduced Mrs. Summer McLellan, a teacher from Escambia Westgate, a special needs school. Mrs. McLellan stated "God has shown me what my time on earth is for and I couldn't be happier or more blessed". These students benefit from a variety of hands on materials and technology that are not always provided through the schools budget.

The second teacher was Mrs. Karleen Roll, an art teacher at Cordova Elementary. Mrs. Roll has been the lead County Art Teacher for the past nine years and also teaches at the University of West Florida in the evenings.

R.: H.: Jon A. Davies gave a wonderful talk on how Free Masonry is tied to education and our obligation to help others.

## Expect Severe Penalties For Electioneering And Disclosure Of The Secret Work

By R.:W.: George Waas, Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel

The two most persistent examples of Un-Masonic conduct are electioneering and disclosure of our secret work. Such aberrant conduct is deserving of the most severe penalties.

Electioneering is a very serious offense because it is destructive of the very fabric of our Fraternity. Specifically, electioneering undermines the peace and harmony which are the hallmark of our Lodges. Each Lodge is a sanctuary; electioneering creates a situation that can destroy this sanctuary.

There is no place for disharmony and disruptive behavior in our Lodges. Electioneering breeds disharmony and disruption and cannot, and will not, be tolerated.

Any disclosure of our secret work constitutes one of the most serious offenses against Masonic law. Such disclosure violates not only the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida, but the obligations each man took upon himself when he became a Mason. Thus, disclosure violates both the Digest and one's obligations. It stands to reason that if a man cannot be trusted to keep his word as to his obligations not to disclose the secret work, then he cannot be trusted as to other matters as well.

As to these two offenses, ignorance of the law is no excuse. And intent-malicious or otherwise - is similarly no excuse. Each Brother is presumed to be well aware of the absolute prohibition against these types of conduct. The act itself is a violation of Masonic Law.

While there are other forms of behavior deemed unmasonic by law, written and unwritten, for which severe penalties are handed down, these two particular offenses appear to occur more often than others. Hence, the reason for composing this article.

The Digest prescribes three forms of penalties: reprimand, suspension and expulsion. Let there be no uncertainty or doubt; a person found to have committed either one of these grave offenses can expect to face the stiffest of penalties.



## Think

Supreme Architect of the Universe, "so far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, and been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that." Amen (Anonymous)

Many years ago some business' had short motivational posters, such as "Think," and "Plan Ahead;" sometimes the 'plan ahead' poster would be too short to get the "D" in on the last word, so it would be scrunched downward to illustrate how important planning is. That one always made me smile.

Those were good signs, but they might have been more effective if they both could have illustrated how important thinking and planning are.

"Think" can be an acronym for everyone to keep in mind. As a mnemonic it can help anyone enjoy life more: The mnemonic is "T.H.I.N.K." Before speaking think -

- Is it True?
- Is it Helpful?
- Is it Inspiring?
- Is it Necessary?
- Is it Kind?

## T.H.I.N.K.

Thinking before speaking, especially in a heated, excited, or humorous situation, conversation, or in writing, think about T.H.I.N.K. Doing this can do wonders in the many relationships we all have with children, spouses, significant others, co-workers, extended family, and also our fellow Freemasons.

From the beginning of our degree work we are glad to be in association with friends and Brothers, and they are happy to have us join with them in this great and good work. But there are times in the Masonic journey when rifts between Brothers will surface. And if left without of forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding rifts can become worse, and easily affect others too.

We are, after all, Masons; our tenets are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. We want to demonstrate Brotherly Love, not antagonism to each other; We give Relief to the distressed, and if we are at odds with one of our Brethren it's very likely we're both distressed - the best way to give relief to the distressed in this situation is to forgive; And possibly we might both benefit by looking for the Truth in each other's opinions, rather than fighting so hard for our own.

John Maxwell suggests; to improve relationships we could use the 101% principle. This

principle simply means that if we don't agree 100% with someone, we can look for the 1% where we do agree and concentrate on that. Minimize the other things we don't agree with. This leads to a less stressful life.

We want to enjoy life and Freemasonry; this is more likely to happen when we don't experience stress in our Masonic journey.

There is a prized book by don Miguel Ruiz called 'The Four Agreements.' The four agreements are:

1. Be Impeccable With Your Word
2. Don't Take Anything Personally
3. Don't Make Assumptions
4. Always Do Your Best

The book goes into detail on each one of these.

I suggest that all four of these agreements - agreements with ourselves, individually, no one else, if we choose to do that - will add to happiness in life, and of course, happiness in Freemasonry.

Reverend and author Temple Hayes says we can all earn a personal PhD when we master Prayer, Humility, and Devotion. I will add that mastering this PhD will improve the Masonic experience for each of us individually and thus for all of us.

We can 'Pray' for our Brothers; after all Masons rejoice in each other's prosperity and promote each other's welfare; we can be 'Humble' in our own opinions, realizing that our Brother's opinions may have just as much validity as ours, and are offered to be helpful; As far as 'Devotion' is concerned, in addition to our devotion in our individual houses of worship, we can be devoted to our service to mankind - ever remembering the words of the 'charge at closing,' which says in part"

"Be diligent, prudent, temperate, and discreet. Remember that around this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. Remember that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation; to vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced; suggest, in his behalf, the most candid and favorable circumstances. Is he justly reprehended? Let the world observe how Masons love one another."

"These generous principles are to extend further. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Recommend it more especially "to the household of the faithful."

Peace and Harmony can prevail in our lives and our Lodges.

## J. Wendell Fargis Lodge No. 356 Presents Awards

By R.:W.: Frank E. Kleese Sr., P.M. 2007 & 2008, P.D.D.G.M., 2011, District 12

On October 17, 2013, the Stated Communication Meeting was very rewarding at our Lodge. We had the opportunity to have Worshipful Sirish Potru present a 40 year Certificate and pin to Brother Samuel (Ray) Fooshee. Ray has been a long standing Member of J. Wendell Fargis Lodge No. 356 who was Raised in 1973. A gracious round of applause was given to him from the Craft, thanking him for his service to Masonry.



Along with that Award, Worshipful Sirish also presented Brother Howard D. Lyons Jr. with his Masonic Membership Certificate and J. Wendell Fargis Lodge pin. Bro. Howard was Raised on August 29, 2013. The Craft applauded him with his accomplishment.

## Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 Sponsors "Why I Love America" Contest

By Brother Ted Barber

The Members of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 in Brooker, Florida found that the traditional "Why I Love America" Essay Contest can be adapted for elementary level students. Brooker Elementary School in Bradford County has children in kindergarten through 5th grade. In 2012, the Members of Pine Hill Lodge challenged the children of this school in three groups (K-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th) to draw pictures of why they love America. The 4th and 5th Graders also submit a short essay to describe their drawings.

The entries will be graded in November and three winners will be selected from each of the three categories by a committee from Pine Hill Lodge No. 9. The winners, their families and friends together with their teachers and administrators will be honored at an awards banquet in Pine Hill Lodge's dining room on December 17, 2013.

Each student is asked to tell the audience about their picture which they seem to enjoy. This contest will mark our second year providing this valuable challenge. Mrs. Deborah Parmenter, Brooker Elementary School Principal, believes the contest provides an incentive for teaching Americanism early in the student's school experience and even helps with their preparation for the "FCAT". Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, believes this partnership with Brooker Elementary School is valuable. A weekly volunteer reader, assistance to the School's "Back to School" Program, Workday volunteer assistance, and the "Why I Love America" Contest combine to provide substance to our partnership.

## Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352 Crosses The Border

By W.: Jerry Garner, P.M., Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352

On October 1st, there was a hands across the border of sorts. Twenty one Masons from Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352, and others from the Second Masonic District made the nine mile trip to Lillian Lodge No. 925 in Alabama. We were received by Worshipful Master Mike Russell and the Members of the Lodge with open arms. The evening meal of pork loin and all the fixin's was well received by all.



After the wonderful meal, we were treated to a little different opening, EA Degree and closing, than we are used to seeing in Florida Lodges. It was great. The Brotherly Love and friendship was wonderful, and Lillian Lodge No. 925 has promised to come across the border to Florida and visit us soon.

## What a Pig Roast

By W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo, John Darling Lodge No. 154

Each February John Darling Lodge No. 154, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 and Universal Lodge No. 178 hosted



The Annual George Washington Picnic. In 2013 it was agreed that we would include High Twelve Lodge No. 317, Holyrood Lodge No. 257, Palma Ceia No 290, and Fellowship Lodge 265. Universal Lodge No. 178 supplied a delicious Pig which was cleaned to the bones. Approximately 250 Brothers, Ladies, and Youth Group Members enjoyed an afternoon of friendship, food, and fun while raising over \$1,053 for Hillsborough County Master and Wardens Association. The Worshipful Masters were busy making sure the Craft, family, and friends were well fed while relaxing.

## 36 Attend Master Degree – Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291

By R.:W.: Howard W. Knapp P.M., P.D.I., P.D.D.G.M.

Thirty-six Masons enjoyed a Wonderful Master Mason Degree at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291. The evening began with a pork roast dinner prepared by the Junior Warden, Bro. Travis Palladeno, with assistance from his Stewards, Bros. Steve Fetherman and Oscar Salazar (along with some assistance from other brothers chipping in to help).

Brother Jim Wittstruck was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in fine fashion. The working tools were presented by Bro. Mitch Kiger, the Lecture by R.:W.: Howard Knapp and the Charge by Bro. Steve Nelson.

A new projection system (part of the Master's Project) was put into use for the first time during the lecture and is a great improvement to the Lodge.



## Firefighter Becomes Master Mason in Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291

By R.:W.: Howard Knapp, P.D.D.G.M., P.D.I.

On Thursday, September 26th, Frank Koulianos, a Firefighter for Madeira Beach Fire Rescue, was Raised to Master Mason in Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 located in Madeira Beach. Fifty-three Masons began the event with a firehouse-style chili dinner prepared by Brother Oscar Salazar, Junior Steward. Following the dinner the Masons enjoyed a Master Mason Degree put on entirely by local firefighters.



Bro. Frank Koulianos Raised to Master Mason



Those Conferring the Degree were Bro. Derryl O'Neal (Fire Chief, Madeira Beach Fire Rescue and Member of Gulf Beach Lodge); Bro. Matt Quinn (Driver Engineer, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue and Member of Pearl of the West Lodge); Bro. Alan Shedler (Firemedic, Pinellas Park Fire Department and Member of Gulf Beach Lodge); R.:W.: Howard Knapp (Captain, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and Member of Gulf Beach Lodge); Bro. Steve Nelson (Firefighter, Pinellas Park Fire Department 1969-74 and Member of Gulf Beach Lodge); Bro. Michael Pagnotta (EMT/Fire Cadet and Member of Gulf Beach Lodge); Bro. Gary Costa (Firefighter Ret., Clearwater Fire Rescue and Member of Star Lodge); Bro. Michael Bureau (EMS Supervisor, Sunstar Ambulance, Member of Sutherland Lodge).

## 100th Birthday Celebrated at Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19

By R.:H.: Russ, Poehlman, Marion Dunn Lodge No. 19

On July 29, 2013, R.:W.: Benjamin F. Shealy of Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 in Ocala, Florida celebrated his 100th birthday with more than 200 friends and Brothers.

R.:W.: Shealy had received his 55 Year Membership Pin and Certificate earlier in the year, commemorating his longevity with Marion-Dunn Lodge.

One month after this photograph was taken, Brother Shealy passed to the Celestial Lodge above. His memory will long be revered among the Brothers who knew him as one who epitomized honor, integrity and a true Christian. All the qualities that make up a good and Faithful Mason. He will be sorely missed. Alas My Brother.

(Above photo) R.:W.: Bro. Shealy is seated with R.:H.: Russ Poehlman, current Secretary of Marion-Dunn Lodge. R.:H.: Bro. Poehlman is a 53 Year Member of the Marion-Dunn Lodge.



## 3rd Annual Doughnuts For The Heart Challenge

"Doughnuts for the Heart Challenge" is an annual race in Brevard County, Florida. The race is operated by the Freemasons of Brevard benefiting the Cardiac Research Institute (CRI) at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), a not-for-profit institute (www.mmrl.edu). The race is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2014, starting at 7:30am, at the Wickham County Park Pavilion.



The Challenge begins at the Pavilion just north of the campgrounds; each runner will cover 2 miles through the park returning back to the Pavilion. The Challenger will then down a full dozen of the famous Krispy Kreme doughnuts; The Challenger must then run the 2 mile track again through the park back to the finish line at the Pavilion all in one hour.

We expect the DFTH Challenge to attract advanced runners who rarely eat one doughnut to the non-competitor out for a fun run on a Saturday morning to support a great charity like the Cardiac Research Institute/MMRL. There will be many supporters just out for a walk. The Challenge includes and welcomes all physically challenged competitors to come out and enjoy the spirit of competition. Teams are encouraged, and this year we have added categories for our Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters.

**Brought To You By:** The Masters and Wardens Association of the 26th Masonic District of Florida; Indian River Lodge No. 90, Brevard Lodge No. 113, Melbourne Lodge No. 143, Harbor City Lodge No. 318, Canaveral Lodge No. 339, Merritt Island Lodge No. 353, Beach Lodge No. 354, Gateway Lodge No. 384, Palm Bay Lodge No. 397.

## District No. 21 Hosts Child ID Event

By R.:W.: Howard Knapp, P.D.D.G.M., Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 in Madeira Beach, took part in the Masonic District No. 21 Child ID Committee's Child ID event at the Seminole Recreation Center during the cities recent October Fest. The day proved to be enhanced by beautiful weather and twenty five children were processed through the ID program.

District 21 Chairman, Brother Pete Bengston, has been working very diligently with the ID program and under his leadership the program has purchased the beautiful banner in the pictures. The Masons of Gulf Beach Lodge and the 21st District are rallying behind this important program, and great things are on the horizon.

The Florida Masonic Child ID Program was created as a free service to raise public awareness concerning the risk, prevention, and safety precautions associated in the abduction and exploitation that our Children are facing in today's society. This program is provided to the communities and State of Florida, in an effort to help assist in the expeditious and immediate dissemination of pertinent information about the Child to the proper authorities, the media and the public in locating Children that are reported missing or abducted in conjunction with the AMBER ALERT.

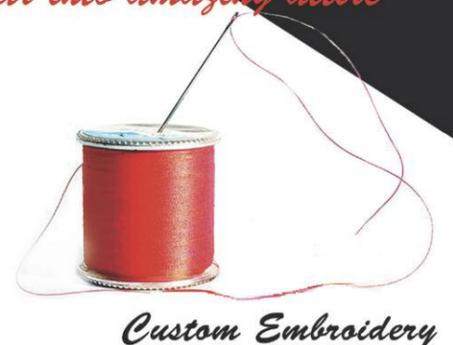
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### Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

The Florida Masonic Child ID Program is attempting to establish uniform policies and procedures across the state, making the program a cornerstone of Florida Masonic activity.

To this end, we need your financial support. Please make your 501(c)(3) tax deductible donation to this important and worthy program, in any amount your cable-tow will permit. Checks should be made out to Masonic Charities, Inc. with the words "Child ID" on the memo line, and can be sent to:

Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.  
P.O.Box 1020  
Jacksonville, FL 32201



## Melbourne Lodge No. 143 Raises Money for Masonic Home

By W.:M.: Christopher J. Durie, Melbourne Lodge No. 143

On February 8th, Melbourne Lodge No. 143, located in West Melbourne, held a spaghetti and meatball fundraiser to raise funds to help support the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. While enjoying good food and even better fellowship, the Members of the Lodge were able to raise over \$800 for the endowment fund. Worshipful Master Christopher Durie would like to thank the kitchen and serving crew for doing such an amazing job on putting together the event and making it such a success.



## R.: W.: Ron Kamp (MMRL) Speaks at John Darling Lodge

By W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo



L to R: W.: David Lopez, Deputy Grand Master R.: W.: Jim Ford, R.: W.: Ron Kamp, Worshipful Master Anthony A. De Angelo, R.: W.: Rob Lambert.

September 25, 2013, John Darling Lodge No. 154 had the pleasure of having R.: W.: Ron Kamp from the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory speak at the Lodge. The presentation was open to anyone who wanted to attend including Ladies, Doctors, family and friends. 53 were in attendance and \$645. was raised.



L to R: W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo, John Darling Lodge, W.:M.: Steve Silvers, Hillsborough 25, R.: W.: Ron Kamp, W.: David Lopez, Zenda Grotto, Brother Stan Rikita, High Twelve, Brother Jeff Sklet, and J.F. Swartzel.

## 82nd Labor Day Master Mason Degree

By W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo

John Darling Lodge No. 154 held its 82nd Labor Day Master Mason Degree was held September 2, 2013 at 7:00AM. Brother Manuel Ricardo Alicea was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.



L to R: R.: W.: Robert Lambert, Brother Roel, Brother Diaz, Worshipful Master Anthony A. De Angelo, Brother Manuel Ricardo Alicea, Brother Kennedy, Brother Anderson. Rear row W.: Blum, Brother Myer, W.: Van Dkye, III, R.: W.: Long, Sr., and Brother Hedayat.

## Lake City Lodge No. 27 Presents 50 Year Awards

By Bro. Tom McKinney

Brother Charles Morgan of Lake City Lodge recently received his 50 Year Pin and Certificate from W.:M.: Charles Peeler also present to support Brother Morgan were D.D.G.M., R.: W.: David Mangrum and 66 Year Member Brother Robert Weaver.



## John Darling Lodge Principal Officers Visit Masonic Home



L to R: Bro. Tony Hedayat, J.S.: R.: W.: James W. Long, Sr., Treasurer; Bro. Yehudy Diaz, J.W., M.: W.: Jorge Aladro, Worshipful Master; Anthony A. De Angelo; W.: William A. Van Dyke III, Secretary and Bro. Joe Kennedy, S.W.

By W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo

John Darling Lodge No. 154 Officers visited the Masonic Home Board meeting on April 22, 2013. All are invited to visit the Masonic Home, we encourage our fellow Brethren around this great State to visit, see and experience this truly remarkable and enjoyable facility we call the Masonic Home of Florida, the Residents simply call it Home.



### Support Grand Lodge Charities

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R.: W.: George Waas, our W.: Grand Orator, has written three books.  
Two have been published; his third will be published later this year.  
**Help Grand Lodge and enjoy good books written by a Brother!!!**

## Traveling Gavel is Traveling in Districts 22 & 23

By W.:M.: Anthony A. De Angelo, John Darling No. 154

Thirteen Members of John Darling Lodge No. 154 visited Brandon Lodge No. 114 on July 11, 2013, and obtained the "Traveling Gavel". That didn't last long, the word got out where the Gavel had moved to and on August 28, 2013, John Darling Lodge No. 154 had 44 visiting Brothers. They came for the traveling gavel. Brandon Lodge No. 114 had 27 Brothers including 10 officers while De Soto Lodge No. 105 came with 17 Brothers and Officers.



John Darling Lodge at Brandon Lodge.



Worshipful Masters passing the Traveling Gavel. Worshipful Master Anthony A. De Angelo, John Darling Lodge No. 154 and Worshipful Master Donald Cowan, Brandon Lodge No. 114.



Worshipful Master Anthony A. De Angelo, John Darling Lodge No. 154, Brother Bill Miller and Worshipful Master Adam Barsoum, Desoto Lodge 105



L to R: Senior Warden Joe Kennedy, Worshipful Master Anthony A. De Angelo and Junior Warden Yehudy Diaz. The "Column Under Construction" is presented to the Lodge with the most Brothers at District 22 School of Instruction. John Darling Lodge is only the 3rd Lodge in Hillsborough County to have both the "Traveling Gavel" and "Column Under Construction" at the same time. The Traveling Gavel was started in 1970 and Column under construction was started in 2010.

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## Hayward Lodge No. 45 Suffers Lodge Fire

By R.: W.: Don Mott

Hayward Lodge No. 45 suffered a fire and burned the week of September 2nd, it was a total loss of the building and contents. Calls and messages from Lodges around the State came in offering help. The Lodge is temporality meeting in Barrett Lodge No. 43 in Live Oak, at the same Stated time, until decisions are made about its future. The Brethren are now coming together with their ideas about how to rebuild.

Through the efforts of W.: Ryan Sedgley, R.: H.: Bill White, S.W. Leon Duke and S.S. Chris Smart with the encouragement of a few Brothers on the side, the Cornerstone was saved.

In the picture W.: Ryan Sedgley is on the left and R.: W.: Al Williams Jr. is on the right. R.: W.: Al's father's name is on the cornerstone, as he helped build the Lodge. R.: W.: Al was happy to safe-guard the stone until other arrangements are made. It doesn't seem possible that it is gone.





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## Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida



### Learn More, Get Screened

To All Masons:

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida is partnering with the Florida Department of Health to encourage people age 50 and older to get screened for colon cancer. Colon cancer (also known as colorectal cancer) is the second leading cause of cancer related deaths in the state.

Many people think screening is only important when they see signs and symptoms of disease, but most people with early stage colon cancer have no symptoms. Screening for colon cancer is important because it can catch the disease before symptoms begin.

The recommended age to begin colon cancer screening is 50 and older. There are multiple methods for this screening. Two acceptable methods include having a colonoscopy, which detects cancer and polyps and the fecal immunochemical test (a.k.a. FIT) which indicates cancer. The colonoscopy is to be done every ten years while the FIT is to be done annually. Most people are already aware of what a colonoscopy involves (preparation, procedure, etc.) but many people are unaware of the convenience, affordability and accuracy of the FIT. This test, which involves collecting a stool sample and mailing it to a laboratory, can be done from the privacy of your own home.

Talk with your doctor about screening for colon cancer to determine which method of screening is best for you.

As we continue to work together, we hope to hear from many of you about your journey involving colon cancer screening. Please go to the following link to complete a brief survey (that should only take two minutes): [www.surveymonkey.com/s/RF95JJN](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RF95JJN)

Once again, the Florida Department of Health appreciates your time.  
*Eric Gipson, Health Educator Consultant*  
Florida Department of Health, Division of Community Health Promotion  
Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention, 2585 Merchants Row Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

### Brothers Of The Extraordinary 16th District Purchase Masonic License Plate Vouchers



Brothers of the Extraordinary 16th District arrive at the Orange City, Florida Tax, Tag, and Title Office bright and early on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 to obtain vouchers for Florida's Masonic License Plate.

*L to R: Brother Charles Calabritto, Junior Warden, St Johns No. 37; Right Worshipful Thomas Turlington, District Deputy Grand Master, Sanford No. 62; Worshipful Bryan Coffey, Past Master, St Johns No. 37; Right Honorable Sebastian Guarneri, District Instructor, New Smyrna No. 149; Right Worshipful Steven Boring, Senior Grand Warden, St Johns No. 37; Worshipful George Baraxes, Worshipful Master, Volusia No. 77*

**“Together We Can Accomplish Anything”**

