

The Florida Mason



Grand Lodge of Florida

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Grand Lodge Officers 2014 - 2015

GRAND MASTER

M.: W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

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

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

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

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Richard G. Hoover
(St. Petersburg)

GRAND TREASURER

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

GRAND SECRETARY

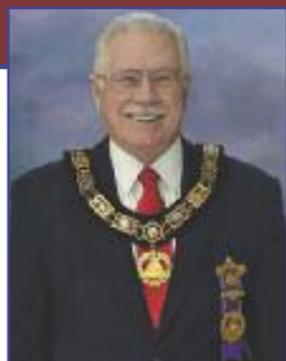
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future issues
of *The Florida Mason*
and
E-News submissions should be
sent to,
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M.: W.: James W. Ford,
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

Brethren,

This is a very special time of the year. It is a time when families and friends gather together to enjoy the company of each other. It is a time to remember and give thanks for the many Blessings which each and every one of us has received. 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 want to thank everyone for your support. As we complete the Official Visits, your support for the various charities and especially the First Lady's Project has been overwhelming. At this time we have exceeded our goal to replace the wheelchair van and the replacement will become a reality. I especially want to thank Worshipful Master Lawrence Kunken and his wife for their very generous personal donation. We are in the process of ordering the van which will be dedicated and presented to the residents on Pilgrimage Day (March 21st). Please come out and join us on this very special day.

This year the newly organized Board of Trustees for the Masonic Home has been very active in their efforts to seek solutions to our financial problems and initiate new ways to increase the number of residents. This is a year of transition and under the guidance and leadership, of the Chairman, R.: W.: Steve Teal, and the dedication of each Board Member, the Board is moving forward with new and innovative ideas to cut costs and increase income and I want to commend them on their hard work and dedication.

As the new year approaches, this is a very busy time for the Lodges. 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 2014 - 2015 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 I.D., Cardiac Research, Masonic Home, Scholarships, and Youth Activities just to name a few of these programs. Other programs that are outlined in this booklet and provide guidance are the Masonic Leadership Training Program and the Masonic Education program.

As our membership continues to decline, more and more Lodges are considering and seeking information regarding Lodge mergers and/or consolidations. It is important to realize that when a Lodge is unable to operate as a Masonic Lodge (open and close, Initiate, Pass, and Raise Master Masons, elect and install a full complement of officers, and support their community) it is time to merge or consolidate with another Lodge. This, of course, has to be a lodge decision and a decision made by the Members involved. R.: W.: Stan Hudson has held and will continue to hold Town Hall Meetings around the State and I urge you to take advantage of the information provided at these meetings.

As Tracey and I travel around the State, we have found everyone extending great hospitality and fellowship. The warmth and friendliness has been outstanding and I can't thank you enough. I especially want to thank the ladies who provide overwhelming support to the Brothers of this Fraternity.

And now may God Bless each and every one of you and may we always remember the many Blessings He has provided!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

M.: W.: James W. Ford
Grand Master



"Expect Perfection - Settle For Excellence"



R.: W.: Steven P. Boring,
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Seasons Greetings to the Craft!!

Yes, 'Tis the Season when we all look forward to Thanksgiving, Christmas, the Grand Master's last Official Visit, and a New Year fast approaching. Gatherings with family and friends and sharing with those less fortunate are always happening. These happy occasions tend to make us reflect upon our many blessings. Giving thanks is almost automatic at this time of year. We tend to treat our Brothers with much

greater Brotherly Love and Kindness. We all suddenly become more generous in our daily lives. Giving gifts and spreading Brotherly Love is second nature at this time of year. Why is this so? Why do we let ourselves fall into this habit of living? I say we should not. We should all

feel this way, and act this way, each and every day all year round! Treating each other with Brotherly Love and Kindness should be our way of life. Is that not the basis of our Masonic teachings?

I challenge each of you, my Brothers, to make those New Year's resolutions. Yes make them, but remember them. Put those resolutions in action in your daily life. Don't make them and then forget about them on January 2nd. Let us each resolve to treat our Brothers and each person we meet with Brotherly Love and Kindness. Giving and following our hearts every day, all year long.

May each of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

R.: W.: Steven P. Boring
Deputy Grand Master



R.: W.: Stanley L. Hudson,
Senior Grand Warden

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

At the time of this writing I have started a "Town Hall Session" on how and why we need to merge or consolidate Lodges. If you have thoughts about merging or consolidating your Lodge, now would be the time to schedule a Town Hall Meeting. Please check with your DDGM as to when a meeting can be put together or if one has already been scheduled.

We are fast approaching a fork in the road, and we will all have to make a decision as a Fraternity. Whether to continue down the same path, making the same decisions hoping for different results or make the turn to the left, to that area of uncertainty and hopefully make a better future for our Fraternity.

The decision is ours to make, I have had positive feedback from the first Town Hall Meeting with many requests to hold more. Please take this time to seriously think about the future of your Lodge and this Fraternity. Where do you want it to go from here?

One of the things I am looking to do in the future is to consolidate the Districts, to make stronger Districts. Some Districts are already strong and nothing will have to be done at this time. I am currently looking at Districts that have less than a thousand members total in the District. We have Districts that have 322 to 785 members. Our Official

Visits can be a hardship to our smaller Districts as well as to District activities or fundraisers. This also will give us a chance to do corporate rightsizing for the economic times we are under as well as for our declining membership.

As Grand Lodge Officers, we are asked, "What are we going to do to fix our problems?" I keep going back to "What are you doing to do to help fix the problem?" As you point the finger our way, look to see the other three pointing back to yourselves. NPD's are one of our biggest problems, what have you done to slow this down or even try to stop it? What are you doing in your communities to promote our Fraternity? What are you doing to help yourselves? In today's times it is okay to ask a worthy friend to join our Fraternity. Just think if we, all 39,281 of us, ask one friend to join and they did we would double our membership in no time at all. Just something to think about, while we are wondering what we are going to do to FIX our problems.

My Brothers, as the pendulum continues to swing, in a not so good direction for our Fraternity, we need to hunker down and weather the storm until the pendulum starts to swing the other way and hopefully we will flourish again.

If there is anything that I can do, or any questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

R.: W.: Stanley L. Hudson
Senior Grand Warden

Email:shudson34953@gmail.com • Cell: (772)332-4956

A Message From The South



R. W. Richard G. Hoover,
Junior Grand Warden

I cannot thank the Craft enough for the honor they have bestowed upon me when you elected me as your Junior Grand Warden. I am honored to serve you in this office and will work for you throughout the upcoming years. My commitment to you is communication, education and trust. Your Grand Lodge Officers are committed to this also and are working to earn just that.

There are many undertakings we are looking at and many of which have been started and brought to us by you, the craft. Your Senior Grand Warden is working on many of these and along with the assistance of you, the craft, and I, we can make all these happen. The changes are positive in nature for all of us. Some will be gradual, others will be subtle. We all ask for your comments, support, and commitment. We are

here for you and we value your concerns and comments.

I have been blessed to travel our Grand State over the past several years and meet and make many new friends. I value each and every one of them. If I can be of assistance to you, please let me know. I am here to serve you.

Fraternally,

R. W. Richard G. Hoover
Junior Grand Warden

A Message From The Grand Secretary



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

I sincerely hope all of you will have a GREAT HOLIDAY Season. I reflect every day on the fact that I am so lucky to be able to serve as Grand Secretary and share my life with so many great friends and Brothers.

Your staff at your Grand Lodge Building remains busy with the various tasks at hand. The staff are dedicated and devoted to serving the Masons of Florida. I would like to thank them for this quality and thank them for the service they provide.

Traveling across the state for District Meetings and other local events presents the opportunity for fellowship and brotherly love. The Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars are once again being held this year. The last one was held in St. Petersburg at the Masonic Home. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend one I urge you to take the time to participate. These seminars are designed with the Lodge Secretary and Treasurer in mind; however, any Brother will benefit from the information presented. The proposed new membership system is presented and you have the opportunity to preview its new design. Please join us on December 13, 2014, in Mariana and/or on February 29, 2015, in Naples. There is a requirement for advance reservations. Contact the Grand Lodge Office for more in-

formation.

The Elected Grand Lodge Officers are communicating with the Membership and attending functions across our Great Jurisdiction. Now is the time for you to present your views on topics that face our Fraternity and perhaps offer your opinions or solutions directly to your representatives. I can assure you they will listen and respond. Give them a chance to address your concerns and I would hope you could also provide some constructive criticism. Remember, if there is a problem a solution is the best way to solve it.

I look forward to the opportunity to shake your hand and renew old friendships and make some new friends during my travels.

We live in the finest country in the World and owe the thank you and adoration to those who serve or have served in our military. As Most Worshipful Sam Cowan always stated, "Remember freedom is not free!"

Remember: If your presence doesn't make an impact, your absence won't make a difference.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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

A Message From The Grand Treasurer



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

Brethren,

The holiday season is upon us and the year is rapidly slipping away. I do hope that 2014 has been a good year for you, your family and your Lodge.

The Grand Master's visits have been a great success with wonderful attendance and so many generous contributions to the several charities, especially to the First Lady's Charity, which is replacing the wheelchair van at the Masonic Home. What a wonderful choice Tracey made when she picked that particular charity, as it is one the residents will continue to enjoy for years to come.

As we have traveled across the state this year, we are seeing more and more of the Florida Masonic License Tags. What a great way to promote Masonry and make it known that you are proud to be a Mason, and support your Masonic Home at the same time. If you do not have a Masonic tag on your vehicle, please consider buying one when your tags are up for renewal. For only a few dollars more you can upgrade to a Masonic tag and even get a personalized one if you so desire.

The new Particular Lodge year is about to begin and I urge you to support your Lodge, not only with your annual dues and contributions, but with your attendance as well. Your Lodge needs you, your ideas, your assistance and your support if we are to continue as a great Fraternity. Your Lodge needs all the members to help, aid and assist if the Lodge is to prosper. The worse thing we can do as Masons is nothing, for if we do nothing, we will get nothing in return and the Lodge will die. Talk to your members who are about to go NPD and explain to them the

benefits they will lose if they drop out of the Fraternity and the impact the loss of membership will have on your Lodge. Try to get them to regain the excitement and dedication they experienced when they were going through their Degrees or when they were proceeding through the "chairs" as Lodge Officers. Remind them that they are an important part of the Lodge and they are missed when they are not in attendance. Also, if they are having financial problems which would prevent them from paying their dues, ensure they get the help they deserve.

We would like to extend an invitation to you, your family and your Lodge to visit us here at the Grand Lodge building for a tour of the building and a tour of our museum featuring The History of Florida Masonry. We have many interesting items on display, some dating back to the formation of our Grand Lodge and one particular item dating back to 1715, two years prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England. We have Grand Lodge personnel who would be happy to give you a guided tour or you may browse through the museum on your own.

Once again, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Treasurer and work with a great line of Grand Lodge Officers, a hard working Grand Lodge Staff and you, the Craft. May God continue to bless our great country, our families, our fraternity and our service personnel wherever they may be.

Fraternally,

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

Notes From The Editor

My Brothers all, Thank You, for your submissions to "The Florida Mason" for this issue. Due to a computer issue some photos and articles were lost and could not be recovered for use. The computer issue has been corrected for future submissions.

Requested are a few submission guidelines;

Please do not send copies of newspaper articles. We request the article be prepared in "Word" format. Photos - submitted in .jpg, .gif or .png formats. Copied newspaper photos are generally of very poor quality.

Also, please do not send "links" to newspaper or magazine articles. Many now require a registration to view the article or have security features that prohibit copying, AND we must obtain permission to legally reprint any article that has run in another magazine, or newspaper.

Printed articles submitted that require a retype by the editor may or may not be used. This is dependent on time permitting of the editor to prepare the article for publication use.

The text of submissions has not been an issue, but the encoding of .pdf files and photos included in some submitter's articles is, please check that your submission can be edited.

When titling your article, please limit it to a few words, not a long sentence. The title should get your reader interested in your article, not telling them the entire content of the article.

One last item, if you know someone who is not receiving "The Florida Mason", it may be their address is incorrect, please have them check with their local Lodge Secretary.

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy,
Healthy New Year.*



**"Expect Perfection -
Settle For Excellence"**

Working Together

It was a beautiful Friday morning and I was down in the Keys enjoying everything they have to offer. With a phone call, that all changed quickly. A close friend's wife called to tell me her husband (56 years of age) had just passed. She was so grief stricken and was asking me what she should do! Giving advice as best I could, it never dawned on me that she was not home in Pensacola.

She and her husband were in Bonifay visiting relatives. It was not until Saturday, on my way home that I found out. A decision had already been made for burial arrangements, in Bonifay. She was requesting a Masonic Funeral as well as an Eastern Star Service. Now came the panic of arranging this to happen in just two days, and me on a 12-hour journey home. First a call to District 5, District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: Roy Cooke. He began calling Brothers in Bonifay. Next I called the Memorial team for Districts one and two.

They already had a service at the same time but would get back to me. Within the hour R.:W.: Jimmy Lindt was calling saying he would make the 100 mile drive and be honored to do so. A call back to Roy to ask permission to do the service in his District and things were at least going in the right direction. The number of Masons was questionable due to short time frame, but at least it was going to happen. Now for the Eastern Star. No need to worry there, as the ladies was already in contact with the Bonifay chapter and they were in control.

Monday arrived and a Brother, my wife and I drove over for the service. There were at least 20+ Masons and an equal number of Eastern Star Ladies there.

A special thanks to the Brothers from District 5 and to all the Brothers from Pensacola area that also made the drive. Everything turned out so well and the service was wonderful.

At a reception later, his wife came up to me and said to my wife and something that I will cherish forever. She said "I am so happy my husband was a Mason, if not I would never have met you and your wife, and the so many wonderful people that have come into my life". And then she hugged us.

My Brothers and Sisters is this not the Grand Master's Message? Be there for each other to share the happiness and the sorrow. Set an example for others to follow, be a leader.

*In Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love;
R.:W.: Harry Boyette, DDGM District No. 2*

A Sad Tale

by R.:W.: Harry Boyette, DDGM, District 2 Sad Tale

We all have attended many Masonic Funerals. It is with this that I take time to share an experience with you.

Recently a Worshipful Master passed away. He was active throughout the 1st and 2nd district and will be sorely missed. There were over 40 Master Masons attending and he received the respect and affection he deserved. But that is only the first part of this story. He did the right thing.

Another Past Master passed away just a week later. He also was a great friend and Brother and was also very active. As his illness was progressing he advised family members not to worry, that his Masonic Brothers would "take care of him." I can only imagine what he was thinking at the time, but the family thought the Lodge would handle everything. After his demise, a call was made from family for the Lodge to take over. After an explanation of our role, the family was very upset. They said they would "get back with us". That day has not come. This Master Mason did not do the 'right thing' and as a result things turned out poorly.

Here are a few helpful rules.

1. The Lodge of the deceased Brother should be notified as soon as possible and a request made for Ceremonies of the Craft.
2. If the family objects, even though it was the wish of a Brother to have Masonic Services, the Masonic Service will not be held.
3. The Brother must be in good standing, this means current in his dues and not under suspension.
4. Fellow Crafts or Entered Apprentices are not entitled to Masonic Funerals nor may they Unite with Master Masons in the Service, however they may attend.

There are many other rules and regulations pertaining to the service and can be read in the Florida Masonic Monitor. We, as Masons, need to explain to our loved ones exactly the role the Masons will play upon our demise and our wishes to have or not have Masonic Rights.

FFA Presentation At Lake Butler Lodge No. 52

by Bro. Ted Barber

Seven Union County Future Farmers of America made presentations to the members of Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, on Monday afternoon, May 5, 2014. Their presentations are designed to educate the public as to the best practices for land management. Each student had a particular subject that is important to the consideration of what would be the best practice, for example, in harvesting timber. The students brought out the pros and cons of clear cutting verses selective cutting of trees. The group is making ten presentations and they are improving their talks as they progress with each presentation. This is an excellent educational and public relations program and these students make a great first impression because they are well prepared and their FFA Jackets give them a professional appearance.



L to R: Ted Barber, Leaman Alvarez, Holly Tucker, Colan Coody, Kelsey Thornton, Noah Wright, Morgan Eddy, Bruce Dukes, Taylor Wilkins, Haley Libby, Lane Underhill and Kenneth Clyatt.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 347, Selects And Sponsors Teacher Of The Year

Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 was proud to select and sponsor Mrs. Dina Pagonis as Teacher Of The Year. Worshipful Alan Cox presented Mrs. Pagonis with a check for \$250.00 dollars to assist with the cost of needed school supplies not covered by the county school board. Mrs. Dina Pagonis is a teacher for ESE Program at Gulf Breeze Middle School. Mrs. Dina Pagonis has served students with disabilities at Gulf Breeze Middle School for 10 years as a member of the support staff and continues to serve as a certified ESE teacher since 2010. Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 is proud to sponsor Mrs. Pagonis and wish her all the best in the coming school year.



Cherry Hill & Bradford Lodges Team Up To Clean the Suwannee River

Thanks to all. The entire community came out and helped clean up the Suwannee River. Several groups participated and worked on different areas. Cherry Hill

Masonic Lodge No. 12 of Fort White and Branford Lodge No. 130 picked up 135 pounds of trash along a 4.9 mile section from the boat ramp by Royal Springs down river to the boat ramp North of Branford, Ft. Macomb ramp. Twenty three people participated (11 on the water) with five boats.

Outstanding food, hamburgers, hotdogs, Nettles sausage and lots of trimmings were prepared and devoured. Special thanks are offered to Dee and Chick Whitfield who hosted our rendezvous site at their home on the beautiful Suwannee River. Don Cadrain was our event coordinator, and he thanked everyone for their support and the pride they have in our community.



Orange Lodge No. 36 Raises Funds To Send Scouts to Camp

Orange Lodge No. 36 in Apopka, reached out and contacted Boy Scout Troops No. 211 and No. 601 to offer assistance in helping send needy/worthy scouts to summer camp. Orange Lodge No. 36 raised and donated \$500.00 per troop for a total of \$1000.00.

It was reported back to the Lodge that 100% of the Boy Scouts of both troops were able to attend Camp.

Donna McNally, Advancement Chairperson BSA said, "We are proud of our Scouts, this donation will go a long way towards helping young men."

In the photo, are several members of both troops as well as adults: in middle row (l-r) Jim Wylam, Treasurer Orange 36; Apopka Mayor Joe Kilsheimer and Commissioner Sam Ruth. The adults in the back row (l-r) are, Donna McNally Advancement Chairperson BSA, John Larson, Troop 211; P.M. Stuart Orgaz, Orange 36; W.:M.: Jon Vitale, Orange Lodge No. 36; S.:W.: Richard Carter, Orange 36.



Past Master Roy L. Wingate, Jr. 65 Years A Freemason

A Past Masters and Widows Night Ceremony was held on Nov 1, 2014, to recognize and honor Past Worshipful Masters and the Widows of deceased Masonic Brothers of Callahan Masonic Lodge No. 32. Past Master Roy L. Wingate, Jr. was paid special tribute and presented a 65 Year Lapel Pin and Certificate from the Grand Lodge F&AM of Florida by Will Payne, presiding Worshipful Master of Callahan Lodge. Brother "Roy Jr" became a Mason when his own dad, Roy L. Wingate, Sr. was the Worshipful Master back in 1948. Brother "Roy Jr." Wingate was Initiated on March 3, 1948; Passed to Degree of Fellowcraft on July 26, 1948; and Raised a Master Mason on August 26, 1948 by his father "Roy Sr." Worshipful Roy Wingate, Jr. served as Worshipful Master of Callahan Lodge in 1965.



Worshipful Master Will Payne and Past Master Roy L. Wingate, Jr.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Presents College Scholarship Award

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, presented its annual Albert T. and Tupper MacMillan Scholarship, supported by the Ernest J. Freeman Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship was presented to Ms. Harlie Ireland a graduating Senior at Keswick Christian School in Seminole.

Ms. Ireland will be attending College in the fall at St. Pete College where she will begin her studies in nursing. Ms. Ireland has been extremely active in service projects in the community including Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army. Ms. Ireland is a member of the National Honor Society, female student government representative for the Senior Class, a member of the Music Honor Society, teacher's assistant, AWANA leader in training, and a St. Petersburg Juniorette. Ms. Ireland has been a part of the varsity soccer team, varsity track team, Latin Club, and varsity Band.

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 student's funds to assist in their college tuition. It was also his vision to create a program which would be self-perpetuating thereby being a source of assistance well into the future. After the passing of Worshipful Ernest Freeman the Scholarship program was renamed in his memory and has helped support four college students each year since its inception. The annual Scholarship winner receives \$2,000.00 to assist in their College or University expenses.



What Masonry Is To Me

by S. Kenneth Baril, P.M. Temple Lodge No. 16, A F & A.M., Cheshire, CT, Siloam Masonic Lodge No.399

Many times since I became a member of this Grand Fraternity, I have in retrospective moments, asked myself, why I am proud to be a Mason and I dwell upon those things that Masonry has brought before me. The feelings of warmth, friendship, and potential comfort in times of distress are always with me, yet they seem to appear most readily in Lodge.

I think that Masonry is many things to many people, and we all take from Masonry those things from within us that are weaker and more vulnerable; it is a kind of storehouse of moral fiber, as well as a refuge from a mad and seething world. To be a Masonic Brother affords a time when all is tranquil, when all is at peace, and in a world of turmoil, this aspect of our Brotherhood is most rewarding. In a society in which man feels so alone, so alienated, it is comforting to be with others who share the same feelings. However, more importantly, to carry those feelings away from Lodge, and practice them in my daily living, and in dealings with all people at all times, to make Brothers of all men, for we are, after all, Brothers in a larger and broader sense. I know full well that these noble aims are impossible to achieve at all times, but Masonic teachings have made me fully aware that we should at least attempt to live by these precepts whether they are fully achieved or not. In fact, by their pursuit alone, successful or not, we have become better men; in effect, become better Masons.

Since the coin has two sides, what do I bring my Lodge in return for that which I obtain? My monetary dues are so mundane and insignificant, it matters for little in the larger realm. I do what I can for my Lodge and my Brothers when I can do them, and I do it readily and without hesitation, without thought of "repayment" in any fashion, and I know, that if called upon again and again, I would perform unstintingly to the best of my ability. That, I think, is the essence of Masonic teachings. We take from our fraternity and we give back; it is a sort of unending and open-ended life of ethics that renews itself as surely as the sun rises every day.

Frequently, I ask myself, what does Masonry do for my community? This is a question sometimes asked by town folks and it may be harder and more nebulous to answer. The presence of a Masonic Lodge in any community is an asset, and most people realize this. The teachings of our order do not lie strewn about the Lodge-Room Floor when the Master has closed his Lodge; they are not discarded until the next meeting to be picked up again like comfortable old clothes. They go back into the community in the minds and hearts of all the Brothers, and in so being disseminated, the teachings of Masonry do indeed bring benefit to the community of which it is a part. Who is to say, that a certain flower in a bouquet does not impart a particularly wonderful aroma to the bouquet of which it is a part, without whose presence the scent might be much less inviting? So it is with the Masonic Lodge in any community. It enhances the "aroma" of communal living in a subtle but definite fashion.

In fact, I feel that this contribution may well far outweigh the community events in which our Lodges regularly participate. Events come and go, but friendship and reverence, for both our Creator and fellow man, are as permanent as the stars in heaven.

First, I think we must realize from the outset, that the Masonic order is primarily interested in the welfare and well being of its own; after all, that is the primary and most noble aim of any fraternal organization. If it were not for this feeling of self-interest and self-perpetuation, where would any fraternal organization garner its strengths and foundation?

Lastly, I ask myself again, just once more, why did I become a Mason? I think my answer is much like the mountain climbers, paraphrased perhaps, but applicable to a degree; because Masonry was there and I felt its call, to become, as we all would want to be, a better man, a more compassionate brother to all my brothers, and a more deserving servant to the Grand Architect of the Universe. What more could any man want to be, or ever hope to be?

Florida Masonic Tag Approved By The Legislature and Available!

The code to purchase: Freemasons Tag FQR



Masons: Not A Secret Society, But A Society Of Secrets

by Doug Kelly, Gazette correspondent Published: May 1, 2014

Clearwater Gazette - I didn't quite know what to expect when entering a local Masonic Lodge about four years ago. After years of watching the barrage of TV documentaries about the mysterious Masons and frequently driving by some of the Lodges, my curiosity peaked. I wondered if it was indeed a secret society attempting to orchestrate history or more aptly a Fraternity of men aimed at individual development and helping people.

My first Lodge visit engulfed me with a twang of mystique and intrigue, but not in the malevolent sense of a haunted house or a far-out, Ripley's-Believe-It-or-Not experience. Masonic symbols did adorn the walls, and the meeting main smacked of a ritualistic site, but again nothing appeared to be offensive or alarming.

Every Lodge member I met treated me as an equal, so if any influential political or business leaders were present it never became apparent. As it turned out, no conversations about politics are allowed in a Lodge, and meetings aren't for business networking. You must believe in some form of a spiritual God - atheists are barred from membership - but no talk of religion takes place. In a nutshell, Masonry, also known as Freemasonry, is dedicated to the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.

To become a Mason, hopefuls must contact a Lodge in their Community or be recommended by a Mason. I filled out an application, underwent an interview and a home visit by a Membership Committee, and had a background investigation before the Lodge Members (referred to internally as Brothers) voted on whether to accept me.

Once vetted, I received mentoring to help complete three degrees of Masonry - Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master - that taught me about the organization's history and foundation. This included the origin of the symbols that began with King Solomon's Temple and various spoken and unspoken methods of identifying another Mason outside the lodge.

But what about this business of being a secret society? If the objective of Masons centered on remaining a secret to the public, it would be a colossal failure. Masonic Lodges - there are more than a dozen in Pinellas County alone - clearly identify themselves as such. Masons regularly wear identifying shirts and hats in public as well as put bumper stickers on their cars to display their membership; endless books and TV shows depict Masonry; and Googling the word "Masons" will reveal millions of hits.

The Masons are not a secret society, but more aptly a society of secrets. These internal secrets are ritualistic in nature, and there's absolutely nothing sinister about them - and no true Mason will divulge them.

Lodges sponsor plenty of activities open to the public. I'm a member of Clearwater Lodge 127, and non-Masons can attend a buffet breakfast every Saturday morning, watch a movie while munching on hot dogs every other Friday night, and attend outings such as bowling and golf tournaments. Visitors can tour the Lodge and see the meeting hall.

Masonry's Foundation reaches back to King Solomon in 970 BC and is steeped in fascinating history such as the Crusades and Templar Knights more than 700 years ago. It developed in medieval Europe as a guild for stonemasons and expanded as a social organization. The first Grand Lodge was erected in London in 1717, and regular Lodges sprouted in the U.S. beginning in the early 1700s. Lodges are grouped into Districts, with each state having its own Grand Lodge, which in Florida is in Jacksonville. Clearwater Lodge 127 is in District 20 and received its Charter on January 20, 1892.

Some Masons indeed have been influential Members of society and have made contributions to world and U.S. History. That list includes nine signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 signers of the Constitution, George Washington and 13 other Presidents. Other notable past and present Brothers of fame: Winston Churchill, Arnold Palmer, Davy Crockett, Ty Cobb, Clark Gable, Douglas MacArthur, Charles Lindbergh, Mozart, John Wayne, Eddy Arnold and J.C. Penney. But, like me, the overwhelming majority of Brothers are everyday people, totaling more than three million worldwide and two million in North America alone.

Women can join associated Masonic organizations such as Eastern Star. For teens there's DeMolay (for boys) and Rainbow Girls. Other Masonic Groups include the Shriners, who operate a network of hospitals for children where there's a never a fee for treatment. The Freemasons of North America contribute more than \$2 million to charitable causes every day.

My experience as a Brother, like the building of a matchstick house, began as a thousand scattered pieces, and it gradually evolved into an exhilarating and fulfilling path through the history and lore of Masonry that continues to this day. As I said, all it takes to become a Mason is to look up your nearest Lodge. Clearwater Lodge 127 is located at 705 S. Hercules Ave. Call (727) 447-5161 or visit clearwater127.com

It's Great to Be a Grotto Member

Article by W.: Bruce Ward, P.M. Past Monarch; Photo courtesy of W.: Matthew B. Winters, P.M. Submitted by R.: W.: William B. "Billy" Garrett, Jr., P.M, P.D.D.G.M. - Zone 6 Chairman PR & Publicity

The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, whose subordinate bodies are the GROTTOS, is an organization by and for Master Masons.

Its purpose is to bring a quality of SYMPATHY and GOOD FELLOWSHIP into life, not only to Member Prophets, but to everybody. An atmosphere of good, clean fun and frolic prevails at all times.

While in no way connected with Masonry Proper, its Membership is restricted absolutely and exclusively to Master Masons in good standing.

Although it is an organization for good wholesome fun and frolic, it also has its serious side. Its slogan is GOOD FELLOWSHIP, and in contact with our fellow man, this principle is exemplified to a Marked Degree.

The Humanitarian Foundation, founded in 1949 by the GROTTOS Supreme Council, has two important projects. First, research for the cause and cure of Cerebral Palsy. Secondly, Dental Care for Children with Special Needs.

The official emblem of the Grotto is a Black Fez with a Mokanna Head in the center and the name of the wearer's Grotto.

Recently Selama Grotto presented a donation to the 21st Masonic District.



In the photo, is our JGW - R.: W.: Richard G. Hoover, Bro. Nils Peter Bengston (Dist. 21 Child ID Chairman), Thomas W.: McVeigh, Monarch, R.: W.: Roy E. Terepka - DDGM 21st Masonic District and fellow Prophets of Selama Grotto.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 presents Honorary Membership to the Grand Master

by R.:W.: Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, PDDGM, Secretary Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291

On Sunday, June 22nd, at the Masonic Home Board of Trustees Meeting, M.:W.: James W. Ford was presented an Honorary Membership to Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291. The presentation was made by Bro. Travis Palladeno (Senior Warden) with the assistance from Gulf Beach Lodge Members Bro. Steve Nelson (Junior Warden), Bro. David Neville (Junior Steward); W.: Derryl O'Neal, W.: Donald Harriott, W.: Ed Villiaume, and R.:W.: Rick Hoover (Honorary). Besides the presentation of the Honorary Membership the Grand Master of Masons of Florida was presented a \$100.00 donation for the Grand Master's Charity and \$100.00 donation for the 1st Lady's project.

Gulf Beach Lodge is located on the Gulf Beaches, in the beautiful City of Madeira Beach, and has been a driving force in the Community for 65 years. The Lodge is proud to have the Grand Master as an Honorary Member and wishes him a successful year ahead.



(L-R) J.:W.: Steve Nelson (JW); S.:W.: Travis Palladeno and M.:W.: James W. Ford, Grand Master

Nitram Lodge No. 188 Presents 2014 Scholarship

by Matthew Winters, PM, Treasurer

Nitram Lodge No. 188 F.&A.M., presented its annual Royal K. Eden - Memorial Scholarship to Ms. Lindsey Settlemire a Senior at Dunedin High School in Dunedin. Ms. Settlemire will be attending college in the fall at Florida Southern. Her major will be Sports Communications.

Nitram's scholarship is named after Royal "Roy" K. Eden. Bro. Eden was a Honorary Past Master and Chaplain for many years at Nitram Lodge No. 188 in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was devoted to supporting students throughout the Tampa Bay area, not just in his hometown, and assisted in many ways in the community. Notably a park was named after him in St. Petersburg due to his volunteer efforts with the St. Petersburg Police Department. Regrettably, Roy passed away in 2009. His zeal for the Fraternity and guidance is greatly missed by all.



W.: Scott Drake, P.M.; Ms. Lindsey Settlemire; R.:W.: David Henderson, PM, P.D.D.G.M. and R.:H.: (2014 Worshipful Master) William C. Sundquist.

Brother Bill Beckett Receives 55 Membership Awards

Brother Bill Beckett of Mokanna Lodge No. 329 waited a long time to go through the Scottish Rite Degrees and was a candidate for the Orlando Valley Reunion October 13th and 14th. The Brothers of Mokanna Lodge No. 329 surprised Brother Beckett during the reunion by presenting him with his 55 Year Membership and Certificate. The presentation was made by M.:W.: Dale Goehrig, Past Grand Master and current Sovereign Grand Inspector General, and R.:W.: Chet King, Past D.D.G.M. and current Personal Representative to the SGIG, along with the Members of the Lodge attending the reunion, most of whom were in costume for the 30th Degree!



Myron Thurston III Assistant Director of Development and Communications Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

Since 1960, the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) has recognized the importance of encouraging talented young men and women to pursue a career in science or medicine. The individuals selected through the highly competitive application process for 2014 are Collette Bora (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Elizabeth-Anne Carbone (Cornell University), Neesha Desai (University of Rochester), Carly Dziekan (St. Lawrence University), Erica Freund (Wake Forest University), Georg Gussak (Rutgers University), Brian LaGrant (Cornell University), Ruben Mathew (Cornell University), Heather McManus (Utica College), Jennifer Sexton (Union College), Ashley Spina (Cornell University), Steven Toffel (Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), Vaischnav Vigneswaran (University at Buffalo) and Tanya Zeina (Boston College). These talented Fellows will join a distinguished group of over 400 gifted students who have participated in the MMRL Summer Fellowship Program.

The 10 week program permits students direct involvement in research projects, under staff guidance, in the fields of experimental cardiology, molecular biology,



Fourteen Participate in the MMRL Summer Fellowship Program

Grand Lodge Scholarship Recipients

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida awarded 10 high school seniors in our state \$1000 scholarships in April 2014 for the coming academic year. The recipients were selected from among almost 100 applications and essays submitted by students from throughout Florida.

Recipients for 2014 include:



Alexandra C. Brookins, Homeschooled, Monticello, FL



Mallory DeMotts, Gulf Breeze High School, Gulf Breeze, FL



Sydney K. Devane, Duncan U. Fletcher High School, Jacksonville, FL



Kayla L. Grantham, Keystone Heights High School, Keystone Heights, FL



Anne C. Griffin, Winter Springs High School, Winter Springs, FL



Paul A. Johnson, Barron Collier High School, Naples, FL



Kimberly V. Nguyen, Golden Gate High School, Naples, FL



Sarah O. Schore, West Port High School, Ocala, FL



Bailey H. Trzcinski, Gulf Breeze High School, Gulf Breeze, FL

----- NO PHOTOS AVAILABLE -----

Anna R. Wirrick, A. Crawford Mosely High School, Lynn Haven, FL

Ms. Evangeline M. Borngesser, Bartram Trail High School, St. Johns, FL, was also selected to receive a scholarship but elected, instead, to accept an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Ornan Masonic Lodge Honors Williston Red Devils

The Officers and Members of Ornan Masonic Lodge No.117 honored the Williston High School Red Devil State Champion Baseball Team prior to the visit of District Deputy Grand Master Randy B. Strong and the 15th Masonic District Committeemen.

After a nice dinner and prior to opening of the regular business meeting the team was invited into the Lodge Room. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer, Worshipful Master Glen Lee Garner gave a short speech in regards to the community involvement of Ornan Lodge, and a description of what Freemasonry is and proceeded on behalf of Ornan Lodge to congratulate the team and Coaches for a Job Well done.

Lodge Secretary, Bill Catsulis read a Resolution of Thanks, recognizing each player by name and the coaching staff for its team work, dedication to each other, and bringing great honor to themselves, their families and our Community. The Worshipful Master then presented each player and Coach with a crisp brand new two dollar bill to commemorate this night.

Ornan Lodge was presented a picture of the team, a signed bat and ball. All members and guests present were directed to line up on the South Side of the lodge and a Handshake line was formed and each player was thanked by each present on their way out of the Lodge Room. The assembled Masons took up a collection during the meeting and \$300.00 was raised and donated to the Williston Red Devil Booster Club to help with the costs of Championship Rings.

molecular genetics, stem cell research and organ bioengineering. During their tenure, students gain an appreciation for how scientific problems pertaining to medical disease are approached and examined, and experience the day to day running of a cutting-edge research facility. After completing the program, they will have gained knowledge and practical experience in physiological, biochemical, molecular and pharmacological methodologies and be better prepared to make important career decisions.

The summer session closed with a scientific symposium presented by the students on Wednesday, July 30 from 9am to 12pm, followed by an awards luncheon honoring the Summer Fellows and local sponsors at the Laboratory. Funding for this year's program has been provided by The Boilermaker Charity Bib Program, Drs. Atul and Amita Butala, the Cortese Family Fund, Dr. Ihor and Hiie Gussak, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 43, M&T Bank, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Dr. Theodore and Melva Max, Dr. Ashok and Shilpa Patel, Slocum-Dickson Foundation, Bredablick Lodge 880, F & AM and Utica Lodge No. 47, F & AM.

From the Classroom to Life-Saving Research *Masonic Medical Research Lab Teams with Utica College for Summer Fellowship Program*

Utica College's partnership with the Masonic Medical Research Lab (MMRL) creates an invaluable learning opportunity for students. The MMRL allows students of biology, physiology, molecular biology, chemistry, medicine and other life sciences to participate in research under staff guidance. By working closely with Utica College and other colleges nationwide, the program provides the perfect bridge from learning in the classroom to hands-on experience in a biomedical research institute.



"The Summer Fellowship Program gives talented students of the life sciences the chance to experience the operation of an internationally -renowned scientific research institute," said Dr. Daniel Barr, assistant professor of biochemistry at Utica College. "We are very fortunate that some of our students get to work alongside these accomplished scientists and see firsthand how medical and scientific techniques can be used to better understand disease and to find new treatments and cures."

Recent projections of significant shortages of medical researchers by the turn of the century have heightened the need for programs such as MMRL's Summer Fellowship Program in which students can become acquainted with research and the opportunities available in the biomedical sciences. By pairing the experience students garner from the program with the extremely personalized training and innovative curriculum at UC, students are better prepared for the field of their choice.



Heather McManus, who recently graduated from UC with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, participated in the program this summer.

"Heather started with us in January as part of her senior research project at UC and continued with us through our Summer Fellowship Program. She has been isolating DNA from patient samples and looking for mutations in a gene that regulates the transient outward potassium current in heart cells. Alterations in this current are thought to contribute to Sudden Cardiac Death syndromes including Brugada Syndrome and Early Repolarization Syndrome," said Dr. Matthew Betzenhauser, Assistant Director of Research and Director of the Summer Fellowship Program at MMRL.

The project was initiated through an ongoing collaboration between Daniel Barr at UC and Hector Barajas-Martinez and Dan Hu at the MMRL. Drs. Barr, Barajas and Hu have collaborated in the past on a project that yielded a publication in the Public Library of Science, Betzenhauser said.

As the only major biomedical research facility in the greater Utica and Mohawk Valley area, the MMRL has long considered it an important responsibility to provide undergraduate research opportunities for interested students. A major component of that effort is the MMRL Summer Research Fellowship that Heather also participated in. Thus far, more than 400 students have participated in the program since its inception in 1960. The program is fully funded by community members, businesses and Masonic Lodges.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory was established in 1958 as a biomedical research facility. Since its inception, it has gained international prominence for its achievements and contributions to science and medicine. The MMRL's current focus is in the areas of: Experimental Cardiology, Molecular Genetics, Molecular Biology and Stem Cell Technology.

The biochemistry major at UC gives students a solid understanding of the fundamental building blocks of life, preparing them for a fulfilling career in a field on the leading edge of human knowledge.

Supported by exceptional faculty and advanced instrumentation, the program is modeled on a course of study recommended by the American Chemical Society and places significant emphasis on the study of the molecules and reactions of life processes. It is intended for students who wish to study and work in a discipline at the interface of biology and chemistry.

Bradford Lodge & 10th Masonic District Present Funds To JROTC

On September 22, 2014, W.: Scott Roberts representing Bradford Lodge No. 35 and R.:W.: Leaman Alvarez representing the 10th Masonic District Association presented checks to the JROTC program of Bradford High School at Bradford Lodge in Starke, Florida. Accepting the checks were Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Parker and Cadet Major Ivey Padgett of Bradford High School.

The 10th Masonic District Association represents Pine Hill No. 9 in Brooker, Bradford No. 35 in Starke, Lake Butler No. 52 in Lake Butler, Dawkins No. 60 in Macclenny, Raiford No. 82 in Raiford, Sanderson No. 122 in Sanderson, Lawtey No. 189 in Lawtey, and Baldwin No. 217 in Baldwin. The Cadets, Brothers, as well as family members enjoyed a few snacks before the presentation.



L to R: W.: Scott Roberts, Cadet Lt Col. Thomas Parker, Cadet Major Ivey Padgett, and R.:W.: Leaman Alvarez

New Study Reports Brain Sodium Channels in Heart Linked to Sudden Cardiac Death

A research study published in the July issue Journal of the American College of Cardiology reports that genetic mutations in a neuronal sodium channel gene are associated with inherited sudden cardiac death syndromes, including the Brugada syndrome. The study, performed at the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) in Utica, NY, included physicians and scientists from throughout the world who referred patients with life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias to the MMRL for genetic screening.

The Brugada syndrome is associated with an inherited irregular heart rhythm. In some cases the first warning sign is sudden cardiac death. The syndrome affects approximately 5 in 10,000 individuals. The MMRL, one of the top genetic screening centers in the world devoted to inherited sudden cardiac death syndromes, identified the majority of genes responsible for the Brugada syndrome. The MMRL works with families who have tragically lost someone to this insidious disease, testing children, siblings and other relatives to see if they are also at risk.

Prior to this discovery, a genetic defect could be identified in only 35% of Brugada syndrome patients. The new gene associated with the syndrome, called SCN10A, accounts for an additional 17 percent, thus greatly improving our ability to identify a susceptibility gene to over 50 percent of affected index patients. SCN10A encodes a sodium channel previously thought to be associated exclusively with the brain and nervous system. This and other recent studies suggest that it is also present in the heart and when defective can result in life-threatening heart rhythm disorders.

Dr. Dan Hu, the lead author on this study, said these findings provide important insights into the pathophysiology of these syndromes as well as new targets for therapy.



Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of research of the MMRL, and senior author of the study added, "The identification of SCN10A as a major susceptibility gene for Brugada syndrome greatly enhances our ability to identify patients and family members who are at risk. These findings also open the door to delineation of the role of other presumably neuronal sodium channels in the electrical function of the heart in both health and disease."

Although a susceptibility gene can now be identified in over 50 percent of affected index patients, in nearly 50 percent the culprit gene remains unknown. "A negative study does not mean you don't have the disease; it just means that the genetic marker cannot be identified," said Antzelevitch. He added that "a great deal of research remains to be done to identify the other genes involved".

Giving Back

by *Matthue Goldstein, Secretary, North Star Lodge No. 405*

Dressed in their Lodge shirts, the Brothers of North Star Lodge No. 405 started what is hoped to be a long tradition of lending their support to the LifeNet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program in Broward County. These selfless Brothers wash dishes, set up and breakdown the dining room and help feed the homeless for several hours on their Saturday mornings. With numbers exceeding over 150, men, women and children from all ages, races and creeds line up to get a hot meal. The hours, sweat and exhaustion are nothing when compared to the appreciation these Brothers receive from those less fortunate, coupled with the knowledge that they are fulfilling their Masonic Values of Charity and Brotherhood.



Bro. Julian Vives, Bro. Claudio Kletsel, W.: Patrick Know, Bro. Gary Hoste, R.:W.: Walter Flemke and Bro. Patrick Neal



Bro. Matt Goldstein, Bro. Claudio Kletsel, R.:W.: Walter Flemke, W.: Patrick Knox and W.: Gary Silver



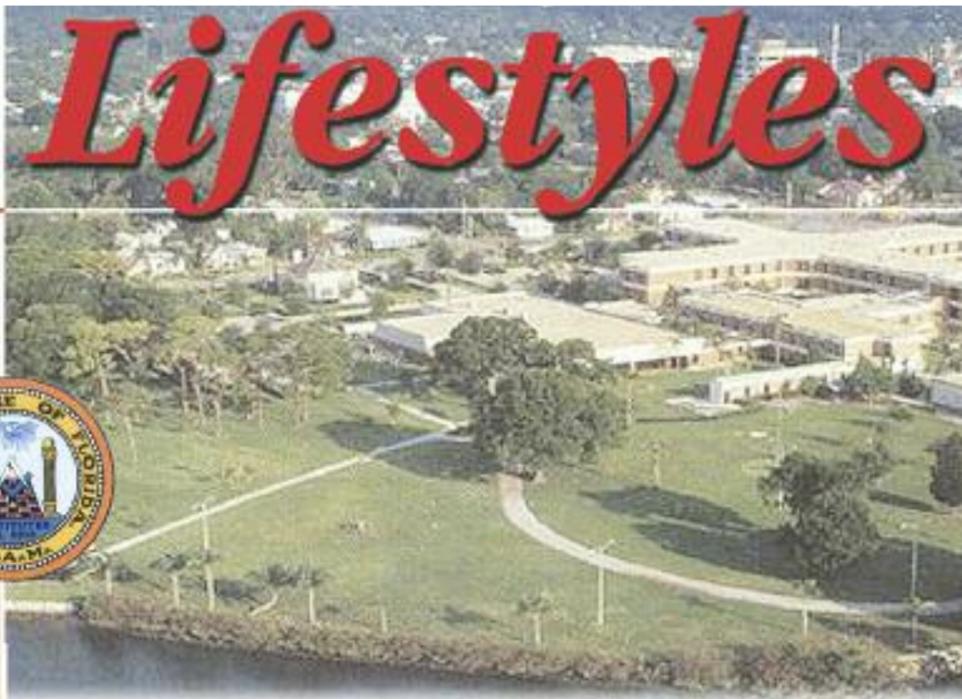
R.:W.: Sol Goldenberg, R.:W.: Charlie Fischer, Bro. Matt Goldstein, Bro. Ed Vitoulis and R.:W.: Walter Flemke

Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou



The Residents are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a brand new van thanks to Most Worshipful Jim Ford and his daughter Tracey's First Lady's Masonic Home Project. Because of their dedication and your generosity, an order has been placed for a new vehicle to replace the exiting 2000 Ford Econoline Van which transports Residents to and from doctor appointments, etc. everyday. This highly specialized van will have a custom wheelchair lift to provide safe and comfortable transportation to those who need a little extra assistance. These photos show our guys having some fun with our old van which has over 195,000 miles! Please join us on Pilgrimage Day, Saturday, March 21, 2015, when we officially dedicate this very needed addition at 11 am.



L to R: Guy D. Wilson, Resident, Member of Moore Haven Lodge No. 61, Hubert "Herb" Cox, Resident, Member of Gulf Stream Lodge No. 245, David Francis, Resident, Member of West Broward Lodge No. 253, Guy Wilson, Resident, Member of Moore Haven Lodge No. 61, Bennie "Rex" Bennett, Resident, Member of Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307 provide a little pushing and pulling



Hubert "Herb" Cox, Resident, Member of Gulf Stream Lodge No. 245 checks things out under the hood



Herman "Hoyle" Efrid, Resident, Member of Canaveral Lodge No. 339 provides a little push



David Francis, Resident, Member of West Broward Lodge No. 253 provides a little pull

Welcome

Masonic Home
OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING



Grand Lodge of Florida

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

Grand Lodge Officers 2014 - 2015

GRAND MASTER

M.: W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

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

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

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

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Richard G. Hoover
(St. Petersburg)

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



From Our Administrator

Seasons Greetings To All:

As the close of 2014 approaches, we are thinking of the many wonderful events, big and small, which have made the year very special. This newsletter is full of individual Members, Lodges, Districts and Statewide efforts to enrich the lives of all those associated with the Masonic Home of Florida.

This includes gifts of time, talents and resources. On behalf of the Residents and Staff of your Masonic Home, please accept our sincere appreciation for continuing to make this Community one-of-a-kind!

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, in unison with the

Grand Lodge Officers have been working diligently not only to preserve the amazing history and traditions of this outstanding Home, but also preparing for the future while continuing to meet the needs of Residents for another 100 years! We are fortunate to have extremely dedicated Staff who offer loving, compassionate, professional, care and service each and every day.

Pilgrimage Day will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015. Please make plans to join us for the day. A highlight is sure to be the presentation of the new wheelchair van at 11 am. Most Worshipful James W. Ford and his daughter, Tracey Williams have dedicated their year to ensuring that Joy Ford's dream came true. Due to your generosity, this valuable vehicle which helps make the lives of Residents easier, will be dedicated in Joy's memory.

Wishing you and yours and happy and healthy holiday season,
Lisa Tsotsos, Administrator



Caught kissing Santa Claus, is Carmela Bloodgood, Resident, Sponsored by Tarpon Lodge No. 112. Santa doesn't seem to mind.



When Resident, Winnie Kilby, Sponsored by Friendship Lodge No. 53, told her friend, Wanda Ahart to come and visit Santa. Wanda never would have guessed that they both would end up on Santa's lap together!

32nd District Santa And Mrs. Claus

In November, Santa and Mrs. Claus, also known as Roy and Caroline Strohacker from the 32nd District, along with Members of Gulfstream Lodge No. 245, who are pictured here came to spend time with the Residents. Each Resident was given handmade frames for their photos.



Masters And Warden's of Dade County Christmas In October



For 38 years, the Masters & Wardens Association of Dade County, District 34 & 35, has sponsored the Christmas In October for the Residents. Shown are some of the "Elves" who work all year long to prepare for this event! That same day Coconut Grove Lodge No. 258, presented a donation check.

Each Resident received a gift from their wish list and also got to shop at the free store. Many thanks to all.



Order of the Amaranth Always Works To Support Our Masonic Home



The Grand Court of Florida Order of the Amaranth never forgets to support projects which help the Residents of the Masonic Home. Each year, the Grand Royal Matron selects a special Masonic Home Project and this year was no exception. In May 2014, the Grand Royal Matron Judy Barnes presented a check which allowed the Home to purchase two computer work stations for the Resident to enjoy and stay in touch with friends and family. We would like to thank all those who gave so generously, and also a special thanks to Stephen Edson for setting everything up and making things even easier!

Resident Men's Club

The Resident Men's Club is shown at their first meeting in the Program Center. Residents are shown enjoying the treats, and then they watched the funny sports bloopers.



Pilgrimage Day • 2015 Save The Date
March 21, 2015!

Service Guild Volunteers

Many of our wonderful community, Resident, and Service Guild Volunteers came for their special Annual Volunteer Appreciation Program in May. Food Service provided a gourmet spread of treats, and they each received a gift as a small token of our many thanks to each of them!

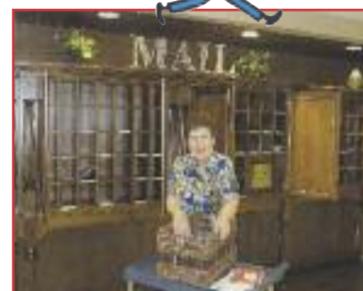
Pictured is Resident Volunteer, Alice Gates, Sponsored by Community Lodge No. 292.



The Mail Never Stops...

Resident Volunteer, Marion Rudolph, Port Tampa Lodge No. 153, is shown sorting and delivering the mail to the Residents' mail boxes. A job she has devotedly done 5 days a week for about 10 years!

Talk about dedication!
Thank you Marion!



Next Issue Deadline:

The Florida Mason

Vol. 8, Issue 1

& Masonic Lifestyles
Summer 15

Submission Date

March 10, 2015

Print Date

May 5, 2015

E-News Submission Date

March 16, 2015

Distribution Date

April 1, 2016

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

Rainbow Girls

In June, a group of volunteers came to The Masonic Home from Space Coast Assembly 99, International Order of Rainbow Girls. They helped make craft kits for the Veterans and 4th of July Festivities. What a great group of fine young Ladies who came to help others!



Halloween Party

Halloween was so much fun! The Residents broke the record for the number of people who dressed up for the Costume Contest!



Seated, are Jim & Lois Hughey, Springs Lodge No. 378, and standing are Popeye and Olive Oyl, (AKA: Henry & Edna Pierce, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25).

Annual Grand Lodge Communication



Residents listening to the various speeches.



L to R: Admissions Director, Wanda Odom, Ed Villiaume of Nitram Lodge No. 188 and Lisa Tsotsos, Administrator.



Pictured on the bus ride are in front: Buck Raulerson, Dunnellon Lodge No. 136, middle is Bob & Mary Ellen Elston Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307 and in back, Jack Dowdy, Northside Lodge No. 283.

Residents traveled to Orlando in May to attend Grand Lodge Communication.

11th & 12th Masonic Districts' Annual Luau

In September, Resident, Kitty Hayes, Sponsored by Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385 is shown left watching the singers and dancers. Rich Dixon, Resident, Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126 shown right is also enjoying the program.





Go Tampa Bay Rays

Residents enjoyed some fun and excitement as they attended the Rays Game! Shown are left, Rex Bennett, Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307, and right, Jerry Lance, High Twelve Lodge No. 317.



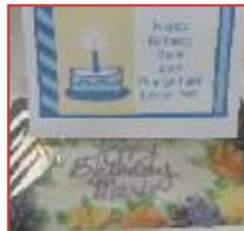
Polly Dodson, Resident, Sponsored by Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330, had a blast watching the Rays. She is a long-time fan and was raised near Cooperstown. She even has all sorts of stories about meeting Ted Williams!



L to R: Buck Raulerson, Dunnellon Lodge No. 136, Hal Gokey, Temple Lodge No. 23, and Dick Blazier, St. James Lodge No 457, PA, are shown watching the game.

Happy Birthday Marie

Marie Sturgeon's husband was a proud Member of Orange Park Lodge No. 267 and the fellow Members of that Lodge never forget her birthday since she has moved into the Masonic Home. They made sure that November 4, 2014 was extra special by presenting her with a beautiful birthday cake and gift.



Happy Birthday John

The day before Thanksgiving, Resident John Brink, Floral City Lodge No. 133, bought a "Thank you to all Residents" cake for everyone's enjoyment. It was served in "What's the Scoop?" Ice Cream Parlor along with different flavors of ice cream! Since his birthday was two days after Thanksgiving, everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to him at the party!



30th Masonic District Annual BBQ



Resident, Dan Roberts, from Eureka Lodge No. 302 in PA., is dressing the part by wearing his "duds" at the 30th District's Annual Western BBQ in August!

The Members of the 30th and their Families did the cooking and the serving!



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 for assistance with aging services.

Masonic Lifestyles is a complimentary semi-annual newsletter produced by the Masonic Home of Florida and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Florida. Story requests, comments or suggestions for future issues may be e-mailed directly to: masonichm@aol.com or mailed to: Masonic Home of Florida, Attention: Lisa Tsotsos • 3201 1st Street NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home cordially 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 18th, February 22th, March 22nd, April 19th

ADMISSION PLANS

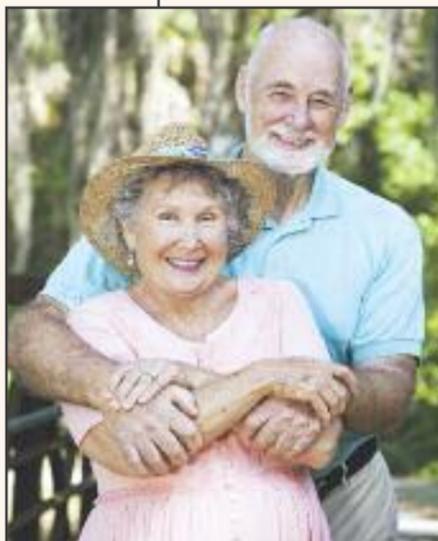
Life Care Plan

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.

Bro. Clyde Kemper Receives 75 Year Membership Award And Custom Designed Apron From His Lodge Brothers

Brother Clyde Francis Kemper began his Masonic Career on July 15, 1938, as an Entered Apprentice at Acacia Lodge No. 586, in Pennsylvania. He was Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on September 15, 1938 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 18, 1938. He affiliated with The Villages Masonic Lodge No. 394, The Villages, Florida on June 16, 1998.

On December 6, 2013, The Villages Lodge was pleased to present Brother Kemper with a 75 Year Membership Certificate, Pin and a custom designed Apron by his Brothers for the occasion. The presentations were made by Grand Master, Most Worshipful Danny R. Griffith and Right Worshipful Ed Lisle, DDGM from the 18th Masonic District.

Several Grand Lodge Committeemen and a large representation of The Villages Lodge Brothers were present at a luncheon held in Brother Clyde's honor at the Wildwood Masonic Building, Wildwood, Florida. Brother Clyde, born in 1917, is a frequent and honored attendee of The Villages Lodge Monthly Meetings and social luncheons. It is always an honor to call on our 75 Year Member to be recognized at our meetings. He is a distinguished Member of our Craft, good friend and Brother and proud Member of the Fraternity.



W.:M.: Dale Barnes Receives Award – Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348

R.:W.: Harry Boyette, DDGM for the 2nd Masonic District, presented awards to W.:M.: Dale Barnes for his service to the Child I.D. Program. Worshipful Dale Barnes has been involved since the beginning of this great program. He is a Past Master of Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 and his Brothers said, "he is like the postman" rain, sleet or snow (in Florida) he has the trailer there for all the Child I.D. Events. When asked to respond he said, "It's all about Integrity, if you have that, you will always do the right thing." What a great Mason.



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 - Honors 65 Year Mason

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach honored one of their long time members for his sixty-five years of service to the Fraternity. Brother Edwin Pinkham, a native of Maine, became a Freemason in Waterville Lodge No. 33, Waterville Maine, on November 28, 1949. Brother Pinkham served as a medic in the Korean War and retired from the U.S. Postal service before moving to Florida. Brother Pinkham, who is also a musician, has provided music for Gulf Beach Lodge for nearly ten years. Brother Pinkham has rarely missed a Lodge meeting and is a huge supporter of all the Lodge's charitable activities in the community. Gulf Beach Lodge wishes him many more years of health and prosperity.



L to R: Bro. Edwin Pinkham receives 65 Year Award from Worshipful Master Michael Pagnotta

Hal Maines Community Center & Lake Butler Lodge No. 52 Hosts Florida's Grand Master

M.:W.: James W. Ford, Grand Master of Masons in Florida, made his Official Visit to the "Friendly" 10th Masonic District on September 26, 2014. Right Worshipful Bruce Kirby of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 serving as the District Deputy Grand Master, greeted the Members and guests at the Community Center.

Prior to the super being served, Sheriff Brad Whitehead and R.:W.: Lyn Williams presented M.:W.: James Ford a certificate and badge making him an honorary Union County Deputy. Debbie Osborn, Supervisor of Elections, Lisa Johnson, Tax Collector, Kellie Hendricks Connell, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller and Vincent Brown, Union County Times Editor, provided their moral support.

A super meal was enjoyed by about 200 Masons and their guests. After supper and presentations it was announced by the Grand Master that \$1,800 in donations had been made to the Grand Master's Charity (Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Ithica, New York) and to First Lady's Project of replacing the well worn medical transport vehicle at the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Union County 4H Students under the guidance of Amanda Rhodes, 4H Advisor, received a \$621.00 donation for their work in serving the supper meal at the community Center. The Master Masons retired to attend a Tyled "Called" Communication of Brooker's Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 held at Lake Butler Lodge No. 52. The non-Masons remained at the Community Center and were treated to music supplied by the Griffis Group from Raiford, Florida.

Right Worshipful Michael McCool, acting Grand Marshall for the Grand Lodge of Florida, introduced the Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers and Right Worshipful Bruce Kirby introduced Right Worshipful Leaman Alvarez, District Instructor and his wife Janice, Worshipful John McKibben, Worshipful Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 and his wife Jennifer, and Worshipful John Belovich, President of the 10th District Masonic Association. The entire evening was a memorable event that highlighted the work the Masons do to help others.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Hosts Annual Widows Dinner

by Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, PDDGM, Secretary

What a beautiful evening with our Masonic widows. Fifty-two Masons, family and friends attended the Annual Widows Dinner at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 on October 30, 2014. They enjoyed a fantastic baked chicken dinner prepared by the teamwork of the officers.

Following the meal, each widow was introduced and the Masonic History of their late husband was read.

R.:W.: Knapp presented a talk that was given in 1923 called, "The Spirit of Masonry." The members of Gulf Beach Lodge are happy in fulfilling their obligation to their departed Brothers by keeping a close watch over their widows and orphans.



The Villages Lodge Presents 40 Year Service Awards And Perpetual Friend Memberships To Recipient Ladies

On November 10, 2014, Right Worshipful Brother Bob Collins and Worshipful Brother Bob Moynihan were each presented their 40 Year Service Awards from the Grand Lodge of Florida by Worshipful Master Victor Campbell of The Villages Masonic Lodge No. 394. They each then presented their ladies, Donna Collins and Carolyn Moynihan, with red roses and a Perpetual Friend Membership Certificate to commemorate their long years of service that enabled their husbands to be active and successful, and spend so many enjoyable years, in the Masonic Fraternity. Prior to the presentation, refreshments were served in the dining room along with a special cake decorated to recognize their service as families.



From The Quarry To The Temple *The Journey of a Neglected Stone* by Bro. Juan Sepulveda

Bro. Juan is the host of a Freemasonry Podcast called The Winding Stairs, which has been listened in over 100 countries since its inception in 2013. He also co-hosts a weekly video program on YouTube called The Masonic Roundtable, which features news and opinions about Freemasonry.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished East, Brethren All,

In the year 1462 a gigantic block of white marble began its journey from The Quarry to The Temple. Master Sculptor Agostino di Duccio was entrusted with the transformation

of this roughly hewn stone into a beautifully adorned component of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence Italy.

However that journey was cut short because Agostino di Duccio was not prepared to meet the challenge. Although he had a vision for the sculpture, he lacked the skills in working with a stone of that magnitude. Overwhelmed by the challenges that this project presented, he laid down his working tools and ceased labor on that project. This is how that roughly hewn stone became The Neglected Stone.

It took over a decade before another artist attempted to meet the challenge. Antonio Rossellino, a master sculptor, was entrusted with the vision of transforming that stone into a Masterpiece. Antonio Rossellino had the skills because he studied under some of the most influential and accomplished sculptors and architects of his time. However, Although he had the necessary skills to overcome the challenges presented by this stone, he lacked the vision to make that sculpture a reality. Therefore, he laid down his working tools and ceased labor on that project. This is how that roughly hewn stone remained The Neglected Stone.

Nearly 50 years after Antonio Rossellino laid down his working tools on that neglected stone, a courageous 26 year old with a confident stance and a defiant stare took on the challenge of completing that journey from the Quarry to The Temple. Michelangelo Buonarroti the Florentine had the vision, the skills, the passion and determination to free the statue of David from the confines of that colossal block of white marble.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished East, Brethren All, I come to you today to talk to you about that Neglected Stone and about its Journey from The Quarry to The Temple and how it relates to our own personal journey.

What is the statue of David?

Other than the frescoes on the Sistine Chapel's Ceiling in Vatican City, the sculpture of David is one of the most recognized works of art by Michelangelo Buonarroti. Ironically, it is a depiction of the Biblical story of confrontation of David against the menacing Philistine giant Goliath. With a confident stance and defiant stare, David holds over his left shoulder a sling and in his right hand the stones with which he will slay the giant.

From the Horizontal to the Perpendicular

One of the early steps Michelangelo took in the process of sculpting David, was to elevate the block of marble from the horizontal to the perpendicular. Symbolically, the horizontal state of that stone represents defeat. One of the first

steps in advancing further towards the Temple is to change our point of view when we look at these seemingly impossible challenges. That colossal white marble block represents a challenge that others have not been able to overcome, but we might feel in our heart that we are the ones to courageously face it and overcome it. As we come across this menacing challenge, let's change the way in which we look at it. Moving it from the horizontal to the perpendicular will change how we look at the challenge and prepare us for the hard work ahead.

Steadfast Progression

If there is something I love about Michelangelo's approach to sculpting is that he saw the process of sculpting as a removal of superfluities. He believed that the roughly hewn block of marble already contained The David inside and it was his responsibility to steadily chip away at the superfluities that confined it to quarry. He knew that, although it would be a difficult feat to free that sculpture from the roughly hewn stone, it was necessary that he was true to the vision and worked diligently to materialize it. Imagine that with every blow of the chisel, he was removing the excess and allowing the entrapped David to surface.

Early in our Masonic journey we are presented the working tools of an Entered Apprentice.

Among them is the common gavel. And we are taught to use it to break off the corners of rough stones. That as Free & Accepted we are to use it to diligently remove from our hearts and consciences the superfluities of life. Perhaps we are that neglected stone. Perhaps part of the challenge that comes with dealing with that rough stone is to work on ourselves. Is there something amiss in us that is preventing us from successfully freeing that Masterpiece? Inside each one of us there is a Masterpiece that will be revealed only after we remove the superfluities that confine it to the Quarry.

Beyond The Temple

When the sculpture was first envisioned in the 1460's, before Michelangelo was born, it was intended to serve as adornment for the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. How-

ever, this colossus moved more times than any sculpture of that size ever should. It even stood tall for some time by the entrance to the Palazzo Della Signoria or Palazzo Vecchio. But the most interesting fact to me is that although the initial vision was for it to serve as part of the adornments of a Cathedral, it eventually became the centerpiece of a Temple of sorts. Today, nearly 500 years after its completion it is on display at the Galleria Dell' Accademia, a museum dedicated to the Fine Arts. There it stands as a testament to one Man's vision and the transcendence of the Labor of our hands and hearts.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on these questions.

- What is your neglected stone?
- What is that challenge, which others before you have attempted to meet without success?
- Is there a difficult project that is calling you. One that has laid neglected for too long.
- What will it take for you to elevate that challenge from the Horizontal to the Vertical?

For some of you that neglected stone is a professional one. There might be a business decision that is looming over you. A difficult decision which others have attempted to resolve without success. Or perhaps Your Neglected Stone is a personal challenge. It might be the decision to mend a relationship, to start anew, to say I'm sorry. Perhaps you know of something that is happening in our Fraternity which has to change. A colossus that has proven to be too difficult for previous Masonic Leaders. Perhaps they might have lacked the vision, the skills or the support and now this Neglected Stone becomes your Goliath.

Will you stand confident with a defiant stare like David and face this menacing challenge?

I encourage you to take some time today and in the coming days to reflect on this:

What is your Neglected Stone and what are you going to do to complete its journey From The Quarry to The Temple.

Ft. Pierce Lodge Holds Raffle, Gets New Welcome Sign And Building Funds

Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87 held a guitar raffle at the beginning of the year! A design was completed and the Lodge got a new welcome sign for their lobby with some money to spare for the building fund! This was a real team effort! Everyone supported this vision and made it happen. Thanks go to everyone who bought tickets and Brother Jim Barnes, Lodge Junior Warden, who crafted a beautiful mount to match the Lobby counter/display case.



Ornan Lodge No. 117 Masons Donate Bikes to Williston Elementary School Perfect attendance during FCAT testing qualified students

by W.: Bill Catsulis, Secretary, MLT - Zone 4 Chairman

Once more, local Masons purchased bicycles to reward students at Williston Elementary School who had perfect attendance during the two-week window of the recent FCAT testing. Right Worshipful Kenneth E. Shaw, Deputy District Grand Master, was on hand for the presentation. Pictured next to him is Williston Elementary School Assistant Principal Chloe Gabriel, then from Ornan Lodge No. 117 are Bro. Jeremy Johnson, Senior Deacon; Worshipful Bill Catsulis, Past Master; Worshipful Glen Lee Garner, Worshipful Master; and Bro. David Bruce Alford, Senior Warden. Williston Elementary School Principal Marla Hiers rounds out the group behind the winners:

- 3rd grader Matthew Sampson,
- 4th grader Christyuna Caulwell and
- 5th grader Jaggert Justice

Williston Elementary School appreciates the great support!

Masonic Service Association (MSA)

Submitted by R.: W.: Earl C. Ray, PDDGM District 21 MSA Representative, C.: W.: Bill Young VA Medical Center

The MSA efforts in support of Veterans at the C.: W.: Bill Young VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, Florida has recently been enhanced by the addition of Brother Mason Dean Sever, his Lady Linda and their team of Registered Therapy Dogs Amber, and Belle.

Brother Sever is a Perpetual Member of Leesburg Lodge No. 58 and a Plural Member of Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307 which is located near the VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, FL. He is a Member of the St. Petersburg York Rite Bodies, Florida Lodge of Research, Mystic Brotherhood Knight Masons, Pentagon York Rite College and National Association of Masonic Scouters having also received the Daniel Carter Beard Award. His Lady Linda is a Member of the Social Order of the Beauceant.

The team currently dedicates two mornings monthly to fulfill specific visitation tasking their VA Controlling Officer schedules for each visit. The dedicated efforts of the team in providing Moral and Welfare Enhancement Therapy to our Veterans are very much appreciated by the in-patients at the C.: W.: Bill Young VA Medical Center.



You're Never Too Old To Join

Youngest man a new Mason, 92 year old Brother Norbert Felix Miles is that man. His Grandfather and Father were Masons, and Brother Miles figured this would be a good time for him to join Curfew Lodge No. 73. Brother Miles is in the center, from left to right, W.:M.: Bob Diets, J.D. Eugene Quass, W.:M.: Clyde Millender and W.:M.: Mike Horvath. The Brothers from Crawford Lodge No. 294 F&AM assisted with the Degree.

Breakthrough Treatment For Atrial Fibrillation Discovered At MMRL Completes Phase 2 Clinical Trial

by Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director of Development and Communications
Cardiac Research Institute, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

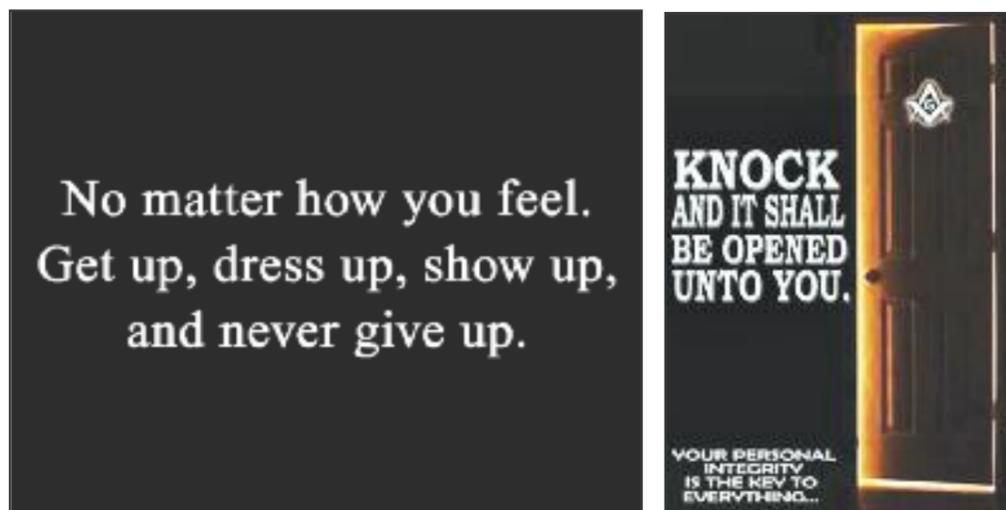
San Francisco, CA and Utica, NY, May 10, 2014 – Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: GILD) announced results of their HARMONY Phase 2 Clinical Trial investigating the results of ranolazine and low dose dronedarone to combat atrial fibrillation (AF). The initial research that prompted this clinical trial was conducted at the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) based in Utica, NY and was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology in 2010. The Phase 2 clinical trial was double blind, meaning that neither the patient nor the medical practitioner knew who was taking the placebo and who was taking the medication. Results of the clinical trial showed that those taking the drug combination had far fewer episodes of atrial fibrillation than those taking the placebo or either drug alone. Phase 3 clinical trials are expected to begin later this year.

Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of the MMRL, states that "safe and effective treatment for atrial fibrillation is one of the greatest unmet medical needs facing our society today." Over 2.7 million Americans suffer from atrial fibrillation, a fluttering of the upper chambers of the heart, and although treatments are available, most have serious side effects that limit their use in many conditions. One in ten people are expected to develop atrial fibrillation as they approach age 80 and as medical innovation increases life expectancy, a significantly greater number of Americans will be at risk.

This discovery and the promising Phase 2 trial results provide hope for millions of Americans who suffer from AF. Central New York Cardiology and the Mohawk Valley Heart Institute participated in the Phase 2 trial and expect to participate in the Phase 3 clinical trial.

When the heart is in atrial fibrillation, stagnation of blood in the atria can cause blood clots that can travel to the brain and cause an ischemic stroke. Over 25% of strokes in the United States are attributable to atrial fibrillation. For this reason, it is important for patients with AF to use blood thinners such as warfarin or other newer anticoagulants.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The institute's primary mission is to conduct high quality basic and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for development of the medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Please visit www.mmrl.edu to learn more about research at the MMRL or search for the MMRL on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube and LinkedIn.



Ornan Masonic Lodge No. 117 - Honors Levy County JROTC, Veterans and Teachers

by W.: Bill Catsulis, Ornan Lodge No. 117

On Saturday, May 17th, 2014, Members of Ornan Masonic Lodge No. 117 held their 4th Annual Steak Dinner Fundraiser by honoring several different groups and was a great success.

This great night started with Patriotism with the Levy County JROTC presenting an excellent Color Guard Detail and all present (80 attendees) joined in the pledge allegiance to the Flag of Our Country and an opening Prayer.

The 2014 Worshipful Master Glen Lee Garner, a retired decorated U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret welcomed all present and dinner was served.

The JROTC ate free thanks to a generous donation from Drummond Community Bank, who paid for their meals.

Brother Ted Glass was presented a 25 Year Membership Award by the Lodge Secretary Bill Catsulis. W.:M.: Garner then spoke of the many ways Freemasonry helps in the local community. Mrs. Marla Heirs, Principal at Williston Elementary gave a short talk about her school and how we can help. For many years Ornan Lodge No. 117 donates 6 brand new bicycles to the School each year. Worshipful Garner then presented Ornan's Adopt-A-Teacher for the 2014 Year Mrs. Kimberly Batts, from Joyce Bollock Elementary a check for 200.00 to buy school supplies for her class and a Certificate of Appreciation for her work.

The attention then turned to the JROTC who have enlisted into the Armed Forces who were presented certificates of appreciation, and a Two Dollar bill to remind them that we are here for them. Captain Klegg the Commander of the program introduced the enlistees and each gave a short talk about how they came to enlist, and what it means to them. Worshipful Garner then called upon our oldest member Past Master Ray Stipanovitch who enlisted in to the Marines in 1942 to talk about his service, then No. 498 (a reference to his jump number) was then called up. R.: W.: Dan Hartley who was a paratrooper in the Army also explained about his service.

The Worshipful Master then invited all who had served in the military to the front of the room and explained about Armed Forces Day which is always the third day of May and invited them to introduce themselves, and elaborate on their service, all branches of service were represented. These heroes served in many duty stations including Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Korea, the DMZ of Korea, Panama Canal, Pearl Harbor, Viet Nam, and other places around the world and they were applauded by all present.

Overall it was a great night of Freemasonry, Public Service, Honor, Community involvement. The annual fundraiser is held on Armed Forces Day which is third Saturday of May. The proceeds help to fund the many charitable programs presented in Levy County by the Freemasons of Ornan Lodge No. 117. The Lodge meets on the First and Third Monday of each Month at 7:30 p.m.

Acacia Lodge No. 163 Honors Three Law Enforcement Officers And Provided Fifteen College Scholarships

Acacia Lodge No. 163 F. & A.M. of Stuart recently celebrated another successful Law Enforcement Night on May 14, 2014. This event garnered over 115 attendees that included local law enforcement officers, recipients of Masonic college scholarships, and family members of brother Masons of that Lodge. This appreciation event recognizes the accomplishments of local law enforcement officers.

The evening started off with a wonderful dinner that consisted of an authentic Fireman's chili, fluffy white rice, and moist corn muffins. This dinner was topped off by a decadent chocolate mousse. All of this food was skillfully and thoughtfully prepared by Brother Chris Meyer and Brother Brad Peters.

This is what Brother George Stokus, who oversees the kitchen, had to say about the meal:

"It was such an honor to have been a part of Law Enforcement Night at our Lodge. These men and women sacrifice a lot for the safety of our community, so coordinating the meal was the least I could do. However, I must give credit where credit is due. Brother Meyer and Brother Peters truly went above and beyond in the preparation of this meal. After all, they had to feed 115 guests that included important local leaders."

After the meal concluded everyone adjourned to the meeting room for the award segment of the evening. Enchanting organ music was played by Brother Walter Hanner while people were waiting to be seated. Brother Frank Keifer who is this year's Master of the Lodge, began the event with a few thoughtful opening remarks. It meant a lot for him to be able to lead this event as his father is a retired police officer from Harlem, NY.

When the opening remarks concluded, Chief Tina Ciechanowski, Chief David Dyess, and Lt. Cedric Humphrey all had the opportunity to present the Acacia Lodge Officer of the Year Award to one distinguished member of their department. These officers work extremely hard to keep Martin County safe, so it was very meaningful to see them being honored by the members of the Acacia Lodge.

This year's honorees were Sgt. George McClain of the Stuart Police Department, Sgt. Bonnie Bare of the Sewall's Point Police Department, and Deputy Sheriff William Weiss of the Martin County Sheriff's Office.

This is what Sewall's Point Chief of Police, Tina Ciechanowski had to say about the evening:

"This was my first opportunity to attend the lodge's Law Enforcement Awards Night. I was touched by the tremendous effort made by the lodge to recognize the good work of the law enforcement officers in Martin County. I feel blessed as a chief to know that members of the lodge are here supporting not only law enforcement in our community, but also provide scholarships to improve educational opportunities for our youth"

This is what Stuart Chief of Police, David Dyess had to say about the event: "Law enforcement in general and Stuart police more specifically are very pleased to receive recognition from the Acacia Lodge. I have been present for the award ceremony for the last few years and it's always been a nice experience and rewarding for the officers receiving the awards."

This is what First Lt. Cedric Humphrey had to say about Law Enforcement Night:

"On behalf of the Martin County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Snyder, I'd like to say that we really appreciate Acacia Lodge for honoring the men and women of law enforcement. I was honored to have the opportunity to present the award on behalf of Sheriff Snyder to Deputy Sheriff William Weiss for all he has done throughout the year and his entire career."

After the awards were given out, 15 students from all four local high schools were presented with college scholarships of various amounts from the Acacia Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star, Unity Chapter No. 37 respectively. Brother Frank Kiefer and Diane Lenartowicz let the students know that they were very proud of their academic accomplishments.

The evening concluded with an eloquent speech from Chief Tina Ciechanowski where she expanded on the excellent job our law enforcement officers do for the citizens of Martin County. Her passion for her job shined through and it was obvious that she's committed to serving our community well.

The members of Acacia Lodge did a fantastic job honoring our local law enforcement officers. If this year's Law Enforcement Night is any indication of success, then next year's event should be even better.

Right Worshipful Rudy Boatwright, who is serving The Craft as the MH100 State Chairman, presented Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman and Most Worshipful Danny Griffith with a Grand Master's Club Lapel Pin and Certificate for donating \$1000.00 to the MH-100 Fund at Orange Park Lodge No. 267.





Worshipful Wayne Williams is presented his 55 Year Certificate and Pin from Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, P.G.M. at Orange Park Lodge No. 267.



Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, P.G.M. presented Worshipful Carey Brannan with an Honorary Perpetual Membership to Orange Park Lodge No. 267



Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, P.G.M. presents Worshipful George Thomson of Orange Park Lodge No. 267 with his 55 Year Award

Manatee Lodge No. 31 Adopts A School/Teacher For ESE Students

by George Benjamin, Secretary

Members of Manatee Lodge No. 31 recently presented a check for \$500.00 to the ESE teaching team at Palmetto High School in recognition of their outstanding dedication and attention to the special needs students attending Palmetto High School. The funds will be used at the discretion of the teaching team to purchase teaching aids or other supplies for the benefit of the Special Education Department. These funds were donated as part of an ongoing District-wide Masonic Adopt-a-School/Teacher Program, which also supplies needy student's County-wide with backpacks and other educational supplies on a regular basis.



L to R: Albert Thurman, Karen Prunier, Kathy Stinson, Matt Steiner, Roseann O'Brian, and John Steiner

District Public Education and Citizenship Committee Chairman Albert Thurman, Lodge Sr. Warden John Steiner, and Jr. Steward Matt Steiner presented the check to Palmetto High ESE teacher Roseann O'Brian and ESE aides Kathy Stinson and Karen Prunier. Ms. O'Brian has been serving special needs students at Palmetto High School for the last 19 years and in Manatee County for the last 37 years.

Manatee Masonic Lodge No. 31 holds regular Stated Meetings the First and Third Monday of every month. For more information, please visit www.manateelodge31.org.

Gulf Beach Lodge Delivers Thanksgiving Baskets

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach helped bring Holiday Cheer to eight local families in need. Twenty-three Masons, friends and family members prepared and delivered the Thanksgiving food baskets to less fortunate families in the area. The baskets included a large turkey, pies, and all the sides necessary for the most sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner. Gulf Beach Lodge is pleased to be able to assist in making this a great holiday season for those most in need. Gulf Beach Lodge has provided Holiday baskets for over 40 years and looks forward to continuing the tradition well into the future.



**Florida Masonic Tag
Approved By The Legislature
And Available!**
The code to purchase:
Freemasons Tag FQR



The Masonic Blue Slipper - Many Masons, Do Not Know Of Them Or Its Meaning

It is a small lapel pin in the shape of the bottom of a blue slipper. In the bottom half of the slipper is the Square and Compass. On the heel portion is the all Seeing Eye. Over the years the wives, mothers and daughters of Masons have grown to wear them when traveling alone away from home. But many Masons, do not know of them or its meaning.

The Masonic Blue Slipper is a symbol for the "Masonic Wives, Mothers and Daughters" with a history in the Bible story of Ruth. Any woman wearing one of these or its symbol is under the protection of Masons.

Long ago, during a famine in Israel, Elimelech took his wife Naomi and their two sons, left Bethlehem, and went into the land of Moab. The two sons married Moabite women. Then Elimelech died, and shortly after his two sons died. Naomi decided to return to Israel. At first both wanted to go back with Naomi, but Naomi would not have it. Ruth was persistent and travelled back with Naomi back to Bethlehem.

It was rough times, but they were able to get help from a distant relative of Elimelech named Boaz, who had a good farm outside of town.

Naomi was a bit crafty, and before long Boaz fell in love with Ruth. But the law of the land was a bit stiff. So Boaz set up court at the city gate as was the custom then. Boaz sat down at the gate because he knew there was a kinsman more closely related to Elimelech than he was. So when the kinsman came by, Boaz called him and asked 10 men of the elders to sit with them. Boaz bargained with his kinsman. The kinsman said he would redeem Elimelech's property. But when he found out that he would be responsible for Naomi and Ruth he backed out and told Boaz he would not redeem or protect Elimelech's interest. The biblical passage reads as:

Ruth 4: 7-8; "And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it., Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel."

The kinsmen drew off his shoe and gave it to Boaz. Boaz held it up for all in the gate to see. He asked them to be witnesses that he became Naomi's protector, Ruth's husband and a redeemer of Elimelech's property. From that point on and forever after Naomi and Ruth became a part of the family of Boaz, that is, came under the sponsorship and protection of Boaz and his family. Boaz took Ruth as his wife, and their son Obed became the father of Jesse and grandfather of King David.

The shoe is a symbol of promise, and the Masonic Blue is the color of perfection. The tekhelet dye comes from Murex snails whose blood is purple until exposed to sunlight when turns sky blue. The sky blue does not fade and is everlasting. Blue threads are woven into Jewish holy garments and the Israeli flag is blue.

The Masonic Blue Slipper represents that the woman is the relative of a Mason, under the protection of Masons and under the unfading oath of all Masons to protect widows and orphans. Thus the slipper has become an emblem to identify loved ones of Masons to other members of the Craft.

Is the Masonic Shoe a Masonic Symbol? Yes. But, once again, we find that the Masonic Shoe is another Masonic Symbol which did not originate with Freemasonry, but which was taken from traditions of antiquity as documented in the Holy Books. Is that disappointing? No. It simply once again, shows us the brotherhood of man through the ages, which Freemasonry exemplifies.



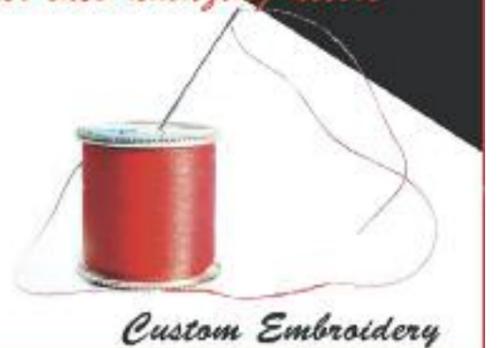
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13 Gulf Beach Lodge Members Receive Master Mason Exam Certificates

by Howard Knapp, PM, PDI, PDDGM, Secretary

Thirteen members of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, located in the beautiful city of Madeira Beach, recently completed the Grand Lodge Master Mason Exams I, II and III. W. Derry O'Neal, District 21 Chairman for Masonic Education, presented these brothers their Grand Lodge certificate of recognition at a regular communication of Gulf Beach Lodge on December 4th in the presence of 50 Masons from as far away as Newfoundland. The recipients were Chet Strickland, Howard Knapp, Ralph Vaughan, John Anthony, Carl Moore, Travis Palladeno, Oscar Salazar, David Neville, Adam Wolf, Bobby Burkett, James Robinson, Bob Meeks and David Gregory. Gulf Beach Lodge encourages all Florida Masons to further their Masonic Education by completing these informational and educational Master Mason Exams. Simply contact your Lodge Master or



Secretary to get the ball rolling, you will be happy you did.



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



Gulf Beach 2nd Annual "Sea No Limits Fishing Clinic"

The second annual Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 "Sea No Limits fishing clinic" could not have ask for better weather. The sun was shining as were the faces of the children who attended the clinic. It was a wonderful day for many of our special needs children Sunday at the Palafox Pier in Pensacola. The parents and children were able to attend the event, at no cost to them, while learning how to tie knots, protect our oceans from pollution, and even had a few "sea" creatures to pet.

Escambia County Search and Rescue, a completely volunteer organization, was on hand to ensure that the event was safe and secure, along with the Pensacola police department. Pensacola Recreational Fisherman's Association in conjunction with Gulf Breeze Lodge No. 347 arranged five areas for the attendees to learn and have fun. Station one is where they learned how to be responsible fisherman, station two was a touch tank sponsored by Navarre Marine Science, station three taught how to tie knots to ensure that you did not lose that "big catch". Station four gave lessons on how to cast your line and reel in that big fish. Lastly, the children visited the area where they received a free rod and reel and had their pictures taken. There was also food and water provided to all participants and volunteers. All this was made possible by generous donations and a grant from Fish Florida.



Florida Masonic Child ID Program was on hand to help parents make a CD of their child's important information in the event that there was a time they would need such a thing. We always pray that you will never need it, but in the event that you do, this will expedite the process. The Masonic ID program ID's approximately ten thousand kids annually.

There were many volunteers on hand to assist the families to include masons form District One and Two and their spouses, University of West Florida's Sigma Ki, Gulf Breeze High School Glee Club attend as volunteers to help with registration and fishing on the Pier. Navarre Marine Science Station was on hand with their touch tank animals and the children just could not stay away from the Horseshoe crab and star fish. Their eyes would light up with amazement and wonder as each animal was introduced and they were allowed to touch and pet them.

Overall the event was a great success and the sun shined on all of them Sunday. There is something to be said about the face of a child when he or she catches a fish. It simply warms the deepest part of your heart and makes the world a better place.

**Florida Masonic Tag Approved
By The Legislature and Available!**
The code to purchase: Freemasons Tag FQR

Naval Lodge No. 24 – Adopts-A-Teacher

Submitted by W. Harry Boyette Public Relations & Publicity/Citizenship

W. Daniel Parks of Naval Lodge No. 24 was proud to present Mrs. Jennifer Hausner a check as the Lodge's adopted "Teacher of the Year". Ms. Jennifer was accompanied by her husband David, daughter Emily, and parents Jake and Debbie Knight.

She thanked all the Brethren and took a few minutes to explain how she plans to use this money. It was quite an eye opener for many that were present. A list that included art supplies, math center games, laminating paper, file folders, print ink cartridges, just to name a few.

The kindergarten children had made a poster to present to the Members of the Lodge. It was a large tree and the leaves with their hand prints and each had signed their name by their hand print. Worshipful Dan assured Jennifer that it would be displayed so that all could enjoy.

Worshipful Dan stated that the Adopt-A-Teacher program has to be one of the best programs going. It brings the Lodge into the classroom and Community, and sheds the Light Of Masonry for all to see. Naval Lodge No. 24 plans on keeping this program around for a long

Secretary/Treasurer Workshop Held at The Masonic Home

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida held a Secretary/Treasurer's Workshop at The Masonic Home in St. Petersburg on October 25, 2014.

The itinerary for these workshops generally is a Friday night dinner and social get together. Saturday morning light breakfast, morning presentations, Lunch and afternoon presentations and wrap up.

On Sunday's, one on one assistance with any subject by members of Technology Committee and other qualified Brothers is provided. (reservations for Sunday get together with subject must be made in advance).

Although these seminars are intended for the Secretaries and Treasurers, all Members and Officers of the Lodge are encouraged to attend. Reservations are required. The Cost for Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers will be \$35.00 all others \$45.00 to cover the cost of food and supplies. Reservation forms will follow shortly.



Brothers, show your pride for our Great Fraternity and at the same time help your Grand Lodge with Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc., Specifically our Child ID Program. The Grand Lodge of Florida, has commissioned Cufflinks and Button Covers bearing the Seal of The Grand Lodge of Florida, F&AM. For your tax deductible donation of \$50.00 or more you will receive a set of Cufflinks. For your tax deductible donation of \$100.00 or more you will receive both the Cufflinks and Button Covers in a carrying box.



The Masonic Charities, Inc. is a 501 c 3 corporation and your donation is Tax Deductible.

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Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida



Dixie Lodge No. 109 Honors Oldest Living Member And Others

On May 20, 2014, at its Stated Meeting, Dixie Lodge No. 109, F.&A.M. Blountstown, Florida presented Brother Rupert Brown the oldest living Member of Dixie Lodge at the young age of 103 years, with his 65 Year Membership Certificate and Pin.

The Lodge also presented 40 Year Pens and Certificates to Brothers Billy Joe Hand and Robert Cooner.



“Expect Perfection - Settle For Excellence”