

The Florida Mason

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

Volume 2, Issue 1



Grand Lodge of Florida

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Grand Lodge Officers

2008 - 2009

GRAND MASTER

M.: W.: Joe Fleites
(Miami)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig
(Clermont)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez
(Tampa)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Jim Harris
(Sebastian)

GRAND TREASURER

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

GRAND SECRETARY

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

*All submissions for future
issues of The Florida Mason
should be sent to,
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904-354-2339,
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M.: W.: Joe Fleites
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

As I'm writing this message for the Florida Mason, I can almost hear the off key song of the Fat Lady Singing. Not really, what a great year this has been, I don't even know where to start. The District Deputy Grand Masters and District Instructors have done an excellent job in their Districts; they have worked hard for Grand Lodge and our beloved Fraternity. All the State and Zone Chairmen have also performed their duties with dedication.

The Appointed Grand Lodge Officers continue to serve Grand Lodge well. All of these Brothers have honored me by serving, and it has made me proud to be a Mason. I would like to send out a special "THANKS" to R.: W.: Nick Canora, the Grand Marshal, and R.: W.: Jorge "George" Aladro who have done a yeoman's job for me this year.

Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home was held on March 21, 2009. We had over 850 attendees and held the dedication of the First Lady's Project which was restoring the Dining Room. The restoration of the Dining Room and the dedication ceremony at the Masonic Home was a huge success. The Widows Sons Motorcycle Group had over 80 motorcycles in attendance donating \$3,200 to the Masonic Home.

On behalf of my Lady, Gale, and I, we wish to thank all the Brothers and Sisters who donated so generously to the First Lady's Project.

Several members of the Craft have approached me with comments relating to closing the Masonic Home and placing the residents in other facilities. Such I assure is not the fact. The Grand Lodge Officers and Members of the Masonic Home Board of Trustees are committed to the Masonic Home and the Residents. The Masonic Home has suffered financially but will weather the storm as we have done in the past. The Independent Living plans for the future will answer most, if not all, of these financial problems. We need to stop these rumors; they only undermine the devoted effort of the Grand Lodge Officers and Board of Trustees.

One of the many highlights this year, as Grand Master, and a distinct privilege for me was to honor the request of Cornerstone Lodge No. 386 in making Fellow Craft Brother Jay Packer a Master Mason at sight. Brother Packer is in critical condition at the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach, and there were very few dry eyes in that Intensive Care Room witnessing the honor bestowed on Brother Packer. Please keep Brother Packer and his family in your prayers.

To say thank you is just not enough. I will always remember your support and friendship. I am truly blessed to have been able to serve you and The Grand Lodge of Florida as your Grand Master.

My Brothers, please review the Proposed Legislation contained within. I hope you had the opportunity to attend the Legislation Meetings in your area. Remember that an educated Mason is a dedicated Mason for the betterment of his Lodge.

I hope to see you in May during the Grand Lodge Communication in Orlando.

God Bless You All!

M.: W.: Joe Fleites,
Grand Master



Be a Leader; Make the Difference



R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

As you are all aware, times have changed considerably since our last Florida Mason was published. Economic conditions are such, especially in the real estate market that we have decided to slow the pace of our proposed Independent Living units at the Masonic Home. We are continuing the planning phase so that we will be ready to build when the market turns around.

The return on our Masonic Home investments has suffered significantly in the recent downturn, but our losses were only half of that of the general market, thanks to the advice of our financial advisors. This will require some financial restructuring to meet the budgetary requirements for the coming year.

But it is not all bad news. Our Brothers have continued to step up and support the needy causes across the state. We can be proud to be part of this great Fraternity. And we are continuing to attract younger men to our Lodges. The resurgence is gratifying to your Grand Lodge Officers. We ask that you continue doing what you are doing. It's working!

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Grand Lodge Communication in Orlando in May.

I again thank all of the Florida Masons for allowing me to continue to serve this ancient and honorable Fraternity and look forward to leaving better than I found it.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Dale I. Goehrig
Deputy Grand Master

Messages continued on page 7

2009-10 Deadlines:

submission dates..... print dates

The Florida Mason

Vol. 2, Issue 2: September 25, 2009..... October 23, 2009
Vol. 3, Issue 1: March 10, 2010..... April 28, 2010

Masonic Lifestyles

Winter 2009: November 6, 2009 December 12, 2009
Spring 2010: March 31, 2010..... May 3, 2010

Three Generations

Three generations were represented on the Orange Park Lodge No. 267 Ritual Competition Team competing in District Ritual Competition at Grand Lodge on January 31, 2009. Grandfather W.: Ortho Smith, son W.: Dennis Smith, and grandson Brother Lewis Smith.



Lawtey Lodge No. 189, Free and Accepted Masons, Official Visit



Richard Lynn, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary, Joey Delacruz, District Deputy Grand Master, Leaman Alvarez, District Instructor, Roy Wieland, Worshipful Master, and Jorge Aladro.

By Ted Barber

Right Worshipful Joey Delacruz, District Deputy Grand Master of the “Friendly” 10th Masonic District, made an Official visit to Lawtey Lodge No. 189, Free and Accepted Masons, on behalf of Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of Florida on Thursday, January 15, 2009. Lawtey Lodge presented a delicious roast beef supper with all the trimmings to those attending the Official Visit. Right Worshipful Delacruz was honored by the Grand Secretary, Most Worshipful Richard Lynn and Right Worshipful Jorge Aladro, attending the Official Visit. Five Past District Deputy Grand Masters from the “Friendly” 10th District were also in attendance.

Donates a Set History Books



Barrett Lodge No. 43 F&AM in Live Oak, Florida, District 9 donated a set of Florida Masonic History Books to the Suwannee County Library on November 14th. 2008. R.:W.: Don Zolonz and W.:M.: Joel Stewart made the presentation to Nancy See and Linda Sanderson.



Sidney Eugene Crews Presented 55 Year Certificate

By Ted Barber

On Monday evening March 9, 2009, Brother Sidney Crews was presented his 55 year Certificate of Good Standing signed by Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Florida, by Joey Delecruz, District Deputy Grand Master of the “Friendly” 10th Masonic District on his Official Visit. Brother Crews was

initiated February 17, 1953, passed to the Degree of Fellow-Craft June 2, 1953, and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 2, 1953 at Callahan Lodge Number 32. He affiliated with Baldwin Lodge Number 217 in 1955 and served as the Worshipful Master of Baldwin Lodge Number 217 in 1970. Brother Crews will be celebrating his 80th birthday June 20, 2009.

Students Write, Compete and Give Their Feelings

Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons, encourages Union County Students to competitively write essays which exemplify their understanding of what education and patriotism means to them. The patriotism essays were judged independently by local educators and the “What Education Means To Me” essays are being judged by a committee from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. The winners were all rewarded financially and they voluntarily presented their written documents at the Lodge Meeting, February 16, 2009. Teachers, parents, friends and Lodge Members enjoyed their presentations. To a young person this annual event is an experience that will be remembered for many years.

Colin Coody, the present Worshipful Master of Lake Butler Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons (he is the person in charge of the Lodge for this year), organized the event. Many teachers and students were involved in the essay competition. To honor the students, the Lodge had a supper prior to the essay presentations and the dining room was packed. For all Freemasons patriotism and youth are honored each year in the months of February and March, respectively.

50 Year Award

R.:W.: Glover, I take the chance to address you as Right Worshipful. I thought you would appreciate the picture.

We had a great evening last night and your letter to your father was well received. I had to pause a moment as I read your message to your dad as the emotion of it was appreciated by me and all of us. Brother Glover and your mother really appreciated your thought fullness.

We had about sixty attending the dinner and presentation. M.:W.: James A. Durham, Jr., P.G.M., of Florida is one of our Lodge Past Masters and conducted the ceremony. He stays very active in our activities and is always ready to assist his Lodge. We had two to receive their 40 year award and three to receive their 50 year award. We presently have 21 fifty year plus members and seven were able to attend last night.

Thank you for your contribution to our successful evening.
Fraternally yours,
Kenneth K. Eichorn, D.D.G.M.,
Secretary, Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 Niceville, FL



Pictured l to r: 50 Year members; Theodore Rainey, Kenneth Glover, W.:M.: Edward T. Johnson, M.:W.: James A. Durham, Jr., P.G.M., member John Higginson, and R.:W.: Kenneth K. Eichorn, D.D.G.M.

Fellowship Lodge No.265 F&AM Denim Degree's

Fellowship Lodge No. 265 F&AM had fun during February's short of time Degree's where we did the Degree's in blue jeans and called them Denim Degree's with 4 Brothers being raised in the Master Mason Degree. This was the first of its kind here at Fellowship Lodge and all the Degree teams had fun. Assisting Fellowship Lodge was Palma Ceia Lodge No. 290 and A. W. Windhorst Lodge No. 185.



Denim Degree-From l to r: : Duane Smith Fellowship, Ryan Marici A.W. Windhorst, Stephen Edson Master, Jeff Stull Fellowship, Keith Andrews Palma Ceia



Denim Degree-Master Mason Degree team Fellowship Lodge, Palma Ceia Lodge, A.W. Windhorst Lodge, And R.:W.: Houston White, Larry Powell, Junior Torres not shown

Christmas Giving

R.:W.: Denny Smith (Worshipful Master Elect at the time of the photo) and Rev. Horace Dozier, Pastor of the New Canaan Baptist Church, present Ms. Deani Weston a plant and Christmas Gift Card. Havana Lodge No. 167, with the help of Rev. Dozier, identified Ms. Weston a single mother in need of assistance during the Christmas holidays.



R.:W.: Denny Smith presenting a gift to a local Havanian this past Christmas. Tom Rawsthorne

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RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION AND THE DIGEST OF THE
MASONIC LAW OF FLORIDA TO PERMIT THE GRAND MASTER TO
AUTHORIZE THE REPRODUCTION AND PLACEMENT OF A DUPLICATE
COPY OF THE “FORMS AND CEREMONIES” IN EACH DISTRICT

WHEREAS, during the 164th Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of
Florida in 1993 the Craft adopted by written ballot a resolution to place a duplicate copy of
the “Forms and Ceremonies” in each District, pursuant to, and conditioned upon, a satisfac-
tory contract and agreement between the Grand Lodge of Florida and the District request-
ing the copy and that the requesting District would be required to pay the cost incurred in the
reproduction and provide a safe house the “Books;” and
WHEREAS, the purpose of the placement of these copies was to facilitate and provide
the maximum opportunity, with the least inconvenience and travel, for the majority of the
Lodges and the Craft to have access and availability to the official written “Work” in order
to improve their proficiency; and
WHEREAS, this resolution was never implemented into the “Constitution” and “Digest
of the Masonic Law of Florida;” and
WHEREAS, several Districts have requested that a duplicate copy of the “Forms and
Ceremonies” be placed in their respective Districts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate changes be made to the “Consti-
tution” and “Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida” to permit the Grand Master to author-
ize that duplicate copies be produced by the Grand Lodge of Florida and be distributed to the
requesting Districts. The receiving Districts will be required to follow the procedures for
opening the safes containing the duplicate copies of the “Work” as delineated in Chapter
38.04 of the “Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida.” The duplicate copy of the “Forms and
Ceremonies” retained at the Grand Lodge of Florida in Jacksonville shall be used as the
“Master” for producing the duplicate copies.
Submitted by:
R.: W.: Fred Latsko, Chairman Committee on Work
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE “CONSTITUTION” AND THE “DIGEST OF
THE MASONIC LAW OF FLORIDA”
Constitution, Article XV, Section 2, paragraph 1, page 76:

Currently reads:
There shall be one (1) original and twelve (12) duplicate copies of the Forms and
Ceremonies described herein.

Change to read:
There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms
and Ceremonies described herein.

Constitution, Article XV, Section 2, paragraph 3, page 76:

Currently reads:
The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such
number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be
moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any
other building or place except upon appropriate Resolution of the Grand Lodge and any such
Resolution of the Grand Lodge shall set forth in detail the conditions of such removal.

Changed to read:
The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such
number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be
moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any
other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the request-
ing District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with the Grand Lodge of Florida
and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides
a safe to house the “Books.” The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at
the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38, paragraph 2, page 283:

Currently reads:
There shall be one (1) original and twelve (12) duplicate copies of the Forms and
Ceremonies described herein.

Changed to read:
There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms
and Ceremonies described herein.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38, paragraph 4, page 283:

Currently reads:
The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such
number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be
moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any
other building or place except upon appropriate Resolution of the Grand Lodge and any such
Resolution of the Grand Lodge shall set forth in detail the conditions of such removal.

Change to read:
The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such
number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be
moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any
other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the request-
ing District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with the Grand Lodge of Florida
and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides
a safe to house the “Books.” The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at
the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38.04, paragraph 1, page 286:

Currently reads:
There shall be one original and nine duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies
described herein.

Change to read:
There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms
and Ceremonies described herein.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38.04, paragraph 2, page 286:

Currently reads:
The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such
number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be
moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any
other building or place except upon appropriate Resolution of the Grand Lodge and any such
Resolution of the Grand Lodge shall set forth in detail the conditions of such removal.

Changed to read:
The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such
number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be
moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any
other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the request-
ing District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with the Grand Lodge of Florida
and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides
a safe to house the “Books.” The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at
the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates.
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION TO PERMIT THE OPENING OF STATED COMMUNICATIONS
IN THE DEGREES OF ENTERED APPRENTICE AND FELLOW CRAFT

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 12, of the Constitution (page 66) directs that the work
and business of the Lodge must be transacted in a Master Mason Lodge. It also states that
the Degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft should be Opened for the instruction of
the young Masons “when there is no work [or business] to be done;” and
WHEREAS, Ritual has been established and published in The Florida Masonic Code
(Red Cipher), Correction 4 published in 2008, for the Opening of Stated Communications
in the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees, (pages 1 and 53 respectively); and
WHEREAS, Section 20, Paragraph 20.05, of the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida states that
“The Worshipful Master guides and controls all the work and business of the Lodge, opens,
closes, dispenses, calls off and calls on, at his pleasure;” and
WHEREAS, contrary to the clearly stated intent of the cited references from the
Constitution, implementing Regulations and Ritual, the last sentence of paragraph 25.28 in
the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida requires, through implication, that all Stated
Communications must be Opened in the Master Mason Degree by requiring: “the minutes
of the previous Communication or Communications shall be read for final adoption at the
next Stated Communication.” The reading and final adoption of the Minutes of the
previous Communication or Communications is “business” of the Lodge, and according to
the Constitution all “business” must be transacted in a Master Mason Lodge.” Requiring the

final adoption of the Minutes from the previous Communication or Communications at the next Stated Communication forces every Stated Communication to be Opened in the Master Mason Degree; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the words “*Opened in the Master Mason Degree*” to the end of the last sentence of paragraph 25.28 will make the *Digest of Masonic Law of Florida* internally consistent within its various sections and consistent with the Ritual in *The Florida Masonic Code* (Red Cipher), by requiring the final adoption of the Minutes at the next Stated Communication Opened in the Master Mason Degree rather than at the next Stated Communication. This permits, but does not require, the Opening of a Stated Communication in other than the Master Degree when there is no business to come before the Lodge.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the words “*Opened in the Master Mason Degree.*” Be added to the end of the last sentence of Paragraph 25.28 in the *Digest of Masonic Law of Florida* so that Paragraph 25.28 will now read:

25.28 The minutes of the Lodge at every Communication must be read for correction and approval before the closing of the Lodge, unless dispensed with by the Worshipful Master, but the minutes of the previous Communication or Communications shall be read for final adoption at the next Stated Communication opened in the Master Mason Degree.

Respectfully Submitted,
Henry I. Jehan, Jr., P.M., Sanford Lodge No. 62, District 16
John W. Sirmon, P.M., Greenville Lodge No. 28, District 8
Theodore (Ted) Bissell, P.M., Veritas Lodge No. 396, District 29
Charles (Chuck) Martin, P.M., Waldo Lodge No. 10, District 14
Milledge Murphy, P.D.D.G.M., District 14
J. Michael Hartman, P.D.D.G.M., District 16
Luther Bodiford III, P.D.D.G.M., District 7

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

**RESOLUTION TO RAISE THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR
LET YOUR PENNIES MAKE GOOD CENTS**

WHEREAS, Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents was created in 1958; and
WHEREAS, Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents has never been increased; and
WHEREAS, when factoring inflation, \$3.65 in 1958 would cost \$27.35 in 2008. Additionally, the same products in 2008 and 1958 would cost \$3.65 and \$0.49 respectively; and

WHEREAS, by comparison, the Per Capita Tax has increased multiple times to \$14.00 per member once being less than \$3.65 during the same 50 year period; and

WHEREAS, this will significantly increase the financial solvency of the Masonic Home; and

WHEREAS, twenty-six Districts, or \$72 of the Grand Lodge of Florida averaged \$4.44 per member in 2008. An increase in voluntary contributions to \$7.30 would significantly raise the budget annually; and

WHEREAS, this program will continue to be a Voluntary Contribution including, but not limited to, allowing Masons to continue contributions of \$7.30 or any other voluntary amount desired.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Regulation 22.06 on page 196 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to change the Voluntary Contribution to two cents a day, or \$7.30 annually.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Regulation 22.06, Page 196, currently reads:

22.06 The Secretary of each Particular Lodge shall mail to each member of the Lodge a statement of dues and assessments due to the Lodge between October 15 and December 1, on notices furnished by the Grand Lodge or on printed notices approved by the Most Worshipful Grand Master which shall include voluntary contributions of one cent a day to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund - \$3.65.

22.06 The Secretary of each Particular Lodge shall mail to each member of the Lodge a statement of dues and assessments due to the Lodge between October 15 and December 1, on notices furnished by the Grand Lodge or on printed notices approved by the Most Worshipful Grand Master which shall include voluntary contributions of one cent a day to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund - \$7.30.

Respectively submitted,
Eric Halberg, P.M., Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
Robert A. McGowan, Vero Beach Masonic Lodge No. 250
Albert Hadigian, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
John Reiff, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
Dean Carroll, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
Larry L. McGinnis, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
Rollin F. Ankeny, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
George R. Williams, Okeechobee Lodge No. 237
Donald R. Carter, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
Jim Peiffer, Sebastian Masonic Lodge No. 232
Nick Paleologos, Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87
Werner Olle, Cornerstone Lodge No. 386
Robert T. Bagdy, Cornerstone Lodge No. 386

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

**RESOLUTION ON PAST MASTERS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS ATTENDING
ACTUAL PAST MASTER MASON DEGREE (ACTUAL PAST MASTERS’ DEGREE)**

WHEREAS, at the 176th Annual Communication in 2005, the Resolution to allow Past Masters from other jurisdictions, who have attended the Actual Past Master Mason Degree (Actual Past Masters’ Degree), to attend the Actual Past Master Mason Degree was approved by the Brethren present and it has been very difficult for the Past Masters to prove that they attended an Actual Past Masters Degree; and

WHEREAS, when the Resolution was approved, it was done in the spirit of promoting Brotherly Love and since showing proof has been difficult and not conducive to this promotion; and

WHEREAS, a Past Master Degree which is very similar is conferred in the York Rite Masonic Degrees with no regard to having been an Actual Past Master; and

WHEREAS, the current Committee on Work feels that it is acceptable to allow Past Masters from other jurisdictions to be present during the conferral.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Sitting Worshipful Masters or Past Masters from other jurisdictions be allowed to pay the applicable fee and attend the Actual Past Master Mason Degree (Actual Past Masters’ Degree) as a candidate, receiving a certificate (with the appropriate wording) and their attendance recorded, providing they can demonstrate to a member of the Committee on Work that they are a Sitting Worshipful Master or Past Master of a Lodge in a jurisdiction recognized as Regular by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick J. Latsko, P.M., P.D.D.G.M., Chairman Committee on Work

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

**RESOLUTION ON CIPHERING THE ACTUAL PAST MASTER MASON DEGREE
(ACTUAL PAST MASTERS’ DEGREE)
FOR USE BY THE COMMITTEE ON WORK**

WHEREAS, at the 138th Annual Communication in 1967 the Forms and Ceremonies of the Ritual was approved by the Brethren present and included in the ceremonies is the Actual Past Master Mason Degree (Actual Past Masters’ Degree); and

WHEREAS, each year at the Annual Communications of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida the Committee on Work confers the Actual Past Master Mason Degree (Actual Past Masters’ Degree) on current and past Florida Worshipful Masters; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Work is composed of Members from all Ten Zones in Florida and it is difficult to have the Chairmen and Members present at a single location; and

WHEREAS, the original Degree as currently documented was done for a single candidate and is currently done for a large group and it is desirable to have the proper presentation of the prescribed Degree during the conferral; and

WHEREAS, the Actual Past Master Mason Degree (Actual Past Masters’ Degree) is available for review by only Sitting and Past Masters and not all members of the Craft.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Work be authorized to make minor corrections to the Degree verbiage in order to match the current practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a multiple Letter Cipher document of the Actual Past Master Mason Degree (Actual Past Masters’ Degree) be created in similar fashion to the Florida Masonic Code, for approval by the Grand Master, for the Committee on Work’s use. Copies will only be distributed by direction of the Grand Master or Chairman of the Committee on Work. The Cipher Book will be developed at no cost to the Craft.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick J. Latsko, P.M., P.D.D.G.M., Chairman, Committee on Work

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

**RESOLUTION FOR MANDATORY BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATION OF CANDIDATES**

WHEREAS, in today’s society, there exists the necessity to maintain the integrity of our Fraternity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, due to the transient nature of our society, it has become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to possess more than a casual knowledge of a Candidate’s background; and

WHEREAS, due to the increasing number of petitions being received as a result of the renewed interest in our Fraternity, the character and quality of candidates is paramount to our future existence and reputation; and

WHEREAS, a standardize approach to an in-depth investigation of prospective candidates is required not only to ensure the character and quality of candidates, but to assist the individual Lodges with the process of investigations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all candidates shall be required to undergo a criminal background investigation to be obtained by the individual Lodges at the expense of the candidate from a vendor selected by the Grand Lodge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following provisions of the Digest be amended as reflected below:

**CHAPTER 31.
CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES
As to Fees for the Degrees, see Chapter 32.
As to Petition for the Degrees, see Chapter 33.
QUALIFICATIONS**

**GENERAL
Constitutional Provisions**

Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute and well recommended, and, unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the Several Degrees. (Art. XIII, Sec. 2(g)). (1992)

Regulations

31.01 Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, freeborn, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute and well recommended, and, unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the several Degrees. (1991)

31.02 It is a safe rule in these days, though its antiquity may be greatly doubted, that a candidate should be able to read and write.

31.03 A Lodge may not receive a petition for the Degrees of Freemasonry from any person who has been convicted of a felony and who has not been restored to full civil rights.

31.04 A Lodge may not ballot on a petition until the Investigation Committee (formally referred to as the “Character Committee”) has reviewed a criminal background investigative report.

**Digest of Masonic Law
CHAPTER 32.
FEES FOR THE DEGREES AND REFUNDS THEREOF
AMOUNT AND PAYMENT
Constitutional Provisions**

No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, for a less sum than One Hundred Dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for initiation in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation must accompany the petition. The fee received for initiation shall to be returned to the candidate if rejected, however the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge. The fee for passing or raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; Provided, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (Art. X, S. 13). (1986)

Regulations

32.01 A Lodge cannot by By Law or otherwise require a candidate for the Degrees to present, with his petition therefore, advance fees for the F.C. and M.M. Degrees, and any existing By Law conflicting therewith is void.

32.02 A petition having been received, and favorably acted upon, the fee becomes the property of the Lodge and can only be returned as a donation or gift, but such action would in no way change the relation of the candidate to the Lodge or the jurisdiction of the Lodge over him.

32.03 When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee paid for the purpose of a criminal background investigative of the candidate shall not be required to be refunded.

32.04 When a worthy man petitions a Lodge for the Degrees and is elected; and before the Degrees are conferred he has a severe illness which would result in the impairment of his memory and mental faculties, the Lodge should not confer the Degrees, and if, after waiting a reasonable time for a cure to be established, the mental condition is not cleared, it would be just and proper to return the fee.

Beaver Lodge joins Tuscan Lodge 6 in Master Mason Degree

Masonry “unites men of every country, sect and opinion and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.”

This assertion was well demonstrated by a recent Master Mason Degree at Tuscan Lodge No. 6 in Bartow, Florida. Tuscan had as their guests Brothers from the “Beaver Lodge,” a club of Master Masons participating in the Alafia Rendezvous, a pre-1840 historical reenactment held in

Homeland, Florida. This was the third annual event with Tuscan and the Beaver Lodge.

Over twenty-five Brothers of the Beaver Lodge joined Tuscan, dressed in pre-1840 period-attire, for the raising of Brother Manuel Theodore Grubbs to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. Ten different Grand Lodge jurisdictions were represented, including Brothers from England, Canada and Germany.

The Fraternal Order of the Beaver North America (the

official name) was formed as a Masonic Club in 1989 at the Northeast Rendezvous in North Springfield, Vermont. Membership is limited to Master Masons in good standing. The Order’s induction ceremony must be conducted at a Rendezvous, or in a primitive setting, and in pre-1840 dress and attire. The Order now boasts a membership of over 1,000 members – all of whom are our Brothers.

Emergent Communication

At a Called Communication of Sutherland Lodge No. 174 F&AM held at Palm Harbor, Florida on January 21st, 2009 A.D., 6009 A.L., The Flag Ceremony was observed, followed with prayer by the Chaplain.

Lodge opened in Due Form in the Master Mason Degree at 5:48 pm with the following officers in their Stations and Places: * Denotes Pro-Tem
W.:M.: Richard Brooks, P.M.*
S.:W.: Brian Campbell
J.:W.: Greg Scott
SD – Robert Fisher
JD – Scott Crum*
Treasurer – Jarvis Wood, P.M.
Sec – Kenneth A. Warner, P.M.
Chaplain –
SS –
JS – Larry Pomeroy
Tyler –
Marshal –

Lodge set At Ease at 5:58 pm
Grand Lodge Opened an Emergent Communication in Ample Form at 6:00 pm with Grand Line Officers present:
M.:W.: Joe A. Fleites
D.:G.:M.: Dale I. Goehrig
S.:G.:W.: J. Dick Martinez

Grand Lodge was set at ease.
The Officers of Sutherland and Grand Lodge retired to the dining area downstairs for a tasty catered steak and potatoes dinner. An Anniversary cake was also served. W.:M.: Frank Gaughen welcomed all and presented visitors with commemorative coins and members with specially engraved commemorative coins. All present were also presented a commemorative pen and 100 Year Anniversary Book which explained some of the history and Past Masters of Sutherland Lodge No. 174.

All Masons present and able re-ascended the steps to the Lodge and the meetings continued. Grand Lodge and Sutherland Lodge were brought back to labor W.:M.: Gaughen at

8:06 pm. The Grand Line officers were received with Grand Honors. W.:M.: Gaughen turned the gavel over to the M.:W.: Joe Fleites, Sutherland Lodge's Officers, Past Masters and members were formed west of the alter and Sutherland Lodge No. 174 was Re-constituted. The ceremony was performed by the Grand Line Officers and assisted by others Brothers sitting in place of their missing members. Sutherland Lodge members returned to their places in the Lodge.

M.:W.: Joe Fleites presented the Gavel to W.:M.: Gaughen with expression of thanks for inviting him and his officers to participate in this important ceremony. (8:35 pm)

W.:M.: Gaughen presented M.:W.: Fleites an Honorary Membership from the members of Sutherland Lodge No. 174 and also a \$100.00 donation to the Grand Master's Charity - the Masonic Home of Florida.

W.:M.: Emanuele Pepe of East Gate Lodge No. 355, presented a Masonic Flag to W.:M.: Gaughen and W.: Jim Ullery, Junior Past Master of East Gate Lodge No. 355 presented a Stars and Stripes US Flag to W.: Richard Brooks Junior Past Master of Sutherland Lodge.

M.:W.: Joe A. Fleites Closed both Lodges in Ample Form at 08:55 pm

There were 39 Brothers present upstairs and 3 present down stairs:
Joseph Ballow
J. Michael Beijar, P.D.D.G.M., P.M.
Richard Borham, EA
Richard Brooks, P.M.
Brian Campbell
Brian Cappolla, FC
Richard Clowes, P.M.
Scott Crum
Avtar Dhaliwal
Richard Gore
Rob Fisher
Frank Gaughen

James Hale, P.M.
Kenneth R. James, Sr., P.M.
Kenneth R. James, II, P.D.D.G.M., P.M.
Charles Jones, P.M.
Larry Pomeroy
Risk Raguso
Jason Schultz
Donald Scofield, P.M.
Greg Scott
Louis Thomas, P.M.
George Ulmer, P.M.
Kenneth Warner, P.M.
Jarvis Wood, P.M.
Glen Youngreen

Most Worshipful Grand Master Joe A. Fleites
Deputy Grand Master Dale I. Goehrig
Senior Grand Warden J. Dick Martinez
And sitting as...
Junior Grand Deacon Rae Hoopes
Senior Grand Steward Ron C. Newton
Junior Grand Steward R. James Rocha
Grand Historian Walter Bush
Grand Marshal Nicholas Canora
Grand Tyler J. David Nevitt
Grand Chaplin R.J. “Stetch” Liekefett
Grand Orator Richard Daniel
Grand Secretary Danny Robinson
Grand Treasurer Emauele Pepe
Grand Sword Bearer Richard Brooks
Grand Persuviant Jim Ullery

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth Warner P.M., Secretary
Frank Gaughen, Worshipful Master

Local Chapter Celebrates 100 Years from its Lodge overlooking downtown Fort Walton Beach

November 8, 2008, Andrew Gant, Daily News
FORT WALTON BEACH - ***Not much predates the Freemasons Fraternity in Okaloosa County - not even the county itself.***

Not the Marler Bridge, named for Freemason William T. Marler. Not the Brooks Bridge to Okaloosa Island, named for the Brooks family that boasts two original Freemasons. Not W.C. Pryor Middle School, named for another Freemason. The Fraternity has turned 100 years old here. Members still meet regularly in downtown Fort Walton Beach, which makes the group one of the oldest standing organizations in Northwest Florida. “Not the oldest profession, mind you,” said John Lewis, Past Master and emcee of the group's recent special centennial meeting. But the fact is that some of today's local Freemasons - as they sit in their antique upstairs Lodge above the old Coach and Four Gifts - know more than most about Okaloosa County's history. The organization got its start in 1908, when the area was in Santa Rosa County and Fort Walton Beach was still known as Brooks Landing and later as Camp Walton. John Brooks, Jr., the last of original Freemason John “Will” Brooks’ nine children, was

at the meeting, remembering his father - a jack-of-all-trades who served as the area's only Deputy Sheriff, tooth-puller, real estate agent, boat captain, auctioneer and lighthouse keeper. Today, the men at the Lodge say Freemasonry is not all about mysterious rituals or codes - many of them featured in movies and novels - but more about Will Brooks' kind of service. “We don’t really have that many secrets,” Lewis said. “Just ask.” The group funds charities and local programs such as the Mozart Piano Competition at Playground Music - named for the historic composer who also was a Freemason. The chapter also is working with the rest of Florida's nearly 300 Lodges on an identification program designed to help find lost children. Mel Odum, a member since 1972 and Master of the Lodge in 1999, said the Fraternity doesn't recruit. He said the Lodge's doors are open to men who believe in a higher being and ask to join. “I’m proud to be a Mason with all of my friends here,” he said.

Leesburg Masons Announce Essay Contest

Leesburg Lodge No. 58 F&AM is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring an essay contest open to all Leesburg High School Graduating Seniors. The subject of the essay is “Why I love America.” Essays must be 500 to 1000 words long and submitted by May 8, 2009. All essays must be the student’s own work. The student submitting the winning essay will receive a check for \$100. The winning student’s English teacher will receive a \$25 gift certificate for Outback Steak-house. All Leesburg High School Graduating Seniors are eligible and all entries should be submitted to Leesburg Lodge No. 58 F&AM, P.O. Box 985, Fruitland Park, FL 34731 by May 8, 2009.

Submitted by Graham F. “Fred” Neilson,
Zone 5 Chairman
Lodge Assist



Oviedo Lodge’s Children’s Toy Drive

The Brothers from Oviedo Lodge No. 243 opened their pockets and hearts to give so generously to the Florida Hospitals, Children’s Life Center in Orlando Florida. The Chairman, Worshipful Tom Bryson, P.M., who has headed this most important Toy drive program for Oviedo Lodge since 2005, presented the Life Center with boxes of toys for their children back on December 15th 2008. “Tom has done a great job getting out the word to the Brothers and collecting so many toys, even through these tough economic times that some of our Brothers are facing” says Worshipful Aldis E. Grauds, Zone 5 Public Relations committeeman. This annual toy drive gives the Brothers of Oviedo Lodge a great opportunity to come together for a noble purpose plus bringing some much needed Christmas cheer to children that

are dealing with various illnesses. “The Masons are such a great bunch of men, who help our children a great deal during the Christmas season” says Traci Woods, Child Life clinical coordinator. The hospital also uses these toys, coloring books and other tools of learning during the entire year by stocking their play rooms and by giving a special gift to a child who is dealing with a painful medical treatment throughout the year. “I truly feel good about what we are doing for these children, this is why I became a Mason, to give something to our community” says Worshipful Bryson, P.M. Along with the toys that were delivered, several checks were presented to the Child Life Center for any other items that the children may need during their stay at the hospital.

Traci Woods informed us that the Life Center plans several parties for the children during the year so to make their stay with them more enjoyable. “This toy drive and our Child Identification program are the two biggest programs that our Lodge provides for the Children of the Central Florida area” says Worshipful Master James Black of Oviedo. Oviedo Lodge has been in the fore front of protecting children in the community for a many years and they plan on building upon their successes by upgrading their Child ID equipment and by inviting other Lodges to join with Oviedo’s Toy drive to provide gifts to children that are deserving of some Christmas Cheer while dealing with their medical needs.

Majic Children’s Fund - *Freemasons raise \$9400 for Majic Children’s Fund*

By Rachel Galvin

On June 4 at J Dewey Hawkins Lodge No. 331 at Oakland Park Florida, the Freemasons of Broward County presented a check for \$9400 to Majic 102.7 retired radio personality Rick Shaw to benefit the Majic Children’s Fund. The presentation was attended by Lodge Members from around the Broward County area and was hosted by the Coral Springs Lodge No 373. Masters and Wardens Treasurer Ira Markowitz, who is a member of Coral Springs Lodge, said of the presentation, “It was great to give back in this way. The Brothers got together and donated this money, and who better than Rick Shaw to receive the donation?” Shaw posed for pictures with some of the Lodge Members and an oversized check, pocketing the real one for safe-keeping. The Majic Children’s Fund is a charity that Shaw began to run in 1995, and since then, he has raised three million dollars. The fund provides food, clothing, entertainment and other services to kids in need in the South Florida area. The money raised by the fund is often donated to other

organizations, such as Kids in Distress, The Children’s Home Society, The Easter Seals Society and others. In this case, Shaw already has a specific place where the money will go. Standing in front of the Masons, wearing his trademark Greek Fisherman’s cap, Shaw spoke to those who had gathered to watch the check presentation and thanked them for their support. He announced that this year’s funds would help three girls from the Girls Fast Pitch Softball team go to the national competition. Last year, he said, “The kids at the Miramar Little League [boy’s baseball] had someone break into their clubhouse and steal all their [equipment] a week before the national championships in Orlando. The \$8000 raised went for new uniforms, bats and balls. A mom put on the names and numbers on the shirts and the kids went to Orlando and won.” When asked why he supports this cause, he added, “Kids are not big enough to fight back, not old enough to vote. That’s why we’re here.” The Freemasons have given to what they view as a noble

cause now for the last 10 years. The benefit organizer, Al McDonald, said, “It began as our Lodge but now all the Broward County Brothers support it. We know all the money goes to the kids. Rick championed the cause.” The event this year was held April 26 at the American Legion Post No. 222 in Oakland Park (right next to the Mason’s Lodge); it was much like the event last year – a “sock hop,” as described by McDonald, involving food, fun and Brotherhood. “It had an Italian buffet, rock and roll oldies and an Elvis impersonator,” he added, listing the night’s festivities. 270 people attended the event, coming from across the Broward County area. “The event is held the last Saturday every April.” Shaw chimed in, “[The Freemasons] have been involved since the get-go. There are a lot of kids whose lives were made better because of these guys.” For more information on the Majic Children’s Fund, visit www.wmxj.com/majicchildrensfund.asp.

The Folding of the Flag

Meaning of Flag Draped Coffin. All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought.

Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history. Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD GIVEN' rights and freedoms.

I hope you take the time to read this to understand what the flag draped coffin really means ...

Following is a real good understanding of why the flag is laid upon the coffin and then explains the meaning of the folding of the flag and why it is surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776!

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life. The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of Amer-

ica, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nations motto, 'In God We Trust.' After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning.

In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why. Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to, the symbol of “Liberty and Freedom.”

Maybe the Supreme Court should read this explanation before they render their decision on the pledge of allegiance. “GOD BLESS AMERICA”



Boynton Brings Bingo to Vets

Boynton DeMolay Chapter hosted bingo for some of the residents of the Veterans Administration Regional Hospital in West Palm Beach November 16, 2008.

The DeMolays went to the rooms of the Veterans that are unable to get around on their own, wheeled them to the hall to play bingo. They sat at their tables with them and helped them play and chatted with them, brought them coffee and cookies.

The Chapter supplied six dozen cookies and \$25.00 worth of coupons to be used at the Exchange at the hospital as prizes for the winners.

I know that I am a proud “Dad” and knew they would do a good job. They didn't do a good job, they did a great job. The care and interaction between our DeMolays and the Veterans was incredible. Dads Geoff Williams, John Morris and I were so proud and impressed.

Dad Wayne A. Hansen



HELP WANTED

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Of Free And Accepted Masons Of Florida

We are looking for qualified Brothers in the following professions to volunteer to serve the Fraternity & The Masonic Home

Sales Management • CPA/Accountants

Marketing • Advertising

Bank / Merchant Services Representative

Emergency Personnel • Risk Management

Educators • Training Instructors

Doctors • Nurses • Pharmacist

Time Management

Computer Program Trainers

(I.E. Excel, Words, Mail Merge, Quick Books Etc...)

Event Organizer • Public Relations

Attorneys • Estate Planners

Structural Engineers • Contractors & Sub-Contractors

Willing to donate their time and talents to help our Fraternity into the 21st century.

Also need the following: Member No., Lodge name & No., District, then email to Grand Lodge at volunteers@floridamason.org

Approved by The Grand Master



R. W. J. Dick Martinez
Senior Grand Warden

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

Brethren, our Grand Master’s theme this year of an “Educated Mason is a Dedicated Mason” is more than a simplistic slogan. It carries with it a much deeper meaning and greater responsibility.

Today we take for granted that the Craft is receiving proper instruction. Brethren, I’m here to tell you that is not the fact. We are lacking in instructing our Brothers properly. These same Brothers are pushed into taking leadership roles in our Lodges. That is not fair to either the Brother or the Lodge.

I am calling on you my Brothers to change the mindset that is eroding the principal tenets that have stood for so many centuries. We must come together as ONE in Brotherly Love and with Truth in heart and tongue joining together in promoting our Fraternity’s welfare and prosperity.

The only way to achieve my Brothers is to rededicate ourselves to Masonic Education. We will update all the Masonic Education material providing additional tools by catching up with today’s technology, such as online access to Masonic Education, with specific subjects such as Investigations, Balloting, Membership, Fund Raising, Lodge Officers Duties and Responsibilities (individually), Budgeting and many more topics.

The Grand Lodge Officers cannot do this alone. We need Masons who are dedicated to Excellence. We need un-bias, dedicated and priority minded Brothers that are willing to take on this task. This is a large undertaking and we need more than a handful, we need as many Brothers as possible. Remember we are talking about Lodge, District, Zone and State level, therefore the number of Brothers required is upwards of three hundred. I know we have the Brothers that are dedicated and will take on this vision with ZEAL and ENTHUSIASM.

My Brothers our Fraternity is the oldest and BEST Fraternity in the world. Together we are exceptionally strong, as individuals we are feeble and frail. I ask you to join in with us in making the necessary commitment to our beloved Fraternity, so that one day our posterity will proudly say that this group of dedicated Masons, stabilized and rebuilt the columns that have supported our Masonic Edifice for so many centuries.

My Brothers I am calling on all of us and I know when we as Masons are called upon “*Masons Always Rise To The Occasion.*”

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Dick Martinez, Senior Grand Warden



R. W. Jim Harris
Junior Grand Warden

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

I want you to ask yourself a few questions. When was the last time you visited your Lodge? When have you taken part in a Degree? When have you witnessed a Brother receiving his Degrees? When have you asked a Brother if he needs a ride to the Lodge? When have you called a Brother who has missed Lodge meetings to see if everything is alright? When have you called on a widow of one of your Brothers to see if she needs anything? When have you attended a Masonic Funeral for a fallen Brother? When have you visited our Masonic Home in St. Petersburg to call on our ailing Brothers and Sisters? When have you asked a good friend who is not a Mason to attend an open meeting or an Installation ceremony at your Lodge?

Brothers, my point is we have a lot to do and every Brother in our Fraternity is very important to our makeup. Every Mason has something to offer and contribute. We need to fill our Lodges and enjoy the interaction with each other. Every Lodge has a laundry list of items that need to be done. The longer you stay away from Lodge the easier it gets to stay away.

Masonry is in need of all its members, every single Brother has something to offer. Maybe your health keeps you confined to your home but that doesn’t stop you from calling Brothers to attend Funerals or to see if they are alright. You may not be attending because you feel you can’t remember things you were taught to get into a Lodge; I assure you, you will not be turned away. If you feel you need help in any capacity there will be a Brother to help. That’s who we are, that’s in our obligation, and we promised each another to be there in a time of need.

You always hear that the youth is our future, well that’s true but we must leave them with a healthy strong Fraternity. We must be as dedicated as our forefathers, constantly striving to do a little more. If there are things you feel your Lodge or Fraternity is doing incorrectly, be the one to help implement the change. Take part in whatever capacity you are able to, this is your Fraternity.

If you’re a professional, businessman, student, retiree, or a janitor believe me you are as important as any other member of the Lodge and we need you. I feel the Brothers that don’t attend Lodge are missing the best part of who we are. If you feel the meetings are boring, take the intuitive to change them. Tell the Worshipful Master your thoughts, give him some ideas, and ask him if you can get a speaker or program that you find interesting.

We also need to be more active in our community; let them know who we are and what we stand for. Create a program such as, start a blood bank, honor a teacher, adopt a highway clean-up, give Thanksgiving baskets to the needy, be visible and be proud.

Lastly Brothers we can’t be successful without true commitment. I feel it is a privilege and an honor to be a Mason. I am so proud to sit in any Lodge with Brothers that have the same ideology and ethics that every good man should possess. We are Masons and must keep the flame burning for that next generation, not as a flame about to go out, but a flame as we received it with all the pride and honor that comes with being a Mason.

Brothers, thank you for listening,
God Bless each of you,
Jim Harris, Junior Grand Warden



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

A Message From The Grand Secretary

On behalf of the staff at Grand Lodge we would like to give a special thanks to the particular Lodge Secretaries for their dedication and devotion. The many hours they spend assuring the membership records are maintained often times go unrewarded. When you have a chance, shake their hands and thank them for all they do.

The Grand Lodge staff is making great inroads towards our endeavors to become paperless. This movement will save time and money. There will be a table set up at the Grand Lodge Session to demonstrate the web page. We sincerely hope you will stop by and see the information that is available to you.

It has been a pleasure working with the Grand Lodge Officers this past year and I look forward to another great year to come.

To all outward appearances the Background Check you approved at the last Annual Grand Communication is proving to be a great tool for the Lodge Investigating Committees. It seems to be very helpful in the investigating process.

Please feel free to call your Grand Lodge office if we can be of service.

I look forward to seeing you at Grand Lodge in Orlando.

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



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

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,
Another Grand Lodge year is about to close but it has been a good year with many goals met and projects completed to help improve our Fraternity and especially our Masonic Home. Even with the financial crunch and economy woes, the Brethren and ladies of this great state still came through with flying colors to support our Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Florida. This was truly evident in the First Ladies project at the Masonic Home, which was a huge success and she is certainly to be congratulated on the wonderful improvements to the dining room. We as Florida Masons can certainly be proud of a beautiful dining facility which can only add to the lifestyle, comfort and pleasure of our Masonic Home residents.

As we traveled the state this year we met and talked with hundreds of Brothers and we kept hearing the same good news from many Lodges, that they were seeing an increase in candidates. Some of these Lodges had not initiated any candidates in a year or more, but were now receiving petitions. And not only are they initiating new Brothers, many of the Brothers are young men who are becoming active in the Lodges and will be the continuing lifeblood of our Fraternity. In many areas in the state the Lodges are having great success with programs that reach out to the communities and get Masonry into the public view to show who we really are and what we are all about. We can no longer be content to sit behind our tyled doors and expect new prospects to come to us, but we must advertise Masonry and the best advertisement we have is each individual Brother. Therefore, we must always remember that if we are to be that advertisement, and in many cases be the first impression of Masonry, it is imperative that we always walk and act as such.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Grand Lodge Communication in Orlando. I would also urge each the Lodges to study the proposed legislation and make your voices heard as we vote on important issues which could effect our Fraternity for years to come.

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, Grand Lodge Staff and the Craft all over the state. What a great opportunity to be able to give a little back to a great Fraternity and the Craft that is so important to us all.

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

Kids Matter Day 2009 - Freemasonry in Action

Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 of Cape Coral, Florida, celebrated its second annual Kids Matter Day. The event is a Masonic open-house and festival involving all Masonic Bodies in the area, the Cape Coral Police Department, the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles, and other local participating businesses and government agencies.

Cape Coral Lodge No. 367 also had free hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, and soft drinks for every child that registered at the door. Slides, bounce-houses, Shrine clowns, face painters, and rides; along with SWAT Team, Police Mobile Command Post, and martial arts demonstrations made this “Day at the Masonic Lodge” a fun day to remember for kids and parents alike. While they enjoyed this fun-filled day, parents had the opportunity to obtain a Florida Department of Motor Vehicles Picture ID, and a identification kit consisting of: fingerprints, DNA Sample Collection Kit, and audio/video DVD for each child.

Once again, Cape Coral Lodge proved that a “Blue Lodge” can play a leadership role in the forefront, rather than the background of a major community event. The

event was enjoyed by all and was covered by Fox News. More than 75 community children received full identification kits. This year’s event organizer was Junior Warden Mathew Blaisdell who deserves tremendous credit for his magnificent job.



Worshipful Master Bob Carter (left), Worshipful George Baliotis, 2008 Past Master (right) Supervise the setting up of Bounce Houses



SWAT Team Members Entertain Kids in Special Weapons Handling Demonstration



Sojourners of Florida Present “History of the Flag” presentation.



Shrine Clowns on Break



Parents Are Given Tour of Cape Coral Police Mobile Command Post by SWAT Team Members



Cape Coral Police Officer (off-duty) Bro. Sandy Negron taking fingerprints. Senior Warden Herm Cardona Assists in the Background

His newly Raised Son



Alton K. Williams Jr., on the left, is showing his newly raised son, Alton K. (Buddy) Williams III, the name on the cornerstone of Hayward Lodge No. 45 of his Grandfather, Alton K. Williams, Sr. As any Mason will tell you it is a special privilege to raise your son in a Fraternity that makes good men better.

Alton K. Williams, Sr., was born in Georgia and moved to Florida in 1928. He was active in agriculture and in the Hayward Lodge. At the time the cornerstone was laid (1951) Alton Sr. held the office of Junior Warden and went on to be Master of the Lodge in 1953, 1957 and 1963.

As a boy, Alton, Jr., watched his father dress to go to Lodge.

He knew that as soon as he was old enough he would join, which he did in 1964 at the age of 21.

Alton, Jr., spent 40 years in Law Enforcement and retired as Sheriff of Suwannee County. His son, Buddy) has spent 20 years in Law Enforcement and is currently Chief of Police in Live Oak, FL. Both father and son are looking forward to 2009 as Alton, Jr., will be Senior Warden and Alton (Buddy) the III will be Junior Warden.

Alton, Jr., was Master of Hayward Lodge in 1971, 1997, 2008 and District Deputy Grand Master in 1981.

Don Mott
Secretary, Hayward Lodge No. 4575

Dr. Felix Varela Lodge No. 64 F. & A. M. Instituted 1872



The story of Florida’s first Spanish speaking Lodge began over one hundred and thirty six years ago when a group of men carried on their struggle for Cuba’s independence in the historic city of Key West.

One of the first was the island nation’s great martyr for freedom and Brother, Jose Marti, who founded the Revolutionary Cuban Party in Key West. Following in his footsteps was a group of Brother Masons who would eventually found Dr. Felix Varela Lodge No. 64. Included in this group were Jose Dolores Pollo, Francisco de la Madrid, Fernando Figueredo, Martin Herrera, Jose Pompe, Lino Infante and others. On January 13, 1872,

these Brothers requested a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Florida with the aim of establishing an American, Spanish speaking Lodge in Key West. The Grand Lodge subsequently gave the charter on March 15, 1873.

The new Lodge was named Dr. Felix Varela Lodge No. 64, after the freethinking Cuban university professor who ceaselessly preached freedom, equality and good will for all men. Varela’s lectures on freedom helped shape Brother Marti’s thinking as a freedom fighter and throughout his life he claimed that Varela’s thinking and writing would always be in the hearts of all Cubans.

One hundred and thirty six years later we share the same ideas as our illustrious Heroes and Brothers of days past. They, too, will be in our hearts forever. Our sincere thanks to the Grand Lodge of Florida for allowing our Cuban forefathers to create the first American Spanish speaking Masonic Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of the State of Florida.

!!!!!!!GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!!!!!

Bart Badia, P.M. 1969
Dr. Felix Varela No. 64
District No. 36, P.D.D.G.M. 1993
Megann95@aol.com

40 Year Membership Certificate and Pin

On January, 18, 2009, W.:M.: B. Allen West and the Officers of Landmark Lodge No. 383 in Deltona, FL, were pleased to present Bro. Kenneth F. Crenshaw his 40 Year Membership Certificate and Pin. Also present was Mrs. Edna Crenshaw, Bro. Crenshaw’s wife. The Presentation was made in his residence as he was recently involved in a no-fault automobile accident. Bro. Crenshaw is currently recuperating and we ask that he remain in your thoughts and prayers.



North Central Florida Chapter DeMolay Installation of Newly Elected Officers by State Demolay Officers

The newly installed officers of the North Central Florida Chapter, Order of DeMolay, which was held on Sunday 2-15, at the High Springs Lodge. The installation was very well attended, with approximately forty friends and family present. Officers from the State Chapter conducted the ceremony. A good time was had by all. Steve Travis, Board Chairman, NCFC of DeMolay.

In Rear (L to R): Brian Ferdon, State Senior Councilor; Anthony Pickren, State Master Councilor
Front Row (L to R): Will Bierce, NCFC Scribe; Scott Elder, NCFC Junior Deacon (red robe); Dion Lamone, State Senior Deacon; Janice McShane, Past Priory Princess (behind row); Timothy Ferdon, State Junior Steward; John Michael King, State Standard Bearer; Heather McShane, South Seminole Chapter Sweetheart; Cory Hutson, State Junior Councilor; James McKeown, NCFC Senior Councilor (blue robe); Kevin Fanning, NCFC Master Councilor; David Daza, NCFC Junior Councilor



SAR Award

The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal may be presented by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, a state society or a chapter to those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement. The medal is intended to recognize exceptional service or accomplishment in the field of law enforcement. Eligibility is not limited to peace officers but extends to the entire range of persons who make and enforce the law to include but not limited to peace officers, attorneys, judges, prosecutors and legislators who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected.

The medal may be presented only to an individual and only

once. The medal may also be presented posthumously.

The obverse of the medal depicts a police badge design surmounted by a gold eagle with the SAR Badge below. The medal is accompanied by an enameled bar, suitable for wear on uniform, and a certificate for engrossing. A miniature medal is available.

This is from the Jacksonville Chapter Sons of the American Revolution regarding an award presented to W.:M.: Dennis Smith.

This is a picture of an awards ceremony held on December 18, 2008, at the San Jose Country Club in which Sgt Dennis Smith was awarded the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Award. Dennis is second from the left in the photo. Dennis is also the W.:M.: at Orange Park Lodge.



l to r: Skip Brown, President of the Jacksonville Chapter SAR, Sgt/W.:M.: Dennis Smith, Trooper Tyra Keplinger and Jim Gaskins, SAR/SW at J. Wendell Fargis.

Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 F.&A.M. “2008 Adopt A Teacher Group Award”

Presented to Brooker Elementary School, Brooker, Florida

On December 18, 2008, R.:H.: Sandy Huff, Worshipful Master, W.: Bruce Kirby, P.M., W.: Roscoe Cruce, P.M., and Brother Mike Basham of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 F.&A.M. presented the Principal and teachers of Brooker Elementary School (Brooker, Florida) with the “2008 Adopt a Teacher Group Award.” Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 adopted the school as its No.1 Charity for 2009 and also participated in the “Adopt A Teacher” program. R.:H.: Sandy also presented Mrs. Melvin with \$312.00 cash donated by the Brethren of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 during their passing of the “Charity Basket” at the Lodge. This year, in addition to donating school supplies to teachers at Brooker Elementary School, Pine Hill Lodge has donated

a total of \$765.00 towards food and cash to the school as well as participated in “Reading Day,” “Career Day” and the “Field Trip Day” at Morningside Nature Park “Farm and Forest Days” in Gainesville. The Lodge also provided food, supplies and cooks during the “End of School Picnic,” “Appreciation Day” and “Fall Festival.” Mrs. Lynn expressed, on behalf of the staff of Brooker Elementary School, their deepest appreciation for our selecting them as our No.1 Charity this year and for all the help we have provided. She said



she knew “exactly” where she’d spend part of the \$312.00. They are in need of several picnic tables in the school yard area and that would be a great place to spend part of the donated money.

R.:H.: Sandy said that today’s presentations were a very gratifying way to complete his year as Worshipful Master at Pine Hill Lodge No. 9.

Shown above l to r: Christine Guggenheimer-3rd Grade; Carol Cook-2nd Grade; Peggy Mott-1st Grade; R.:H.: Sandy Huff-Worshipful Master; Pine Hill Lodge No. 9; Lynn Melvin-Principal; Susan Jackson- ESE Teacher; Brandy Gillespie- 4th Grade; 2nd Row l to r: W.: Roscoe Cruce, P.M.; W.: Bruce Kirby, P.M. (Brother Mike Basham-not pictured)

Tri-State Degree: Alabama - Georgia - Florida



Front row: R.:W.: Walter L. Bush, W.: Grand Historian, M.:W.: John R. Givens, P.G.M., Second row: R.:W.: Jim J Harris, J.G.W, R.:W.: Dale I Goehrig D.G.M, M.:W.: Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master of Masons of Florida, R.:W.: J. Dick Martinez, S.G.W, M.:W.: Elmer G. Coffman P.G.M. Grand Treasurer. Back Row: R.:W.: J. L. “George” Aladro Grand Marshal Pro-Tem, R.:W.: Fred C. Baker, II, Grand Sword Bearer, R.:W.: G. Eric Daniels, Grand Pursuivant, R.:W.: Joseph Martin, Senior Grand Deacon, R.:W.: J. David Neveitt, Grand Tyler and R.:W.: Ron C. Newton, Senior Grand Steward.



The picture above shows all the dignitaries of the Grand Lodge’s of Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Grand Master of Alabama, with a very nice reception at their hospitality suite with all kinds of finger food, soft drinks and coffee, which were enjoyed by all who attended.

The fellowship was great, Florida had a very large contingency of Brothers present, and the Brothers and Ladies of Alabama were great hosts as they saw that we had plenty to eat as the food kept on rolling in.

Traveling there began about 4:00AM for some as they traveled from Miami on up, timing was executed to perfection as we kept meeting different groups at designated areas to meet for breakfast, gas, lunch, gas, etc...

For dinner, we met at an old fashion restaurant where our group was able to sit together as the fellowship continued through dinner and back at the hotel ‘till we retired for the evening.

Morning came early as we met and caravanned to the Lodge in downtown Dothan. The Lodge was probably built in the 1920’s with a beautiful and large Lodge room on the third floor, with other Lodge rooms on the second floor. After breakfast, the Florida Delegation retired to the Lodge room to get ready for the Degree.

In the Lodge Room, we were welcomed by M.:W.: Jamie A. Smith, Past Grand Master of Alabama, who introduced the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and other Brothers staging the event. Afterwards M.:W.: Joe Fleites was called on, for his remarks and introductions. M.:W.: Joe turned it over to the Grand Marshal Pro-tem R.:W.: J. L. “George” Aladro, to introduce the Florida Delegation, but we had so many Brothers present, it would take too much time to introduce them all as originally intended.

However, at the Grand Master’s request we introduced the District Instructors, District Deputy Grand Masters, Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters and Elected Grand Lodge Officers, after which we had the entire Florida Delegation stand and be recognized.

Afterwards the Grand Lodge of Georgia followed by the Grand Lodge of Alabama introduced all their dignitaries.

Florida was given the floor and the first section of the Degree was delivered by R.:W.: Dale I. Goehrig, followed by the writing ceremony given by the Grand Master. The Lecture was delivered by M.:W.: John R. Givens to perfection followed by the Charge, which was given by R.:W.: Fred Baker, W.: Grand Sword Bearer.

It is a worthwhile experience to attend the Tri-State Degree, as it is remarkable to see the different ways the work is presented by the three Grand Lodges with the different rituals.

Although we got our beginning from three Lodges, of which two were from Georgia and one from Alabama our work as we know it today is quite different from both of them although Alabama work resembles Florida the most.

Even though it may be a long day for all involved, I highly recommend the trip to see the degrees staged by the different Grand Lodges.

The Fellowship and camaraderie between the Brothers from the three states was wonderful to see. This is necessary for everyone, especially those Brothers that enjoyed traveling and the fellowship associated with it.

See you next time on our Road Trip to Georgia for our next Tri-state Degree on July 25, 2009.

New Float

Englewood Masonic Lodge debuted their new float at the Elk’s Rotunda West Christmas parade on Saturday Dec. 6th. There were eight Lodge Brothers and ten members of the Rainbow Assembly participating.

Gene Jeffers P.M., Secretary



Be a Leader; Make the Difference

Masonic Association Contributes to Juvenile Diabetes Foundation

The Masonic Association for the 11th and 12th Districts of Florida on October 22, 2008 contributed \$5,800.00 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, their primary charity. The 2008 Chairman for the 11th and 12th Districts Masonic Association, Randall L. “Randy” Rogers, presented a check for \$5,000.00 to Ms. Leslie Burkhalter, Government Relations State Activation Leader for the JD RF, at the Jacksonville Masonic meeting. The 11th & 12th Districts Masonic Association Charitable Fund contributions for the evening and special donations were subsequently added, bringing the contributions for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to a total of \$5,800.00. Present at the meeting were several young children with Juvenile Diabetes, who came with their Mothers and spoke to the Masons about their illness and experiences.

The 11th and 12th Districts Masonic Association is

composed of 21 Masonic Lodges in the Greater Jacksonville - Northeast Florida area.

Ms. Leslie Burkhalter, then presented an appreciation plaque from The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to Chairman Randy Rogers and Vice Chairman Alan McKinney, as a token of appreciation from the JD RF to the 11th and 12th Districts Masonic Association for their contributions and support over the past years to the cause of finding a cure for Juvenile Diabetes, and helping the children. Also shown is a picture of Ms. Burkhalter and the children with Chairman Randy Rogers, holding the plaque, and Vice Chairman Alan McKinney, after the presentation.



Pictured at the presentation were: youngster Jonathan Luce in front; and behind him from left to right, Rush Gray, Emily Williams, Ms. Leslie Burkhalter, of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; Randy L. Rogers, Chairman, and Alan McKinney, Vice Chairman of the 11th & 12th Districts Masonic Association.

Garden Lodge No. 366 Making Good Men Better

Brethren,

In the work of Masonry there are many fields of endeavor; all are part of our plan to improve ourselves in the way of life - not only in our “Masonic Life” but within our everyday life as we interact with family and non-Masonic friends. We all have duties as Masons that we should apply outside the Lodge as well as within.

Each Brother may not have the same ability to put his ideas into words, but he knows with certainty his duties as a man and a Mason. If he learns of a Brother who is sick or in distress, he understands. And it is more than an understanding of duty; it is the understanding of the principles of Love and Brotherhood, which sets him into action. One Brother may be good at ritual work and his Lecture be word perfect; another, a student of symbolism and be able to teach us the true individual meaning of each and every Masonic lesson. We have Brothers who can perform expertly on every committee forming and recommending to the Lodge a plan of action that will most benefit the Lodge and Masonry. There are Brothers that are gifted in hands on building and utilize their skill as actual builders to keep a roof over our head which allows us a Lodge to meet in.

Brothers doing the tasks for which they have the greatest ability result in the success of the Lodge and Masonry. This is what makes us succeed and thrive not only as Masons but as men. The saying “Masonry takes good men and makes them better” is exemplified by this very action. Through Masonry we learn that every man is valued and his contribution is necessary so that we may succeed. We are each made better by our very association with each other, sitting and working next to a man that if not for Masonry we would never have met.



Serving as the Master of the Lodge I have learned there are no special degrees of importance. Doing what we can in the work of the Lodge is the important thing. We learn that by associating with our Brothers and building upon our life experiences we are all better Men and Master Masons. Whether your talent is painting, ritual work, lecturing or sitting on the sidelines, I ask that you get involved and encourage you to attend a meeting as each of us offer a unique contribution to Freemasonry. We here at Garden Lodge No. 366 in Palm Beach Gardens are putting these ideals into action. Already in 2009 we have ten new Brothers progressing toward becoming Master Masons and the Lodge and Fellowship Hall have been painted. Our ritual work is being practiced weekly and a resurgence of community activity is underway. This all made possible by the unique contribution of each Brother.

*David McCann, Worshipful Master
Garden Lodge No. 366, 32nd Masonic District*

South Miami Lodge No. 308 Participates in Autism Fund Raiser

*By Sergio J. Perez, Senior Warden,
South Miami Lodge*

On Sunday, February 22nd, 2009, Brothers, friends and family of South Miami Lodge No. 308 participated in a fund raising event held in Crandon Park Beach located in Miami-Dade County’s Key Biscayne. The event called Walk Now For Autism raises money for Autism Speaks (www.autism-speaks.org). Autism Speaks is a charitable organization dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.



Autism impairs a child's ability to communicate, socialize and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive and obsessive behaviors. Despite some promising discoveries, the cause of autism is unknown and a cure does not exist. Research is crucial. Every 20 minutes another

child is diagnosed with autism. Autism is a complex neuro-biological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Autism has reached epidemic proportions; 1 in 150 children are diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined.

child is diagnosed with autism.

Under the leadership of its Worshipful Master, Sam Salama, South Miami Lodge set an aggressive goal of raising \$1,000. Not only was the goal met but surpassed by \$755. Overall, the event succeeded in rising over \$420,000 for autism research, family services, awareness and advocacy. “This is a very worthwhile cause and we are very pleased with the participation of our South Miami Lodge Brothers and also those from the other Lodges in the District.” This is the first of several fund raising events South Miami Lodge is planning to participate in during the year. Worshipful Salama again, “This type effort will afford us an opportunity to do good for our community by supporting charitable work; our Fraternity, by the positive public exposure provides by strengthening the bonds of fellowship in spending more times together.”

Groveland Masonic Lodge Supports Groveland Elementary School Kindergarten Read & Feed Program

*Mrs. Noris Aguayo (not pictured) -
Kindergarten Grad
Chairperson/Team Leader
Pictured l to r: - John O'Brien,
Lodge; Teacher: Ms. Mikel Simms;
Interns: Ms. Kristin Gatlin &
Ms. Amy Padgett;
Warren Shippee, Lodge &
'BJ' Evans, Lodge (not pictured).*



The Lodge Supports a Teacher

Worshipful Master Roderic D. Mouer and Lodge Secretary R.:W.: Kenneth K. Eichorn, of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, traveled to Edge Elementary School for the purpose of presenting Beth Elwood, a 1st Grade Teacher, with a contribution to help her provide quality education to her students. The Lodge supports a teacher, selected by the Charity Committee, semi-annually.

*l to r: Shelly Arneson, Principal of Edge
Elementary School; Beth Elwood; W.:M.:
Mouer; and R.:W.: Eichorn.*



Certificates and Service Pins

Sirius Sunshine Lodge No.402 held a Called Communication October 28th, 2008, for the purpose of awarding Certificates and Service Pins. Sirius Sunshine Lodge is a Daylight Lodge in Bunnell, FL, and made up of retirees from around the Country. Our Brothers haven’t been back to their Mother Lodge in years to receive their Certificates and Pins. We were honored to have members of the Grand Lodge to help in awarding 25, 40, 50, 55 and 60 year Certificates and Pins. *M.:W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary; M.:W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer and M.:W.: Robert D. Trump, P.G.M.*

*Fraternally,
Richard M. Falbo,
Secretary*



*Lynn presenting R.: Siegel
his 50 year pin*



*60 yr M.:W.: Elmer G. Coffman
presenting 60 yr pin to Robert M. Siegel*

APPLICANT BACKGROUND WAIVER

Name:

First

Middle

Last

Current Address:

Street

Apt./Suite

City

State

Zip Code

Date of Birth:

Month

Day

Year

Social Security No.:

-

-

**

I hereby authorize the Masonic Lodge (Lodge) to which I have submitted a Petition for the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, for Dual Membership or for Affiliation, to contact any company or individual they deem appropriate to investigate my background, criminal and civil court history, character and qualifications. I further consent to their review of any and all information obtained as a result of this investigation. I understand that any matter deemed inappropriate by the Lodge as having possible adverse effects on the Lodge, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida (Grand Lodge) or Freemasonry as a whole is justification for rejection of my Petition. I hereby waive my right to bring any cause of action against the Lodge, Grand Lodge, their Officers or Members for defamation, invasion of privacy or for any other reason arising from their investigation and rejection of my Petition.

I agree that if my Petition is accepted, I will abide by all of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as set forth by the Lodge and Grand Lodge.

Signature:

Date:

20

I acknowledge receipt of the original criminal background investigation obtained by the Lodge this day of, and acknowledge that my social security number has been redacted.

Signature:

* The current cost of this report is \$15.00; payment must be made a part of the petition and is not refundable. The report will be delivered to the petitioner at the conclusion of the investigation. Petitioner will sign for the report on the original petition, located on the back below the References.

** Note to Secretary: Upon execution of the receipt portion of this form by the Petitioner, you are to redact (delete the first five numbers) of the Petitioner's Social Security Number.

GL-601A

32.05 When, after a candidate has been duly elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, objection arises against conferring the Degree upon him, the Master shall cause an order arresting the progress of the candidate to be spread upon the minutes, which shall have the same force and effect as rejection at the ballot box, and the fee accompanying the petition shall be returned.

CHAPTER 33.

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES AND PROCEEDINGS THEREON

THE PETITION

Constitutional Provisions

Every candidate for initiation should read and approve the By Laws of the Lodge, and must present his petition in writing vouched for by two members of the Lodge at a Stated Communication, which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate and review a criminal background investigative report of the candidate. And a petition thus presented cannot be withdrawn, but must be acted upon, and if rejected, cannot again be presented within six months. But rejections for passing and raising, and for membership, shall not be required to lie over six months, but may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 14) (1995)

Regulations

33.01 The word “month” in Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution, means from a Stated Communication of a Lodge to a corresponding Communication in the next succeeding calendar month.

33.02 Particular Lodges which may desire to print their own form of Petition for the Degrees must first submit the prepared form or copy to the Grand Secretary for his approval as to form and wording. In addition to the Petition, a statement of consent by the candidate to have a criminal background investigation ordered by the Lodge in addition to an understanding that the Brethren will be making due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate. It shall be the responsibility of the Lodge Secretary to order the criminal background investigative report. No copies of the criminal background report shall be made nor shall its contents be revealed by or other than to the members of the Investigation Committee. The complete criminal background investigative report shall be returned to the candidate regardless of whether the candidate is accepted or rejected and a receipt obtained by the Lodge and made a part of the Lodge record.

33.03 The Secretary shall present to the Lodge at its next Stated Communication all petitions for the Degrees received by him, unless deferred by the Worshipful Master for good cause. After the Lodge receives a petition and the statement consenting to the criminal background investigation report, they become a permanent record of the Lodge and should be filed by the Secretary after the Committee reports. A petition, after being received by the Lodge, cannot be withdrawn, even by unanimous consent of the Lodge, except in case of death or severe accident, that would render the applicant ineligible to receive the Degree in such cases. The Worshipful Master should order abatement of the proceedings in regard to such petitions so received by the Lodge.

33.04 If a Lodge for any cause refuses to receive a petition for the Degrees, it may be again presented at any Stated Communication of the Lodge. It is not a case of rejection, and a delay for six months is not necessary. (1995)

33.05 When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee received for the purposes of a criminal background investigation shall not be required to be returned.

33.06 If any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction receives a petition for the Degrees which shows that the petitioner has been rejected in a Sister Grand Jurisdiction, then such petition must be submitted to the Grand Master for his attention and action before any action can be taken by the Lodge.

33.07 When a candidate for the Degrees removes, after his petition is received by the Lodge, said candidate remains the material of and under the jurisdiction of the Lodge that received his petition. The Lodge shall act on the petition in the usual way and if elected, the candidate is entitled to receive the Degrees in or by request of that Lodge.

COMMITTEE

Regulations

33.08 The Worshipful Master of each Particular Lodge shall appoint a committee of not less than three and not more than seven members to be known as the Petitions Committee,

the duties of which shall be to cause each applicant for the Degrees, before his petition has been received by the Lodge to appear personally before the committee and to be interviewed and give such information to the Committee as may be requested. The Committee shall then make its report to the Worshipful Master after which the petition shall follow the usual Masonic procedure.

33.09 Applications for the Degrees of Freemasonry of applicants, both members of the armed services and civilians, who have moved to this state from a Foreign Grand Jurisdiction and who have been in the state only long enough to come under the terms of the Regulations of this Grand Lodge concerning residential qualifications, shall be investigated by the Particular Lodges by inquiry addressed to the Lodge nearest to the former home of such applicant in such Foreign Jurisdiction; and the petition shall not go to ballot until the investigation is completed and report made to the Lodge.

33.10 A ballot spread, inadvertently or otherwise, upon any petition for initiation before the Investigating Committee reports, is null and void and proceedings abate. Each member of the Committee should investigate independently, and may submit his report in writing or authorize some Brother to report for him, if unable to be present in person. The Committee may submit a unanimous report, or it may submit a divided report, but whether unanimous or divided, the Committee is automatically discharged when it reports, and the petition reported on must go to ballot, but the time of spreading the ballot is the Worshipful Master's responsibility, and a motion to spread the ballot is out of order. The Committee, or any member thereof shall not, after having made its report, disclose any information which was received by the Lodge concerning the criminal background investigation.

33.11 The Lodge is the judge of eligibility of a petitioner for the Degrees and of an applicant for affiliation, and the Secretary of the Lodge shall accept for presentation to the Lodge each, every and all properly completed petitions for the Degrees, and each, every and all properly completed applications for affiliation without regard to the Secretary's opinion as to eligibility of the petitioner or applicant.

Respectfully Submitted,

M .: W .: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master

R .: W .: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master

R .: W .: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden

R .: W .: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden

R .: W .: Stephen R. Gladstone, General Counce

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION ON DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

VISITS TO HIS DISTRICT

WHEREAS, at the 138th Annual Communication in 1967 the Forms and Ceremonies of the Ritual were approved by the Brethren present and included in the ceremonies is Grand Visitations; and

WHEREAS, a procedure for the Visitation and Reception of a District Deputy Grand Master is included in the Florida Masonic Monitor, “District Deputy Grand Masters Handbook,” and the “Masonic Etiquette The Lodge System of Masonic Education” which is slightly different in each of the publications; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Grand Master, prior to his election to Grand Master, needs to have reception procedures in place and often issues separate instructions concerning these visitations; and

WHEREAS, some of the instructions have included esoteric work that is not proper to be written and is sometimes incorrect; and

WHEREAS, the procedure for turning the meeting over to District Deputy Grand Master is optional with the District Deputy Grand Master and the closing of the Lodge by the District Deputy Grand Master is not included in any of the above listed published official work;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Committee on Work be authorized to prepare a standardized procedure for District Deputy Grand Masters visitations and present it to the Craft for approval and implementation at the 181st Annual Communication in 2010 A.D.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick J. Latsko, P.M., P.D.D.G.M.,

Chairman Committee on Work

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION ON GRAND LODGE RECORDS,

PROCEEDINGS AND BUSINESS

WHEREAS, the wording in 9.05 of the Digest of Masonic Law is outdated; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Grand Secretary to move toward a paperless Grand Lodge office wherever possible, thereby saving thousands of dollars in labor and reproduction of materials that could be transmitted electronically.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the wording found in Chapter 9 (9.05) is amended to read as follows:

9.05 Immediately after the adjournment of each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall prepare, and cause to be ~~printed distributed~~, an “Advance ~~Pamphlet Booklet~~” showing the names of Grand Lodge Officers, elective and appointive, Lodges by districts with name of the District Deputy Grand Master and name of the District Instructors, and all Committees appointed by the Grand Master with complete mailing address of each, and with such other information as directed by the Grand Lodge, and shall furnish each Particular Lodge with ~~two one copies copy~~ of said ~~Pamphlet Booklet~~ which shall be read in open Lodge at the next Stated Communication after its receipt. One copy of the ~~Pamphlet Booklet~~ shall be furnished to each Grand Lodge Officer, Past Grand Master, and District Deputy Grand Master. (~~1961 Proc. 158-159~~).

Submitted by:

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

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION ON THE SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

BY PARTICULAR LODGES

WHEREAS, the Particular Lodges of the State of Florida are desirous of having the ability to solicit funds from Masons and non-Masons alike for the use of the Lodges; and

WHEREAS, it is with complete knowledge of the Lodges that additional requirements are currently being imposed from regulatory and taxing agencies and this practice will continue to increase especially when advertising to non-Masons; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Lodge to comply with all Federal, State and local laws governing the solicitation of funds from Masons and non-Masons, without endangering any tax status of the Particular Lodges or the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, the Lodges could benefit in membership by the increased exposure to our society at fund raising events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Particular Lodges be authorized to register with the appropriate agencies to be able to solicit funds openly from Masons, as well as non-Masons alike, on or off Lodge property.

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The Florida Mason

Page 11

Respectfully submitted,
Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master
Dale I. Goehrig, Deputy Grand Master
J. Dick Martinez, Senior Grand Warden
Jim J Harris, Junior Grand Warden
Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer
Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

Chapter 28, Regulation 28.07, page 245:

Currently reads:

28.07 No Lodge shall engage in any profit-making or business activity which solicits or accepts funds from any persons, except Masons and their families, nor permit its property to be used for any such purpose; provided however nothing herein shall prevent lease of such property or portions thereof for legitimate commercial or business purposes; provided however such lease shall specify that such property shall not be used for purposes prohibited by Masonic Law; and provided further that in claim for exemption of Lodge property from taxation such lease shall be fully reported.

Change to read:

28.07 No Any Lodge shall may engage in any profit-making or business activity which solicits or accepts funds from any persons, except Masons and their families, nor and permit its property to be used for any such purpose; provided however nothing herein shall prevent lease of such property or portions thereof for legitimate commercial or business purposes; provided however such lease shall specify that such property shall not be used for purposes prohibited by Masonic Law; and provided further that in claim for exemption of Lodge property from taxation such lease shall be fully reported.

Chapter 28, Regulation 28.07.1, page 245:

Currently reads:

28.07.1 All Particular Lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida shall be allowed to hold fund raising events and solicit the public for such events, off of Lodge property and comply with the laws, rules and regulations of Grand Lodge and under the qualifications and rules of the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Solicitation Act and all other laws. (2003)

Change to read:

28.07.1 All Particular Lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida shall be allowed to hold fund raising events and solicit the public for such events, on or off of Lodge property and comply with the laws, rules and regulations of Grand Lodge and under the qualifications and rules of the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Solicitation Act and all other laws. (2003)

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution may be amended at an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge; and
WHEREAS, the procedure for amending the Constitution is of utmost importance; and
WHEREAS, the procedure for amending the Constitution should be unambiguous, explicit, and unequivocal.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article XI of the Constitution of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida be amended in the following manner:

Article XI amended to read:

Section 1. Any proposed Amendment or alteration of this Constitution shall be presented in writing to the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication as provided by Regulation; and if sanctioned by written vote by a majority of the members of the Grand Lodge present and voting, it shall be published with in the Proceedings as a subject for future action at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge; and, if sanctioned adopted at the next Annual Grand Communication by a vote of two-thirds written vote of the members present and voting at that Annual Communication, the same shall become a part of this Constitution. If a proposed Amendment is sanctioned in Annual Grand Communication by two-thirds written vote of members of Grand Lodge present and voting the Grand Master elected and installed at such Annual Grand Communication may in his discretion fully implement and effectuate such proposed Amendment by Edict. (1993) Alternatively, in the event such proposed Amendment or alteration of this Constitution is sanctioned by two-thirds written vote of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting, at its initial presentation, the same shall become part of this Constitution.

Respectfully submitted:
M.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master
R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: Jim J Harris, Junior Grand Warden
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION ON ZONE MEETINGS

WHEREAS, we are a Fraternal organization with tenants based on “Brotherly love, relief and truth,” in all aspects of duty to humankind; and
WHEREAS, it is incumbent and prudent of all Masons to pay homage to the Grand Master during his tenure; and
WHEREAS, it is the custom for the Grand Master to make Official Visits to the various Districts of this Grand Jurisdiction during his term in office; and
WHEREAS, the high coast of transportation, lodging, meals and other such expense: It is expensive to the Grand Lodge, the Particular Lodges, and the parties asked to travel and participate in such functions with the Grand Master (e.g., District Deputies, District Instructions, Grand Line Officers, etc.) incurred with respect to Official Visits; and
WHEREAS, District attendance and overall membership of the “Craft” is low at present day.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Master be granted permission to hold zone meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the duties and responsibilities of all the Particular Lodges, all District Deputy Grand Masters and District Instructors are to remain unchanged; in regards to Official Visits.

Fraternally and respectfully,

William B. Garrett, P.M., Worshipful Master,
Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385, F. & A.M.
William B. Garrett, Jr., P.M., Treasurer,
Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385, F. & A.M.
(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RULES FOR SEEKING ELECTION TO THE
OFFICE OF JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

WHEREAS, it is becoming very expensive to run for the position of Junior Grand Warden and as it is improper for a Grand Lodge Officer to endorse any Brother seeking that office; and

WHEREAS, candidates having a Grand Lodge Appointment would have an unfair advantage over others seeking the same position; and

WHEREAS, a candidate having a Grand Lodge Appointment would be a direct endorsement from the Grand Master; and

WHEREAS, it creates a financial advantage and a outright public endorsement of a particular Brother to be given the position of Grand Marshal in the year he is running for Junior Grand Warden.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that no Brother seeking election to the position of Junior Grand Warden shall be permitted to accept the position of Grand Marshal or any other appointment other than a Grand Lodge Zone or District Committee Chairman or Committee Member while running for that office.

Respectfully submitted,
R.: W.: Robert J. Morrow, P.D.D.G.M., Orange Lodge No. 36
R.: W.: George E. Malone, P.D.D.G.M., Brevard Lodge No. 113
W.: Robert E. Burke, Jr., P.M., Winter Garden Lodge No. 165
W.: Don Martin, P.M., Mokanna Lodge No. 329
W.: Carl Ray, Mokanna Lodge No. 329
Brother Jack Leavitt, Eola Lodge No. 207
W.: Aldis Grauds, P.M., Oviedo Lodge No. 243
W.: Steve Teal, P.M., Winter Garden Lodge No. 165
R.: W.: Ronald L. Trinkle, P.D.D.G.M., Harbor City Lodge No. 318
W.: Chester A. King, P.M., Winter Park Lodge No. 239
W.: Richard A. Overbee, P.M., Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80
W.: Jim Hamilton, P.M., Mokanna Lodge No. 329

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION ON WAITING PERIOD PROHIBITION FOR ALLIED AND
APPENDANT ORDERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

To The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida:

WHEREAS, Chapter 4, Regulation 4.07, of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, sets forth a requirement of the 6 months or passed satisfactory examination on the Catechism of the Third Degree to petition any organization whose fundamental or principal predicate for membership is Masonic Affiliation, and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Master has permitted and Lodges have elected to confer the Three Degrees of Freemasonry short of Constitutional time, not requiring satisfactory examination to receive the Degrees, and,

WHEREAS, membership in any organization whose fundamental or principal predicate for membership is Masonic Affiliation assures that dues assessments in the Masonic Lodge will remain current in order to be a member of the organization, thereby preventing said member from becoming suspended for non-payment of dues and thereby contributing to the Lodges’ financial position.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Regulation 4.07 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to remove the requirement of 6 months or passed satisfactory examination to the Catechism of the Third Degree to petition any organization whose fundamental or principal predicate for membership is Masonic Affiliation.

Fraternally submitted,
M.: W.: George Hayes, P.G.M.
M.: W.: Ralph T. Miller, P.G.M.

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION FOR SHORT OF TIME CLASSES

WHEREAS, it is fundamental virtue that every Particular Lodge Chartered by The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida take good men and make them better by Initiating them Entered Apprentices, Passing them to Fellow Craft, and Raising them to Master Masons; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that every Particular Lodge Chartered by The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida to prosper and grow its membership by the ability to provide Short of Time Classes for the Three Symbolic Degrees of Masonry.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida allow each Particular Lodge, under its Jurisdiction, to amend their By-Laws or vote by written ballot to allow Short of Time Classes for the Three Symbolic Degrees of Masonry in accordance with the rules and regulations contained within the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida.

Submitted by,
W.: Joseph V. Citro, P.M., Hillsborough Lodge No. 25

Constitution, Article X, Section 16, page 64a:

Currently reads:

Section 16. Balloting for initiation, passing, raising and membership must be unanimous; but when only one black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot it is final, as it shall be when two or more black balls appear on the first ballot. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Stated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

Change to read:

Section 16. Balloting for initiation, passing, raising and membership must be unanimous; but when only one black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot it is final, as it shall be when two or more black balls appear on the first ballot. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Stated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master. Provided, however, the Lodge may amend their By-Laws or vote by written ballot to allow Short of Time Class for the Three Symbolic Degrees of Masonry in compliance with rules and regulations contained within the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida.

Regulation 37.06, Page 277

Currently reads:

37.05 One month must intervene between the conferring of any two Degrees, except in actual and meritorious emergency, which requires Dispensation from the Grand Master. The term “month” as used here shall be construed in harmony with the construction placed upon it by Regulation 33.01.

Change to read:

37.05 One month must intervene between the conferring of any two Degrees, except in actual and meritorious emergency, which requires Dispensation from the Grand Master. The term “month” as used here shall be construed in harmony with the construction placed upon it by Regulation 33.01. Unless the Lodge has adopted Short of Time Classes. (See Article X, Section 16)

Regulation 37.12, page 280

Currently reads:

37.12 No candidate shall receive the Fellow Craft or Master Mason Degree unless and until he shall have passed a satisfactory examination in open Lodge upon the catechism of the preceding Degree. No Degree shall be conferred until the candidate has received instruction in the “Lodge System of Masonic Education” as prescribed in Regulation 37.18. (Amended 1979)

Change to read:

37.12 No candidate shall receive the Fellow Craft or Master Mason Degree unless and until he shall have passed a satisfactory examination in open Lodge upon the catechism of the preceding Degree. No Degree shall be conferred until the candidate has received instruction in the “Lodge System of Masonic Education” as prescribed in Regulation 37.18. (Amended 1979) Unless the Lodge has adopted Short of Time Classes. (See Article X, Section 16)

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION ON AMENDMENT FOR THE DIGEST OF THE MASONIC LAW OF FLORIDA SHORT OF TIME DEGREES

WHEREAS, the greatest honor a Master Mason can bestow his Lodge is a lifetime of devotion; and

WHEREAS, in our fast pace times, a petitioner may not be allowed to confer his desired time to the study of the Catechism of the Three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry, yet still be worthy of all the Universal Light our Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, each Master Mason has the ability to ensure his association with our Fraternity through a Perpetual Membership; and

WHEREAS, each Particular Lodge Chartered by The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida may have the ability to increase its membership with Short of Time Degrees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each petitioner who desires to receive the Three Symbolic Degrees by means of a Short of Time Degree with any Particular Lodge under the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, and his petition is accepted, found favorable and adheres to all laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Florida, must pay in full for a Perpetual Membership to the Lodge which accepts his petition, or must enter into a payment plan and submit first payment for a Perpetual Membership to said Lodge. And if the final payment is not remitted in due time, the then Master Mason will be suspended until the remaining amount is paid in full.

Submitted by,
W.: Joseph V. Citro, P.M., Hillsborough Lodge No. 25

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

To: Particular Lodge Delegates
Elected Grand Lodge Officers
Past Grand Masters

Date: January 17, 2009

Pursuant to Chapter 14.12, 2(d) in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, the Proposed Budget for the 2009 2010 Grand Lodge year is attached. Below are summaries of the expenses anticipated and income needed to fund both the Grand Lodge Administrative Budget (“A” Budget) and the Masonic Home of Florida Budget (“D” Budget) for the Grand Lodge year ending March 31, 2010.

GRAND LODGE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

The Proposed Grand Lodge Administrative Budget for 2009 2010 totals \$1,791,167. This is a decrease of \$106,812 over the 2008 2009 “A” Budget. Despite our continuing decline in membership and the resulting decrease in funds received from the per capita assessment, the Grand Lodge Administration Budget remains on sound footing; thanks to the increase in per capita passed several years ago.

The Grand Secretary and his staff, along with the Grand Treasurer, are to be commended for the continued efficient, constructive and helpful work they do for us in the operation of our Grand Lodge.

MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA BUDGET

The Masonic Home investments showed a decrease from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

The proposed Masonic Home of Florida Budget for 2009 2010 totals \$7,426,391. This is a decrease of \$241,255 over the 2008-2009 “D” Budget. The Administrator and her staff are well aware of the overall economic and financial constraints, and as such have instituted a salary freeze for this year. Final Revenue figures are not yet available. However, as we are all aware, the investment markets have not been doing well. Transfers from the Endowment Fund may be reduced from the \$2,300,000 figure reflected under “Projected Income 2009-2010.” These reductions will include “Unexpended Funds” from the 2008-2009 Budget.

My Brothers, you must be commended in having the foresight in 2005 to pass the Private Pay Resolution. If it had not been for the income stream generated by the Private Pay Residents we would have had to transfer an additional \$1,329,613, which is the income generated from the Private Pay Program this year. You also had the foresight to pass the Independent Living Facility at our last Grand Communication. Once the economy turns around we will be proceeding with this project. When this third stream of income begins it should put us in a much better position financially.

The Administrator and her staff, your Junior Grand Warden, and the other Grand Lodge Officers are to be commended for a job well done. They should be congratulated for their efforts in holding the line on the cost of running the Masonic Home, while maintaining the highest quality care possible for our residents.

The Endowment and Investment Committee is to be commended for their diligence and hard work all year long.

Your Grand Lodge Officers will continue to review the Proposed Budget until our Grand Lodge Communication in May 2009, when the Finance and Accounts Committee will finalize any changes in the Revenue and Expense figures.

These Proposed Budgets have been reviewed and recommended by the undersigned members of the Corporate Board of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, and is presented to the Particular Lodges and their Delegates for consideration and approval.

Respectfully submitted,
s / Joe A. Fleites

M.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Grand Master

s / Dale I. Goehrig

R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Deputy Grand Master

s / J. Dick Martinez

R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Senior Grand Warden

s / Jim J Harris

R.: W.: Jim J Harris, Junior Grand Warden

s / Elmer G. Coffman

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

s / Joseph Shurette

M.: W.: Joseph Shurette, P.G.M.

s / Nicholas L. Canora

R.: W.: Nicholas L. Canora, P.D.D.G.M.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR “A” GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010
APRIL 1, 2009 THRU MARCH 31, 2010

REVENUES:	INCOME AVAILABLE	ANTICIPATED INCOME		
	2008-2009	2009-2010		
CURRENT ASSESSMENTS	631,084	635,280		
G.W.N.M.A. @ \$5 EACH INITIATION	7,880	8,100		
FEES COLLECTED	690	870		
COMPUTER SERVICES	13,365	16,771		
SALE OF PUBLICATIONS	29,740	30,459		
SALE OF MERCHANDISE	1,477	1,795		
MISCELLANEOUS	4,850	6,395		
CHECK & SAVINGS INTEREST5	6,815	- 0 -		
PARKING LOT RENT	25,400	25,400		
POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT	10,416	12,873		
INVESTMENT INCOME G/L ENDOWMENT	26,872	28,999		
GAINS GRAND LODGE ENDOWMENT	85,826	- 0 -		
INVESTMENT INCOME “F” FUND	19,134	3,600		
INVESTMENT INCOME BUDGET (CASH MGMT FD)	6,356	7,081		
INVESTMENT INCOME “C” RESERVE (CASH MGMT FD)	27,385	7,101		
INVESTMENT INCOME CURR REV (CASH MGMT FD)	- 0 -	1		
CASH MGMT GAINS/LOSS	<u>17,473</u>	<u>12,487</u>		
SUB TOTAL	914,763	797,212		
DUE FROM MASONIC HOME/GRAND LODGE ADMINIS.	523,542	518,955		
UNEXPENDED FUNDS	459,674	450,000		
FUNDS FROM “F” ACCOUNTS	- 0 -	- 0 -		
FUNDS FROM STORE	- 0 -	25,000		
PROCEEDS FROM LOAN	- 0 -	- 0 -		
			LESS:	
			PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP TRF TO G/L ENDOW.	- 0 - - 0 -
			RETURN OF INVESTMENTS TO ENDOWMENT	- 0 - - 0 -
			REPAYMENT OF LOAN FROM MASONIC HOME	<u>- 0 -</u> <u>- 0 -</u>
			FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR “A” GENERAL FUND	1,897,979 1,791,167
			ADMINISTRATION:	BUDGET PROPOSED 2008-2009 2009-2010
			A1 GRAND COMMUNICATION EXPENSES:	
			101 P/D & MILEAGE REPRESENTATIVES LODGES	64,628 62,835
			102 P/D & MILEAGE COMMITTEES	28,554 28,000
			103 P/D & MILEAGE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS	20,298 20,298
			104 OFFICERS & DDGM’S TO BE INSTALLED	4,671 5,000
			119 G.S. PERSONNEL & COURT REPORTER	6,000 9,000
			121 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ROOMS	6,000 6,000
			122 GRAND MASTER’S BANQUET & LUNCHEONS	26,000 26,992
			123 GRAND MASTER’S BANQUET ENTERTAINMENT	1,200 1,200
			125 LADIES ENTERTAINMENT	5,000 4,000
			126 AUDITORIUM & BUS RENTAL	2,000 500
			120 PRINTING, SUPPLIES, RENTALS & OFFICE SPACE	<u>12,000</u> <u>17,600</u>
			TOTAL GRAND COMMUNICATION EXPENSE:	176,351 181,425

Thanksgiving Donation



The Worshipful Master and Secretary of Okaloosa Lodge presented the staff of Sharing and Caring with the annual Thanksgiving donation of food and funds (\$300.00) on November 19th. Pictured R to L: Worshipful Master Roderic D. Mouer, Secretary Kenneth K. Eichorn, and members of the Sharing and Caring staff who received the donations.

Roderic D. (Rick) Mouer, Jr.
Past Master
Editor, trestleboard
Okaloosa No. 312

Brother Cuts Off Ponytail

It being time to cut the ponytail off as I am retiring at the end of Dec., with the Grand Master's permission, I was able to sell tickets for the opportunity to cut the ponytail off. I was able to raise over \$800.00 in ticket sales (more money may still come in), 100% (no costs were deducted) of all monies to be divided between The Masonic Home and the S.R. Childhood Languages Disorders Clinics. The drawing and cutting was held at Cypress Lodge at 11:00am Saturday Dec. 13th. A breakfast was also held with the proceeds from the breakfast to go to the home (I do not know how much money was raised). After the ponytail was cut, we raised more money by allowing people to use an electric clipper to cut it down to as short as it is in the photos, total raised is over \$1,300.00.



W.:R.: Bill McKay

Performed the Heimlich Maneuver

On Nov. 15th Englewood Lodge presented certificate of appreciation to Richard Chapura and Tony Brunetti who has been nominated for Fireman of the year for saving an elderly man choking. They performed the Heimlich maneuver and were able to dislodge the object and got him breathing on his own. Appreciation certificates were presented to Rusty McCord, Battalion Chief an Fire Chief Michael Bonakeske for their outstanding Leadership.

From L to R: Richard Chapura, Tony Brunetti, Rusty McCord, W.:M.: Bob Holland



Dunedin Lodge Lends a Helping Hand During the Holidays

DUNEDIN, FL, USA (November 17, 2008) - On behalf of Dunedin Lodge No. 192 W.: Ken Giesow, P.M. was pleased to present 20 gift certificates for holiday dinners to Mrs. Kathy Brickley, Principal of Dunedin Elementary, who will distribute the certificates within the school to needy families. The Lodge has also pledged support for additional dinners for the Christmas Holidays. Also on hand for the presentation was W.: Rome Scerbo, P.M. and Karen Turner (Guidance Counselor).



While at the school, Bros. Giesow and Scerbo delivered the first two bicycles for the new "Bikes for Books" program the Lodge created for the school. The program, which was first implemented by Masonic Lodges in the western United States, is intended to promote student reading. Under the program, the Lodge will donate ten bicycles to the school (two bikes, one for a boy and one for a girl, for grades 1 - 5). The school will administer the program whereby students will earn points from reading books. At the awards ceremony at the end of the school year, the top boy and girl readers from each grade will win a bicycle. It is believed this is the first "Bikes for Books" program instituted in Florida. All of the bikes were obtained from donations from the Craft, not Lodge funds.

Presenting the first two bikes to Dunedin Elementary .



The Launch of the DLN News

January 7, 2009 was the kickoff date for the 16th Masonic Districts' "District Lodge News" or DLN. This new communication source was the brain child of Brother Dominick F. Testoriere of Halifax Lodge No. 81 and who is also the current President of the Master Mason Association of the 16th Masonic District. He is also the Districts' Public Relations and Publicity Chairman. "It is hoped that the DLN will assist in delivering the special events to the Brothers of the 16th District that are planned for the up and coming months" says Brother Dominick. "So too often the information that is written in the Lodge's Trestle Boards is out of date and is useless to the Brothers. The DLN was created to provide a better way to get the word out about future social events" says Brother Bryan Coffey of St. Johns Lodge No. 37, Format Editor of the DLN.

Within the pages of the DLN, will be found a wide variety of District information that will cover news from all the Lodges of the 16th District as well its appendant bodies of Masonry, a visually friendly calendar for those Brothers that

have some difficulty seeing as well as a spotlight section that will focus on special events and those Brothers that have gone above the call of duty. And let us not forget a dose of Masonic education to round out this new and exciting publication.

The DLN kickoff was part of the January's meeting of the Master Masons Association that is held at the Daytona Country Club. In attendance, Worshipful Aldis E. Grauds, P.M., Oviedo Lodge No. 243, Zone 5 Public Relations and Publicity Chairman. "When Dominick asked me to attend the kick-off of the DLN, I was honored. It is a rare opportunity to see a Brother actually using his committeemanship and providing some good for his District" says Worshipful Grauds.

Later, the DLN will tailor itself to the needs and wishes of the Craft and will provide a valuable revenue source for the association. It is hoped that the DLN will also be used as a Public Relations tool for the 16th Masonic District by means of targeting media outlets of the surrounding communities.



l to r: Brothers Dominick F. Testoriere - Halifax No. 81, DLN Editor in Chief, Stephen J. Tilley - Bunnell No. 200 Masonic Education, Bryan Coffey - St. Johns No. 37 Format Editor and Tom Aiken - Daytona Beach No. 270, News Editor.

Holiday Food Baskets

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

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is a fraternal organization for men 18 years and older. Officially organized in 1717, Freemasonry is one of the oldest fraternal orders in the world and continues to be a force in the community today. Members of the Masonic order include Presidents, doctors, lawyers, teachers, astronauts, businessmen and men from every walk of life.



Child ID



Gene Jeffers P.M., Chairman of the 27th Masonic District Child ID Program presents Sheriff John Davenport with a Grand Lodge certificate of appreciation for his support of the Child ID program with their donation of \$2,000.00 and his official support.

The 27th Masonic District Child ID Program held 4 events in the month of October and taped 172 children. Events were held on Oct 3rd at the Nokomis United Methodist Church Pre-school and taped 36 children. On the 11th we taped 90 children at the fall festival at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Parrish. On the 18th at the United Methodist Church in Englewood, we taped 32 children at their Fall Festival. On the 26th we taped 14 children at the Sahib Shrine Temple Fall Festival. We received invitations to return next year from all sites and 2 men ask for petitions to join our Fraternity. All 8 Lodges in the District participated. Overall, a very successful Child ID Program in October.



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Welcome to the Grand Lodge of Florida



50 year Mason



Brother John Freechak receiving his 50 year pin and gold card from Worshipful Roger Bodkin at Ribault Lodge No. 272. John is a 50 year member of Acacia 157 in Fairmont, WV.

On Tuesday January 13, Ribault Lodge No. 272 had the pleasure of recognizing and honoring a 50 year Mason as a courtesy to and at the request of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia. The address provided for this Brother was Ponte Vedra Beach, so Ribault Lodge in Jacksonville Beach being the closest Lodge, was selected for this task.

After some investigation, I found this Brother, not in PVB, but in St. Augustine. Inasmuch as he no longer drives, transport was arranged. It was my feeling he considered this courtesy and honor to be a high point of his day. I really think I fed off his joy that evening as my day was made by this experience also. Note too, that following this meeting, communication was initiated with Ashlar Lodge No. 98 in St. Augustine to make them aware of Br. Freechak in their community. The Secretary of Ashlar Lodge advised that they have contacted Br. Freechak to extend an invitation, including transportation, to their meetings – Brotherly Love in Action.

Submitted by Gary Stengl, P.M., Ribault Lodge No 272, Jacksonville Beach

Be a Leader, Make the Difference