

The Florida Mason

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

Volume 5, Issue 1



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Grand Lodge Officers
2011 - 2012

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M.: W.: Jim J Harris
(Sebastian)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: J. L. "George" Aladro
(Palm Bay)

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

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

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

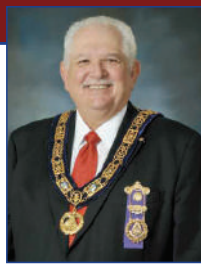
GRAND SECRETARY
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M.
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future
issues of *The Florida Mason*
should be sent to,
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A Message From The Grand Master



M.: W.: Jim J Harris,
Grand Master

Brothers:

We are approaching the time of year when Legislation is presented to the Craft and they prepare for their journey to the Grand Lodge Session at the end of May. On Sunday May 27th, a Church Service will take place immediately followed by a Memorial Service for our departed Brothers, later that evening the Grand Master's Banquet will begin and it is my hope that every Lodge is represented with a Brother from that Lodge. The tickets can be purchased at the Grand Lodge Office, call 1-800-375-2339 for more information. It would be my honor to be with you on that evening.

Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home was a great time and if you were unable to attend you really missed a great event. The Pilgrimage Day Committee has worked long and hard to improve the event each year, making it something to be proud of. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the First Lady's Masonic Home Project went off without a hitch. The Residents new Ice Cream Parlor "What's the Scoop?" serving Working Cow Ice Cream was put to the test. The First Lady with the help of R.: W.: Joe Meketsy and Tommy from the Working Cow Company served well over 1,000 scoops of ice cream. The completely remodeled "Now & Then Gift Shop", Corkey's Cupboard, and the hall-way serving area was also on display for inspection. The kids and the adults alike all had a great time playing games, looking at the vintage cars in the car show, trying the chili and voting on their best, shopping and visiting with friends and family. The food was great and so was the entertainment. It truly was a day for the whole family with Masons coming from all over the State.

Brothers, I am optimistic about our future as Masons. Many strides have been taken and with your continued support, I believe we are well on our way to turning the corner and regaining our place in eyes of the less informed and attracting those Brothers that can help make a difference.

Our commitment to the Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) is a key to reaching the public and showing that we care for all mankind, not just Masons. Heart disease is the number one killer of all mankind from children to the elderly.

We are proud to support such an organization created by Masons over 50 years ago and to this day is operated by Masons. The word is out and other Grand Jurisdictions are on board with others inquiring. Our State Chairman, R.: W.: Mike Binder, and his team have set a standard of cooperation among Brothers around this State serving only to accomplish results for the Cardiac Research Institute and not for any personal notoriety.

At Grand Lodge this year there will be a Ladies Breakfast sponsored by the Cardiac Research Institute (MMRL) to enlighten our lovely Ladies with information regarding our progress and goals. The Ladies are a very important part of Masonry and this is certainly a very important endeavor.

I am so proud of each District around the State for their continued support to the Grand Lodge Programs and Masonic Education. Each area has proven to be productive and we are, as a team, building a stronger Fraternity. I continue to ask those Brothers that are not coming to Lodge to participate and get involved, if you are able, we need you.

I am very pleased with the reports on our cherished Widows. Many Lodges have truly made a sincere effort to recognize and take care of our departed Brothers' Ladies. For those Lodges, I commend you for a job well done.

I will close for now with the hopes that we will be together soon. Please take care of each other and always remember we are a Masonic Family with common bonds and promises to one another. Masonry is a way of life not a slogan or club. Respectfully,

Brother Jim
Grand Master

The world views Masonry through our actions.



A Message From The Deputy Grand Master



R.: W.: J. L. "George" Aladro,
Deputy Grand Warden

My Brothers,

It seems like time has flown by faster than I would care to admit to. However, it has been a wonderful experience with life's ups and downs and I would not change it for anything in the world. The Brothers that I have met and the friendships that have grown leave an awesome feeling that is better described by this biblical verse in Psalms 133:1 "How good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity!"

By the time you read this our Grand Lodge Masonic year will be almost over, and I want to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve the Craft as Deputy Grand Master. As such, I serve the Craft as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home of Florida (BOT). It has been a unique experience since the makeup of the Board was changed at Grand Lodge and the changes were implemented immediately and we were off and running.

This year I'm very happy to say that we accomplished many things with the assistance of the Members of the Board of Trustees, the Administrator, the Masonic Home Staff, and Brothers from the Craft; these are some of the highlights we completed:

- ☞ The transition of the new Board of Trustees makeup.
- ☞ Conducted Orientation for the Members of the Board of Trustees.
- ☞ Completed "Guidelines of the Board of Trustees" to assist them with their duties & responsibilities.
- ☞ Completed "Guidelines for Admissions" to streamline the application process.

- ☞ Realized savings in the replacement of the transformers.
- ☞ Realized savings in the insurance coverage.
- ☞ Completed and presented an inventory for the first time since 1998.
- ☞ Completed a film for commercial purposes free of charge, thanks to Brothers Chino and W.: Aldis.

As Chairman of the BOT, I want to thank all that have contributed and dedicated their time and wealth to the welfare of the Masonic Home of Florida. Our Residents are always thankful for our continued tradition of caring and love the Florida Masons have demonstrated since 1919.

On behalf of the Craft and the Masonic Home, I want to thank the Masters & Wardens, Master Masons Associations, Districts, and Lodges that have taken of their time, talents, and resources to sponsor events at the Masonic Home, some stretching over 50 years; you have brightened up the lives of so many of our Residents and Brothers with these events. "Kudos to all of you!" For those who are thinking of sponsoring an event at the Masonic Home we encourage you to contact us, as we can assist you in the success of your endeavors.

In closing my Brothers, I hope that this year has gone well for the new Lodge Officers, I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Grand Lodge and look forward to working even closer with the Craft in the incoming year. May the Great Architect of the Universe keep you and your loved ones in the palm of his hands 'til we see you again.

Your humble servant and Brother.

R.: W.: Jorge L. Aladro
Deputy Grand Master

If you would like to receive the "Discourse" please send an email to: jlageorge@bellsouth.net.
The Discourse's purpose: "My Brothers, the newsletter is intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking; what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge."



**R.:W.: Danny R. Griffith,
Senior Grand Warden**

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

As we near the end of our Masonic year and I reflect on all that has occurred during this period of time I am truly amazed. During our travels throughout the state and elsewhere, my wife Betsy and I often reflect on how many wonderful people we have met whom we would never have known had I not been a part of this wonderful Fraternity. I am looking forward to continued service to the Craft.

There are two areas of concern within our Fraternity which I continue to seek answers for. The first I have addressed in previous articles, but it continues to impact the operations of our Fraternity and I think that we should aggressively seek solutions. The problem is our continued loss of Membership due to the Non-Payment of Dues (NPD's). As we lose Membership it impacts the operations of our Lodges and our Grand Lodge. It does no good to raise 20 Members in a Lodge only to lose 30 or more to NPD's. Our Lodges must raise dues in order to maintain their facilities and the Grand Lodge must raise per-capita in order to run and maintain our Grand Lodge building. Every Lodge must be aggressive in retaining Membership. Before a Member is suspended he should be made

aware of those things he will be giving up, such as the ability to have a Masonic Funeral at his death and the privilege of seeking residence in our beautiful Masonic Home for himself, his wife, or his mother if the need should arise. Paying ones dues is a very inexpensive insurance policy for keeping these privileges as well as keeping your Lodge and the Grand Lodge on solid footing.

The second area of concern is the continuing disharmony we are finding in our Lodges. We must remember the lesson taught during the presentation of the Working Tools in the Master Mason Degree when we are taught the meaning of the Trowel. The Lodges need the continued support of their Past Masters to aid their Worshipful Master in avoiding circumstances which could lead to disharmony.

In closing my Brothers, if we work together we can accomplish everything, if we don't, we accomplish nothing. See you all on the road!

Danny R. Griffith
Senior Grand Warden



**R.:W.: James W. Ford
Junior Grand Warden**

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

Brethren,
We recently celebrated a very successful Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home. It was an overwhelming success. It was an opportunity for Brothers, Sisters, family, and friends from all over the state to gather in a spirit of friendship and brotherly love. They came by car, bus, and motorcycles. Several Districts rented buses and many were first time visitors. The ice cream parlor opened with a bang with the Grand Master and First Lady scooping and serving ice cream to all the Residents and guests who were lined up to enjoy the many different flavors that were offered.

Our Masonic Home is our greatest asset and we thank our Administrator and her staff for all they do to see that the Residents are happy and satisfied. Pilgrimage Day has become an excellent way to promote our Masonic Home, but your help is needed in filling the empty beds. Your help is needed in promoting the Home in your Lodge and in your Trestle Board. This year a Resolution will be presented at Grand Lodge for the admittance of Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star to the Masonic Home on the private pay or pay as you go plan. This is an effort to increase the number of Residents and open the door to the Ladies of the Eastern Star who may not otherwise be eligible.

In just a matter of days, we will be coming together for the 183rd Annual Communication of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Florida. At this communication, you will receive written reports from the State Chairmen of the various Grand Lodge Committees. These reports detail the success and/or opportunities of these programs. Do you know where your Lodge stands in the support and promotion of these programs?

I urge you to review the report of the Masonic Education Committee. Did your Lodge qualify for the "Masonic Education Achievement Award"? Did your Lodge submit the ME-1A report? Is your Lodge submitting the ME-Q report quarterly? These are all part of our Masonic Education Program and we are all quick to agree that "An Educated Mason is a Dedicated Mason"! Let us be especially mindful of our duty and our

obligation to our candidates, our new Masons, and all our Members to ensure that they have every opportunity to become an educated Mason and become an active part of our Fraternity.

As we travel the state and other jurisdictions, I'm hearing the term "Masonic Values" more and more. What value do we place on Masonry? The world has changed. Masonry has changed. Have our values changed? Have our Masonic Values changed? We no longer live in a world of "Leave it to Beaver" where the entire family sits down and has dinner together. There are few restrictions regarding the content of TV advertising and the subject matter of TV shows. There are few restrictions on words that are used on both TV and radio. Yes, the world has changed, and yes, our values have changed.

Freemasonry has also changed, but our Masonic Values should never change. We are no longer a secret society. We want people to know us and what we do. It's no longer improper to ask a man if he would like to be a Mason (still of his own free will and accord). We want people to know about the MMRL, the Child ID Program, and the various scholarship programs throughout the state. We want people to know about the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, the Shrine, and all the other allied and appendant bodies, and all they do for their various charities and their communities. Yes, change has taken place. Time does not and will not stand still and we must adjust to these changes without changing our Masonic Values - the value of Brotherly Love and Affection - the value of Friendship and Morality - the value of our obligation to each other.

In closing, I go to the Mentor's Manual for these words: "The Toleration of Others and Their Beliefs is the Foundation of Freemasonry". We may disagree, we may have different opinions, but we should always come together and respect the opinions of others even though we disagree. Cherish and respect that value of "Friendship and Brotherly Love" and, above all, cherish and respect the Value of Freemasonry.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
James W. Ford
Junior Grand Warden



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

A Message From The Grand Secretary

Brothers all,
What a distinguished honor to have the privilege to serve you as your Grand Secretary.

It doesn't seem possible it was almost 20 years ago I had the opportunity to serve you as the Most Worshipful Grand Master; I have witnessed many changes to the Masonic Fraternity, especially here in Florida. Many of the changes have been an improvement while others have affected our Fraternity in a negative manner. Through all these changes, my Brother's, one constant has remained: Friendship, Brotherly Love, and Affection. Traveling this Great State of Florida for the District Meetings and the Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars I witnessed the Brotherly Love and Affection first hand. We are so lucky to have the common bond of Masonry to unite us together.

The Staff at Grand Lodge remains dedicated and committed to im-

proving the Membership System and improving the services to you and your Lodge.

There have been several Districts making a pilgrimage to the Grand Lodge Building enjoying a tour of the Museum and a technical tour of the offices. It was a pleasure for Most Worshipful Coffman and me to host these visits. I wish to thank the First Coast Chapter of DeMolay for providing lunch for the visiting Brothers and Ladies. Why don't you consider putting together a trip for your District?

I look forward to visiting with those of you that will be able to attend Grand Lodge and the others on the road during the year.

Please feel free to contact me should the need advice or just to say hello.

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



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

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,
It's hard to believe that another Masonic year is just about over and that it is almost time for another Grand Lodge Communication. Our outgoing Grand Master, M.:W.: Jim Harris, has worked hard to make his projects come to fruition and the incoming Grand Master, M.:W.: Jorge Aladro, will be installed with new programs and new ideas.

If you missed the Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home, you certainly missed a treat. We had a wonderful turnout of Masons and their ladies from across the state. The First Ladies' project of building an ice cream parlor for the Residents was a great success, not only with the Residents but with all who attended the Grand Opening as well. The antique car show was bigger and better than ever with some wonderful old cars which had been beautifully restored. The food was great, good music, a talent show and numerous booths with all kinds of goodies to sell. So, if you missed this one, plan on coming next year and possibly do as some of the Districts did this year, rent a bus and enjoy not only the day at the "home" but the trip with your Brothers and their families as well.

I would also encourage you to possibly rent a bus and make a trip

with your Lodge or your District to visit your Grand Lodge Building in Jacksonville. We will provide tours of not only the building but of the museum as well. In the museum you will find many items of interest, some dating back to the beginning of the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Florida. We recently had such a visit by District Seventeen who brought not only the Brothers but also many of the wives. We enjoyed having them visit and I think they enjoyed the trip. Many of the Brothers were visiting the Grand Lodge Building for the first time.

The Grand Lodge Officers will be traveling the state during the next few weeks to conduct the Legislative Meetings in the different zones. We will discuss the upcoming legislation which will be voted on at the Grand Lodge Communication. Please make every attempt to attend these meetings, especially the Lodge delegates, so they may better understand the proposed legislation and cast an informed ballot.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the near future and may God richly bless you, your families, and your Lodge.

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

Third District Masonic Association Participates In The Florida Chautauqua Assembly



The Third District Masonic Association, led by R.:W.: James Moore P.D.D.G.M., participated in the Florida Chautauqua Assembly in DeFuniak Springs on January 26-29, 2012, by presenting a display of Masonic Presidents in its Exhibition Hall.

The Florida Chautauqua Assembly is a revival of Chautauqua Assemblies held throughout the United States

between the 1870's and 1920's and is a highly regarded and well attended event in Northwest Florida. The theme of this year's Assembly is "A Journey into the American Presidency".

The original Chautauqua Institution was founded in 1874 on Lake Chautauqua in western New York State as a vocation school for Sunday School Teachers. This idea of providing a retreat for improving religious and secular education for the general public spread rapidly throughout the nation in the 1880's giving birth to independent Chautauquas that became a platform for discussion of the latest thinking in politics, economics, literature, science and religion.

The First Florida Chautauqua convened in DeFuniak Springs in 1885 and continued until 1920. It was the second Chautauqua founded in America.

Florida State High Twelve Association

The Florida State Association of Masonic High Twelve Clubs, Inc. is currently conducting a drive for new Members and adding new clubs. The Association currently has twenty Clubs located throughout Florida. High Twelve is recognized as an Appendant Body by the Grand Lodge of Florida.

High Twelve has Associations in fifteen States; and Independent Clubs in fourteen States. Associations consist of five or more Clubs and Independent Clubs exist when there are less than five Clubs in any Jurisdiction. High Twelve is active in the United States, England and Japan and new Clubs are anticipated in Mexico, Italy, Canada, Hawaii, Philippines and other Countries in South America.

An open invitation is extended to all Master Masons and their Ladies to visit a club in their area.

There may be an active club in your area and we would welcome you as a visitor or new Member. If we don't have a club in your area, it may be possible to start a new one to accommodate you and your Masonic friends.

The criteria for starting new High Twelve Clubs are very simple. It requires a minimum of ten new Members, who are Masons in good standing and recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida. Meetings time and days can be established by the Membership.

As a Member of High Twelve you will experience:

Masonic fellowship.

Appreciate the satisfaction of promoting Masonic principals.

The enjoyment in helping out youth, particularly DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters.

The satisfaction of providing funds to the Wolcott Foundation for a graduate study program at the George Washington University to assist in promoting good government. The enjoyment of the friendship of some of the finest Brothers in the community in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere without ritual.

High Twelve International provides valuable assistance to the Blue Lodges in whatever manner is most needed. High Twelve International is Masonry in Action in the community where each Club holds its meetings and in the State where several clubs are banded together in common purpose. High Twelvians adhere strictly to Masonic Law of that jurisdiction.

High Twelve Members, as Master Masons, seek to serve civic, patriotic and humanitarian causes and institutions through Masonry, interesting programs and projects. High Twelve International's clubs combine fellowship with helping others in their quality of life pursuits, particularly young adults and youth.

Although only Master Masons can join High Twelve, anyone is welcome at the meetings. A typical meeting is brief in its business, full of fellowship, and includes a program, usually a speaker, on a limitless range of subjects. Some clubs have ladies at all of the meetings, while others have ladies on special occasions.

The little red schoolhouse is passed at every meeting of Fellowship High Twelve to raise funds for the Wolcott Foundation Scholarship Fund. Passing the "Little Red Schoolhouse" is an important part of most every High Twelve Club Meeting. As the name implies, it is a miniature red school house with a chimney that blows no smoke, but accepts folded contributions for the benefit of the Wolcott Foundation that awards fellowships to US Citizens who are attending George Washington University.

If you would like more information about how to become a Member or if you are interested in forming a new club; please contact Past International High Twelve President, Mervyn J. Harris, at 352-753-3505 or mjhh12@centurylink.net
Tri County Masonic High Twelve Club No. 674, John Merryman, at 352-753-7778 or ckjmj@comcast.net

Additional information can also be found at the High Twelve Website www.high12.org

Morocco Hosts 31 New Shriners

Morocco proudly hosted 31 New Shriners this past weekend. A few moments for a photo opportunity in front of the Temple's Silent Messenger was enjoyed by the Temple Divan, our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Florida, Jim J. Harris, our Imperial Potentate, Imperial Sir. Mike Severe



Orange Blossom Lodge Adopts Central Avenue School

Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 Free and Accepted Masons recently presented the Education Foundation - Osceola County with a check for \$250.00 to purchase needed school supplies. The Lodge has adopted Central Avenue Elementary in Kissimmee as a school project and will donate school supplies and volunteer hours to assist the school with improvement needs. Marcie Hill, of the foundation, plays a major role in securing school supplies that will help teachers meet student needs. In the photo are Worshipful Master Kevin Gowen and Worshipful Ernie Elliott presenting Marcie Hill with a check to purchase the needed school supplies.



Apron Presentation Night



L to R: Bro. Charles Sherrad J.:W.:
Tom Gavagan, Bro. Dave Hubble,
Bro. Jerry Haywood, Bro. Tom Pruitt

Pausing To Plumb

By Rev. Fr. Robby Entrekin

The Latin root for the word plumb is Plumben and means lead. Probably alluding to the heavy weight at the end of the working tool.

Plumb is defined as "To test verticality for alignment, to establish a true vertical..." As Master Masons we all know the importance of this working tool. The real question that I share with you brothers is do we pause to plumb?

As you know the plumb is a usually pointed weight suspended by a string. Up until the modern age, on most tall structures, plumb-bobs were used to provide vertical datum lines for the building measurements. A section of the scaffolding would hold a plumb line that was centered over a datum mark on the floor. As the building proceeded upwards the plumb line would also be taken higher, still centered on the datum. Many cathedral spires, domes and towers still have brass datum marks inlaid into their floors, which signify the center of the structure above.

The very instrument itself contains in its construction a very important message to the Mason. The large, weight at the end of the plumb is of no use without the cord or rope to which it is attached. Once being separated from the cord, the weight had no use to the builder and cannot be used to true or try the vertical and thus is of no use to the builder or his fellow man.

The metal weight is likened to man. The Cord which attaches to the metal weight represents our connection to deity. The plumb itself tells us that to be of any use to the builder or our fellow man we must remain connected to and work with the cord (deity). With this allegory we must ask ourselves are we as men and Masons pausing to plumb. Do we pause to insure the weight is still connected to the cord? And if due to age or struggle or even ease, we have become disconnected for the cord that gives us purpose. Do we pause to establish that connection again?

We are told in the sacred scripture to "Remember him - before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well" Ecclesiastes 12:6. The cord is then a representation of our connection to, and need of deity.

The strongest of men are deemed helpless when the cord of the spine is severed and is rendered unmendable. Thus we as men, as Masons and as builders for the master builder are of no use if we fail to pause in our daily walk and check ourselves, to check our working tools. Are we pausing to plumb?

35th Wedding Anniversary Celebration



Manatee Lodge No. 31, Bradenton, FL, On Monday April 2nd Senior Warden Les Ruggiero and his wife, Carol celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary with dinner at Manatee Lodge along with Brothers, family, and friends.

Brother T.C. Wilder's 60 Year Service Award

New Smyrna Lodge No. 149, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, is proud to present Brother Thomas Clinton "T.C." Wilder his 60 Year Service Award. Presenting this award is Worshipful Master Donald Tucker who was assisted by Brother Glen E. Good.



Action Initiated To Establish An Orlando Area Daylight Lodge

Recognizing that there are many Brothers in the Orlando area that are unable to attend the regular evening communications of their Lodge because of work schedule conflicts, physical inability to travel at night, or other tugs on their cable-tow, Worshipful Brothers Tom Hoopes of South Seminole Lodge No. 364 and Henry Jehan of Sanford Lodge No. 62 have formed a Committee for the Establishment of an Orlando Area Daylight Lodge. The Committee has scheduled a kick-off luncheon to be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at The Masonic Temple of South Seminole Lodge No. 364 (A one-story wheelchair and walker friendly facility), located at 122 Triplet Lake Drive in Casselberry, FL. Our guest speaker for this event will be Most Worshipful Richard Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. He will speak on the procedure for establishing an Orlando Area Daylight Lodge. Doors will open at 10:00 AM. The presentation will begin at 11:00 AM, with lunch to follow.

If you have been unable to attend the regular evening communications of your Lodge, or if you would just like to experience a new venue in your search for further light, we encourage you come out, enjoy the fellowship and assist us in the creation of a day-time Lodge to serve the Brothers of the Orlando area. Should you know a Brother Master Mason who lives in the Orlando area and is a Member of an out of state jurisdiction, please let him know that he is also welcome to attend this event. This luncheon is open to all interested Master Masons.

So that we can establish a head count for lunch, if you plan on attending please inform the organizers at: 407-257-4056 (voice), 407-314-5563 (voice or text message), or by email to: hoopes_tom@hotmail.com, or sanford62secy@att.net.

60 Year Certificate



L to R: District Deputy Grand Master Paul Harvey of the Eighth Masonic District; William C. McCray, Past Master of Mayo Lodge; Troy Thompson; and Past District Deputy Donnie Hamlin of the Eighth Masonic District.

Mayo Masonic Lodge No. 119, F.&A.M. held a special event in January to honor and recognize two of its Members, Troy Thompson and William C. McCray for sixty years of active Membership and service.

The Secretary of the Lodge read their history, service, and all offices held prior to the presentation of a certificate and pin to each honoree.

A covered dish supper honoring Thompson and McCray and other special guests was enjoyed preceding the presentation.

Local Men Have Kinship With Walt Disney

Submitted by Timothy M Eovino

"Some local men in Pensacola have a kinship with Walt Disney. They, like Walt, in their youth, belonged to an Order called DeMolay. DeMolay was founded by the Freemasons for boys ages 12-21. What makes these particular men stand out, like Walt Disney, they too, all rose from this youth group, to the pinnacle of their local Masonic Lodges, and in 2011 became Worshipful Masters, (W.M.:) of their local Lodges. W.M.: is the leader of the Lodge. It is akin to a cub scout rising through the ranks to become Scout Master of the local troop, or maybe a Tenderfoot Scout becoming an Eagle Scout and eventually graduating from the US Naval Academy or West Point.

It happens, but rarely enough to make it special.

DeMolay was founded in 1919, in Kansas City, Missouri, by a man named Frank S. Land. At the end of World War II, Land was concerned with the boys who lost their fathers, in the war. He knew it must be lonely for a boy not to have a man around the house to provide some type of inspiration and direction. Frank created an organization where boys would have the opportunity to associate with other boys, in a place where they could share common interests, learn responsibility and skills that would benefit them throughout their lives. He named it DeMolay after Jacques De Molay http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_De_Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_Templar. (a Masonic organization)

The three men in Pensacola to rise from Senior DeMolay to Worshipful Master in 2011 are:

1. Scott Holland - East Hill Masonic Lodge No.310
2. Larry Algee - West Florida Masonic Lodge No. 210
3. Larry Buck - Myrtle Grove Masonic Lodge No. 352

Scott Holland was in the DeMolay in 1994 and rose to State Master Counselor of Florida of that organization, as well as W.M.: of his Masonic Lodge. He said that the organization helped bring him out of his shell. He watched and learned because he wanted to do what the others were doing. He was able to travel with the organization and learned to speak in front of larger and larger groups. At Pensacola Junior College he took a public speaking class, but

did not really need it. He got an easy A. He became a Mason at 21 and now has two boys who will certainly become DeMolay when they are twelve.

Larry Algee was in DeMolay in 1975. His wife was a Rainbow Girl, which is the girls club modeled after DeMolay, and a Member of the Easter Star, also a Masonic inspired organization, for women. Masonry was a family tradition. His father was a Mason, as well as his grandfather. His six year old will be a DeMolay when he turns twelve. He told the story of his grandfather as a young man, met a young woman at church, and was sitting next to her, when her mother, (Larry's great-grandmother) asked her husband who was sitting with their daughter. The great grandfather replied, "Oh he's alright, I sat with him in Lodge." Larry says that DeMolay helped him focus his interest in Masonic History which led him to a lifetime study of history. His focus on the last few centuries, proved, to him, that the Masonic fraternity's influence on their leaders translated to the traditional values and virtues they passed to him which set the direction for his life.

Larry Buck grew up in Myrtle Grove, and was in DeMolay in the 1960's. He graduated from Escambia High School and was in the Army. I mentioned that it was a rare occurrence for this to happen. Very rare in fact, it has never happened in Myrtle Grove Lodge No. 352. Larry Buck, W.M.: is the first Worshipful Master to also have been a Senior DeMolay. Larry's brother was also a Senior DeMolay and a Mason. His father and grandfather were Masons too, as well as his cousin. Larry heads up the Child ID program for Masonic District 2, and you will find him most Saturday mornings taking photo ID's for school children throughout Pensacola.

The DeMolay have a simple vow: To love and serve God, my country, and my fellow man.

Walt Disney said "I feel a great sense of obligation and gratitude toward the Order of DeMolay for the important part it played in my life. Its precepts have been invaluable in making decisions, facing dilemmas and crises. DeMolay stands for all that is good for the family and for our country. I feel privileged to have enjoyed Membership in DeMolay."

DeMolay is open for Membership to young men be-

tween the ages of 12 to 21, and currently has about 18,000 Members in the United States and Canada and several thousand more worldwide. Founded by a Freemason <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemason>, DeMolay is closely modeled after Freemasonry. If you want information you can contact any of these men. Their email addresses and phone numbers are listed below.

Another distinguished Mason in Pensacola, Michael Yarbrough, has also risen through the Masonic Chairs. What makes him different is that not only was he a Senior DeMolay, and State Master Counselor of Alabama, who rose to Worshipful Master of his Florida Lodge, he is now District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Florida. He is also the son of a Mason, and his son is Scott Holland. Michael said he was a shy 13 year old who gained confidence and speaking skills as a DeMolay, that took him all over the US as well as Europe. Through his associations and Memberships he copied the "Penny Wars" from Junior achievement. It is a fund raiser which gives Lodges points for the pennies they collect, any other coins are counted as negative for points. So it becomes a contest between Lodges to collect the most pennies, or to fill your competitors jars with quarters to have them lose points. They raised \$1200 the first year, and last year raised over \$5,000 for the local Tommy Parker Food Fund for needy families.

All of these men have spent a good portion of their lives in service to their communities. They started their trek as children and are continuing today. They attribute their values and character to DeMolay and Masonry. These organizations serve many purposes, paramount is their charity and service to the local community. If you are interested in helping them, or getting your children started, then contact one of them, in or near your community.

D.D.G.M. Michael Yarbrough Florida Grand Lodge
mail to: ymichael1942@gmail.com • 850-529-4106;
W.M.: Scott Holland - East Hill Lodge No.310
ssdrholland@hotmail.com • 850-529-4105;
W.M.: Larry Algee - West Florida Masonic Lodge No. 210
lwalgee@panhandle.rr.com • 850-968-0468;
W.M.: Larry Buck - Myrtle Grove Masonic Lodge No. 352
pwmbuck@gmail.com • 850-572-1030.

District Deputy Grand Master Visits Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner



Scouts who attained the Scouting Flagship, and the Eagle Scout Awards, in Clay County in 2011.

R.:W.: D.D.G.M. presented to each Eagle Scout a Certificate of Recognition and a Letter from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida, Most Worshipful Jim J Harris.

Also attending this annual event were the Vice Chairman of the Clay County Board of County Commissioners, the Sheriff of Clay County, the Superintendent of Clay County Schools, the Chair of the Clay County School Board, and 225 people.

The presence and support of Scouting by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida was noticed by those in attendance.

Cuff Link Presentation

Presentation of M.M.R.L. cuff links and studs to Bro. Richard Corcoran by Zone 4 Chairman, Gus Green. On the left is W.: Alan Legath from Inglis Lodge.



View us on your Smart Phone...

To submit an article for the next issue of **The Florida Mason**, please contact Larry Scott at Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339, or via email: larry.scott@glflamason.org • The deadline for the Winter Issue is October 14, 2012.

Merritt Island Lodge: Recent Sailors Of The Year Brothers!

Not many people know a US Navy Sailor whom was bestowed with the "Sailor Of The Year" honor. It is a very special award to single out a Sailor in his division whom has been exemplary and forthright (sounds like a Mason, eh?).

Well, Merritt Island Lodge has Raised a couple Brothers over the past five years whom are now real Traveling Masons... traveling as Sailors in our Navy. Merritt Island is very proud of all our current Military Brothers, as well as those who served in the past.

But just recently, two Brothers, Sailors of Merritt Island No. 353 F&A.M. of Florida have been honored with this coveted award of the "Sailor Of The Year".

Brother Zachery Walters received this honor as "Sailor Of The Year" in 2008. Currently, he is Petty Officer First Class Missile Technician, Naval Ordnance Test Unit. He is stationed in Kings Bay, Georgia. Brother James W. "Jamie" Hawkins, son of the Junior Past Master of Merritt Island, just received a similar award for 2011! JSOYT, Brother Hawkins, is Petty Officer Second Class EOD Expeditionary Support Unit. He is stationed in Little Creek VA.

We all salute you Brothers, as great examples of our Craft, and thank you for your part in our freedom.



Brother Jamie Hawkins, SOTY

Brother Zachery Walters, USN

Masonic Brothers From Solomon Lodge No. 20 Bring Home Trophy

Thirty pounds of meat, three different kinds of chili peppers, two kinds of chili powder, a lot of chili expertise, a lawyer and a few Masonic Brothers spent a recent sunny weekend earning a tall trophy. Jim Krause, Federal Contract Attorney of James E. Krause, P.A., joined by Jim Krahn, Michael Lesser, Jack Capra, Terry Allen, Gary Hopkins and George Atkinson of Solomon Lodge No. 20, Free and Accepted Masons, once again took home multiple titles from The Chili Cook-Off on February 4th.

The proud Members of Solomon Lodge defended their "Best Overall" title, also taking home the "Meatiest Chili" and "Best Non-Traditional Chili," three of the four available titles. They competed in the Chili Cook-Off to help raise money for The Missing Link of Jacksonville Inc. The Missing Link provides free legal clinic assistance to survivors of domestic violence.

"I'm proud of the effort from The Jacksonville Bar Association and especially from The Young Lawyers Section," said Krause. "It was a fun day for a great cause." He also noted the recipe may be the true "National Treasure."



Jim Krause, Jim Krahn, Gary Hopkins, and Michael Lesser.

Fun Filled Night At Pace Lodge No. 349



Brother Ricky Sears was presented his Master Mason Apron by W.:M.: Bob Clough.



Brother Statler, retired Navy CUCM spoke after receiving his award.

Great food and fellowship were had the evening in the panhandle of Florida on June 21, 2011.

Brother Ricky Sears was presented his Master Mason Apron by W.:M.: Bob Clough in the dining hall where Brothers, friends and family were present to witness his accomplishment that night. He is justifiably proud of his accomplishment as a Master Mason for completing all his requirements.

During our Lodge Meeting, Brother Bill Statler was presented his 50 year award from R.:H.: Tim Harrell, where he received the proper honors and sincere appreciation from the Craft he has served all these years.

Brother Statler spoke to the Craft after being presented his award and asked all Masons to get involved and be a part of the growth of their Lodge. Brother Statler was a retired Navy CUCM (Master Chief Constructionman). Brother Statler and his son were Masons at Excelsior Lodge No. 441, Jackson, MS, where he was W.:M.: He was initiated Sept 1960, Passed July 1960 and raised Aug 1960. He has a deep love for Masonry and is usually seen at all

Lodge functions, where he is loved and respected by all the Brothers he meets.

After dinner a proper reception was held for D.D.G.M. Adrian Lowndes and his Committeemen, where the Craft received the latest news from the District Committeemen that enlightened and informed us. Then we had the privilege of hearing our Grand Master's goals and plans for the ensuing year through the eloquent words of our D.D.G.M. All in all, an outstanding night for fellowship with the Brothers of Florida.

Boynton Lodge No. 236 F. & A.M. Hosts Guest Speaker, John S. Nagy

On October 1, 2011 "BLERG" organized a great Masonic speaking engagement in which John S. Nagy delivered a wonderful seminar. "BLERG" is the nickname for Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group which consists of Brothers that meet once a month to discuss different Masonic topics, share research papers by its Members and share thoughts in general all the way from Masonic to different Esoteric Philosophies. The group presents at least one research paper or article in our Stated Communications in order to bring further light for the rest of the Craft.

There were over 25 Brothers in attendance, coming from Lodges in Districts 32 and 33. The seminar was scheduled from 9:30A.M. - 3:00P.M. which included a lunch and breaks in between. Dr. Nagy discussed his books "Building Boaz", "Building Athens", "Building Janus" and "Building Hiram". It included information regarding what is behind the veil of the degrees from how to improve ourselves in Masonry all the way to the secret word.

John S. Nagy entered into Freemasonry in 2001. Having been Prepared in his heart for many years before Entering, he quickly embraced the Tenets of Freemasonry and engaged in several Lodge support activities while learning what he could about the Craft. Brother John steadily progressed through the Symbolic Degrees, earned his White Lamb-skin Apron and proceeded to support Lodge Degree activities. He is a perpetual Member of Tampa Bay Lodge No. 252 F. & A.M. and a lifetime Member of the Florida Lodge of Research No. 999 F. & A.M.

Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group is organizing next Masonic Seminar for March 3, 2012, with guest speaker W. Andrew Hammer Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. He will be discussing his book "Observing the Craft: The pursuit of Excellence in Masonic Labour and Observance". For more details please visit www.boyntonlodge236.com or write brian_work@yahoo.com

Six Candidates Initiated At Phoenix Lodge



Jim Krause, Jim Krahn, Gary Hopkins, and Michael Lesser.

These six candidates were Initiated three at a time at the Alter through the Obligation on March 27th, 2012, at the Phoenix Lodge No. 346 at a Called Meeting.

Springs Lodge Mentors Lecanto Middle School



L to R.: W.: Bro Greg Cwik, R.: W.: Bro. Billy B Watkins, and W.: Bro. Walter Johnson.

Springs Lodge No. 378 Mentors who assist Ms. Linda Caldwell, third from left, at Lecanto Middle School, Lecanto, Florida. Pictured here, our Brothers have just emerged from Ginny's Restaurant where they had joined their wives for a non-school day breakfast. The mentors work with Ms. Caldwell's sixth-grade students to assist them over problem areas that they may encounter during the year. The Mentor Program was initiated by R.: W.: Bro Afton Chenoweth in 2004 and, despite being in the Sixth Grade for eight years, these mentors have not been advanced.

Initially there five brothers in the project but two, W.: Bro. David Martin and Brother Powel Thompson, have been called to the Ultimate Grand Master.

In addition to assisting Ms. Caldwell, the mentors collect computers from the citizens of Citrus County, clean them of any personal information of the prior owner, and give the computer to students at the school. In the six years that the program has been in operation, over 150 computers have been given to students and, probably, at least twice that many have been recycled in a safe manner as they were too old or had defects and could not be salvaged. Considering that almost 500 computers were kept out of the land fill, the program can be considered an extremely significant environmental success.

65 Year Certificate



L to R: (front) Brother John Wood, R.: W.: Frank Albinson, (back) W.: Mike Davenport, W.: Joe Goggin and W.: Derl Smith..

On October 15, 2011, Phoenix Lodge No. 346 presented Brother John Wood his 65 Year Certificate and Pin at The Pines of Sarasota. Congratulations to Brother Wood on this wonderful milestone in his Masonic career.

Charity Gold Tournament

Submitted by R.:H.: Steven A. Sagal, Secretary, Boca Delray Lodge No. 171



On September 9, 2011, Boca Delray Lodge held its first charity fund raiser golf tournament to benefit the Wayne Barton Study Center in Boca Raton, Florida.

As a result of these efforts on October 25th, 2011, the Lodge was able to present a check for \$4875.00 to Wayne Barton for the use of the study center which provides a summer educational experience for disadvantaged boys. The Worshipful Master's Message to the Craft follows:

"Congratulations, my Brothers on the donation of \$4,875.00 to the "Wayne Barton Study Center" from our successful golf tournament. These funds are to be targeted for sending children that could not otherwise afford it, to go to summer camp. Wayne will be instituting a challenge to his students in order to qualify for an expense paid summer camp

experience (it will be along the lines of excelling in school). It was an exciting day on Tuesday October 25, 2011, when Boca-Delray Lodge No. 171 was able to stand proud and donate the money from our collective hard work. I can honestly say it was an emotional experience to see our sweat pay off and help others. Wayne had the press there to record the moment. It was fun handing over the oversized check and seeing the children that would be affected by the donation. Thanks again and I challenge every single Member of our Lodge to work hard to make next year's event even more successful. Let's make sure to support next year's Worshipful Master even more than you have this year. We will start planning for next year's event in November."

Donation To Ft. White Community Thrift Shop

On Nov. 21, 2011, Jackie and I make a presentation of the Certificate from MMRL to the Ft. White Community Thrift Shop on Nov. 21, 2011, for their Donation for \$4,000 to MMRL. This donation was made at the Grand Master visit to District 15. It was made by Right Worshipful Donald Kinser and wife Shirley. The President of the Thrift Shop was very pleased with the certificate and stated that they did not often receive any acknowledgement for their donations. I ask them to keep MMRL in mind when they made future donations and was assured they would.



Ft. White Community Thrift Shop Founder Mrs. Betty Bush and Zone 4 Chairman, MMRL Worshipful Gus Green



Ft. White Community Thrift Shop Founder Mrs. Betty Bush (center), Ft. White Community Thrift Shop volunteer Mrs. Sue Blom and Harriette Prescott, Zone 4 Chairman, MMRL W.: Gus Green



MMRL Certificate

Jefferson Davis, New Master Mason

By Ted Barber

On October 12, 2011, at a Called Communication of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, in Brook, Florida. Members of the 10th Masonic Degree Team assisted the Members of Pine Hill Lodge, and Raised Jefferson Davis to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The Degree was Conferred by Brian Poole, the present District Deputy Grand Master. The lecture was delivered by Worshipful Mike Nolan and the Charge was delivered by Worshipful John Paul Mann. Right Honorable Jeff Wood, Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, presented Jefferson Davis with his Lodge Membership Card and also presented Darrell Davis, Past Master of Lawtey Lodge, with his Honorary Membership Card to Pine Hill Lodge No. 9. The Degree brought 27 Master Masons together for an enjoyable evening.



Right Honorable Jeff Wood is presenting Brother Jefferson Davis with his Grand Lodge Certificate as a Master Mason at the Lodge's Stated Communication of November 1, 2011



Front row: Bruce Kirby, Jeff Wood, Jeff Davis, Tom Adams, John McKibben, Ted Barber and Mike Nolan. Back row: Alton Christie, Roger Raulerson, Brian Poole, John Paul Mann and Gene Bertine. Not pictured participants: Roy Weiland and Bobby Rehberg.

Salvation Army Angel Tree Program

Submitted by Howard Knapp



Members of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star Volunteer at the Salvation Army Angel Tree

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge and Ladies from the Gulf Beach Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach, took part in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program at Tyrone Mall. The Angel Tree program is designed to get holiday gifts to needy children in the community. Over twenty five Members of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge took turns to man the Angel Tree booth at the Mall on December 9th. It was a very moving experience for the Masons to see how the community comes together to bring joy to the hearts of children this time of year. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is appreciative of the Salvation Army for allowing them to take part in this worthy program.

Cardiac Research Institute



highly respected cardiology institutes in the world. Proceeds from the Doughnuts for the Heart Challenge will be used to further cardiac research conducted by the MMRL.

W.M.: Don Vargas of Brevard Lodge No. 113 in Cocoa, Florida, presents W. Ben Schwartz, the Zone 5 Chairman for the Cardiac Research Institute (CRI) at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), with a check for \$500. The \$500 "doughnation" provides Brevard Lodge with a Chocolate Dipped sponsorship for the first annual Doughnuts for the Heart Challenge sponsored by The Masters & Wardens Association of the 26th Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida and the Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.. The MMRL is regarded as a world leader and one of the most

Annual Bike Donation

Springs Masonic Lodge No. 378 Free & Accepted Masons donated 14 new bikes to the Homosassa Civic Club who gave them out to needy children for Christmas. Five new bikes were donated to the Homosassa Food Bank and they gave them to homeless people to use for transportation to look for work and to receive food. The bulk of the money raised by the Lodge was from the sale of aluminum cans that were taken to a recycling center and from donations from the Craft. The Lodge has done this for several years and has gained the respect from the local community. The second photo is a photo of one of the needy children receiving a bike at the Christmas party. The first photo shows Richard Hermann on the left and Thomas Bernardo District Deputy of the 19th Masonic District.

Any questions or additional information, Contact Rich Hermann, 352-382-2229



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Masonic

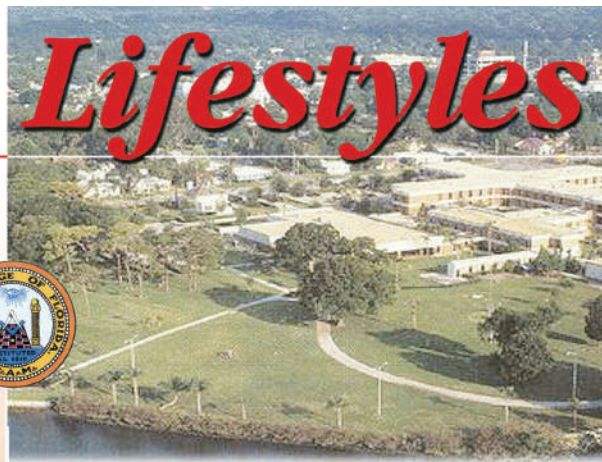
A Joint Publication Of The Grand Lodge of Florida And The Masonic Home

Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou



PILGRIMAGE DAY AND OPENING OF ICE CREAM PARLOR

"I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Ice Cream!"

The beautiful new ice cream shop, appropriately named "What's The Scoop?" is in full swing at the Masonic Home of Florida. First Lady Becky Harris' Masonic Home project was made possible due to her efforts and generous contributions throughout the state. We thank our Grand Master, M.:W.: Jim J Harris and Grand Marshal, Terry Parker for their "hands-on" planning and implementation of this wonderful addition.



L to R: Friends enjoying time together



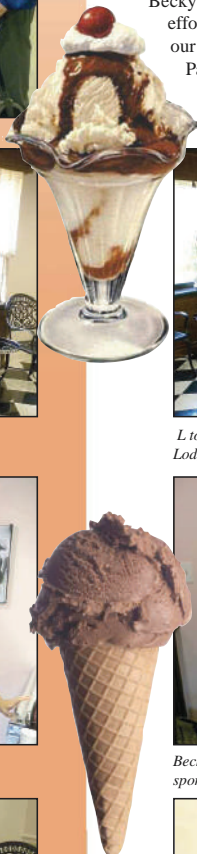
Donna Meketsy & Joe Meketsy, Past Grand Marshal and ice cream "taster volunteer"



L to R: Becky Harris and Dee Parker



L to R: Richard & Virginia Dixon, Residents, sponsored by Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126



L to R: Paul & Audrey Gise, Residents, sponsored by Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385 and First Lady Becky



Becky Harris, First Lady and James "Buck" Raulerson, Resident, sponsored by Dunnellon Lodge No. 136



L to R: Terry Parker, Grand Marshal and M.:W.: Jim J Harris, Grand Master

Continued on page 8



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

Grand Lodge Officers
2011 - 2012

GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: Jim J Harris
(Sebastian)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: J. L. "George" Aladro
(Palm Bay)

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

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: James W. Ford
(Valrico)

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

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

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

Welcome



From Our Administrator

Greetings To All,

It is always a pleasure to bring you warm wishes on behalf of the Residents and staff of the Masonic Home of Florida. So far, 2012 has been jam-packed with activity. In January, we celebrated with our friends from the Grand Court of Florida Order of the Amaranth for their annual Masonic Home

Day. In February and March, we successfully completed two excellent, impromptu inspections conducted by the State of Florida Agency For Health Care Administration. Our staff did an amazing job! We also hosted the annual Pilgrimage Day with lots of food, fun and festivities. We appreciate all of you who attended and made this day wonderful. Without a doubt, the highlight was the dedication of First Lady Becky Harris' Masonic Home project. Her project in-

cluded the addition of the new ice cream and coffee shop and renovation of the gift shop with Corky's Cupboard and the hallway. Everything is beautiful and a special addition which the Residents adore. Her dedication, the hard work and planning provided by the Grand Master and Grand Marshal, along with your generosity have made this possible.

I look forward to the opportunity to visit with you at the Masonic Home Resource Table at your Grand Lodge Communication. Please stop by and let me know your ideas and how the Home can better meet your needs.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the Administrator of your outstanding Masonic Home.

Lisa Tsotsos
Administrator

Continued from page 7

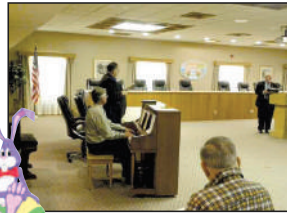
A Look Back...

PILGRIMAGE DAY, OPENING OF ICE CREAM PARLOR & GIFT SHOP



The 25th District's 5th Annual Easter Program featured baskets of presents for the Residents, an Easter Service in the Board Room, a cash Easter Egg Hunt, and whirly-gigs and flags delivered to the Nursing Center Residents! Outside at the Egg Hunt, Resident, Frank Allbright, Palm Bay Lodge No. 397, is being aided by the Members' children who were also there giving a helping hand. Resident and Past Grand Master, Joseph Shurette, from Oleeta-West Lodge No. 145, is shown seated facing the program in the photo.

25th Annual Easter Program



The Ones That Didn't Get Away!

The Residents had a wonderful time in March at the Fishing Trip to Ft. DeSoto State Park.



Resident, Art Bauman, Acacia Lodge No. 335, actually caught a fish by the tail!! Watching the fun is Alyce Kerce, Sanford Lodge No. 62.



Shown with his catch is Guy Wilson, Moore Haven Lodge No. 61.

Annual Christmas Program

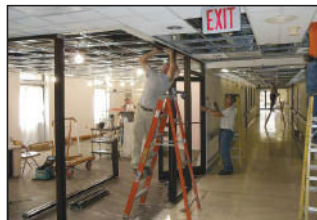
In December, the 33rd District Members sponsored their Annual Christmas Program for the Residents' enjoyment.

Each Resident received "Wish Gifts" that they had requested from "Santa", and they all loved the "Who's On First?" skit, the bell ringers and live singing at dinner!

Residents are enjoying the festivities.



Opening Of The Ice Cream Parlor And The "People Behind The Scenes"



Valentine's Day Party

The 36th District sponsored their Annual Valentine's Party for the Residents in February! The Residents received gift bags and enjoyed the cake and punch.

A special thank you to Mike Truhan, D.D.G.M. who headed up the Valentine's Day Program.



Residents, Tom Cartwright, Punta Gorda Lodge No. 115, and Ruth Settle, Sarasota Lodge No. 147, helped pass out Valentine roses donated by Northside Lodge No. 283, to all the Ladies in the Dining Room!



Seated at the far right, is Deputy Grand Master, George Aladro.

Masonic Home of Florida Wish List

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

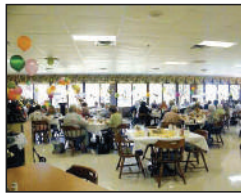
We can still use the following:

- **REFINISHING OF 20 CHAIRS IN RESIDENTS' KITCHENETTES** Approximately \$105 per chair
- **NEW SILK TREES FOR RESIDENT LOBBY AREAS** Approximate cost \$200
- **NEW LARGE WALL DECORATIVE CLOCKS FOR THE LOBBIES AND HALLWAYS** Approximate cost \$100



Annual Volunteer Luncheon

The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April, had the theme, "Volunteers Plant Seeds of Kindness" Resident, Jim Edwards, Brandon Lodge No. 144, opened the Program with a prayer. All the volunteers enjoyed the flower decorations, a wonderful chef salad with edible orchids, French onion soup and bread, and a cheesecake with raspberry sauce. Then they held the prize raffle. Administrator, Lisa Tsotsos, relayed to the group her appreciation for their many contributions. About 65 community, Service Guild and Resident volunteers were in attendance.



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

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

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

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

June 16 & 17 • District 20 & 21 St. Petersburg / Board of Trustees; July 21 & 22 • Board of Trustees; August 18 & 19 • Board of Trustees; September 15 & 16 • Board of Trustees; October 20 & 21 • Board of Trustees / District 34 & 35, Masters & Wardens Association of Dade County "Christmas In October"; November 17 & 18 • Board of Trustees / Orange Blossom No. 80 Dinner; December 15 • 33rd District Annual Resident Christmas Program; December 15 & 16 Board of Trustees

To submit an article for the next issue of *The Florida Mason*, please contact Larry Scott at Grand Lodge, 904-354-2339, or via email: larry.scott@glflamason.org The deadline for the Winter Issue is December 8, 2012.

ADMISSION PLANS

Life Care Plan

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

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

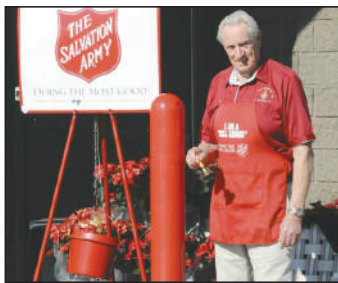


Pay As You Go (Private Pay)

In May of 2005, the Grand Lodge of Florida approved Private Pay admissions for Florida and non-Florida Masons. This plan provides an opportunity for Florida and non-Florida Master Masons and their wives, widows and mothers to retain control of their assets while enjoying all the Masonic Home has to offer. Residents pay a three month deposit and \$3,650* monthly for Assisted Living and \$6,083* monthly for Skilled Nursing care. Most fees and services are included except medication. For couples entering the Masonic Home, the first person pays this monthly fee and the second person fee is \$1,800* monthly. Applicants for Pay As You Go should get in touch with the Masonic Home directly to begin the admission process which can take as little as one week for approval.

*Rates subject to change.

Annual Ringing Of The Bell



The 19th Masonic District has been ringing the bell in Homosassa for several years and they are proud to continue to help the community. This is Mr. Gregory Cwik who is the Past Master of Springs Masonic Lodge No. 378 Free & Accepted Masons. He resides in Sugar Mill Woods, Homosassa.

Leesburg Lodge Helps Community



On December 21st, 2011 Members of Leesburg Masonic Lodge No. 58 F&AM of Florida partnered with officers of the Leesburg Police Department to distribute 75 bicycles to children in our community. In addition to the bicycles, siblings of the bike recipients received either a stuff teddy bear, for the girls, or a basketball or football for the boys. Bike recipients were identified through the cooperation of teachers at local schools.

The event is coordinated by Officer Mike Howard, LPD, who is also a Member of Clermont Masonic Lodge No. 226 in Clermont.

Leesburg Masonic Lodge has been in the Leesburg Community since 1868 and is again proud to contribute to this worthwhile effort of the Leesburg Police Department.



Leesburg Masonic Lodge is also proud of several of its Members who have taken leadership roles in the Leesburg Food Bank. Pictured is W. Richard Ecott, P.M., now one of the corporate Directors, also Brother Russ Jones, who has taken on the job of Assistant Treasurer. Several Brothers of the Lodge weekly volunteer their time and labor to help feed the needy in our community. This past Thanksgiving and Christmas Members of the Lodge help distribute approximately 1,200 dinners.

Ringin In The New Year With Family



Submitted by Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, PDDGM

On New Years Day, over seventy-five (75) Members and friends of Gulf Beach Lodge came out to ring in the New Year with a family breakfast. Also in attendance were the Suncoast Riders Chapter of the Widows Sons of Florida, who recently donated over \$1,500.00 to Gulf Beach Lodge. It was a fantastic way to ring in 2012!



Certificate of Appreciation



Brother Charles Pearson of Hialeah Opa Locka Lodge No. 391 was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation during the March Stated Communication on March 1st, 2012. Brother Pearson (pictured right) has attended every Lodge event and work day (despite being the Officer that lives the furthest from the Lodge) and is a vital part of helping to renovate the Lodge and bring it back to glory. The Worshipful Master Shawn Anderson, was proud to bestow this honor upon the Brother and hopes there are many more of these to issue in the future.

Automated Electronic Defibrillator Donated



At the November 2011 meeting of The Villages Masonic Lodge No. 394, Brother Clyde Kemper (left) donated an Automated Electronic Defibrillator to the Lodge. In attendance were Captain and Brother Gail Lazenby, Training Officer for The Villages Public Safety Department (Center) who demonstrated its use to the 50 Brothers and their wives, and Worshipful Master Tommy Tucker. Brother Clyde is a regular attendee at the Lodge's Stated Communica-

tions and, is a 73 year Member of the Masonic Fraternity.

HOSA And The MMRL – A Great Team!



Early on a recent beautiful Saturday morning in Miami Springs, people from all around the Miami area registered to participate in the "Brain Power Walk", sponsored on October 1, 2011, by the Pilot Club of Miami, a volunteer service organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those with brain-related disorders and disabilities and help prevent traumatic brain injuries. Among the club's Members are four Miami Springs Senior High School students that comprise the "Stroke Awareness Team"; these students represent HOSA (a national organization, Health Occupations Students of America, <http://www.hosa.org>). HOSA's mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. These students, in collaboration with the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory ("MMRL"), the Flagship Charity of the Grand Lodge of Florida, are committed to saving lives through stroke awareness.

As part of their commitment to stroke awareness, the students set up a table, the Stroke Information Center for the Brain Power Walk. These extraordinary young people brought informational diagrams and pamphlets and also answered questions from the approximately 100 registered walkers for this event about the signs, symptoms, causes, and methods for preventing strokes and other circulatory diseases. Cesar Castillo, an active Member of Oleeta West Dade DeMolay chapter and a Member of the Stroke Awareness Team, was quoted, "Through this project we're not only saving lives but showing the people in our community what the MMRL is, representing the Masonic family, and letting people know that the youth really do care." The Stroke Awareness Team had contacted the MMRL, stated their group's objectives and immediately got the attention of Zone 10 Chairman of the MMRL in Florida, Wayne Foote, who did not hesitate to give them a much needed helping hand. In partnership with the MMRL and representing Masonic youth, the students walked alongside the other Brain Power Walkers with a huge "Stroke" banner, illustrating the National HOSA and MMRL logos and spreading the word along the walk's route of their pledge to save lives through stroke awareness. "We have big shoes to fill" said team Member Luis Blanco. "One life saved makes our project a success and, even then, this project knows no boundaries."

After the walk, the Stroke Awareness Team made a presentation for everyone attending the event, introduced by Ms. Liset Icaza, the sponsor of the Miami Springs Senior High School HOSA chapter. The team captured the attention of the audience by asking them "What is a stroke?" followed by a description of hemorrhagic and ischemic stroke. "The most important part of this presentation is the signs, symptoms, and prevention of a stroke" said team Member Yoannis Hermida. After answering audience questions, handing out information and completing their presentation, the team wrapped up by reiterating that they are proud representatives of the MMRL, one of the world leaders in medical research.

Team Member Jaslady Pacheco, a young lady who is helping to start the first DeMolay Sorority local chapter in Florida, stated "We have a purpose and we plan to live out that purpose, with support from the community, to get ourselves known. We will be able to give awareness to far more people than ever before."

If you wish to support to the Stroke Awareness Team, you can find their Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pilot-Club-of-Miami/119147433378>

This team of dedicated young people delivers their message wherever an opportunity to spread awareness arises, and as a result saves the lives of countless of our friends, families and brethren.

A famous quote, often attributed to Benjamin Franklin, summarizes very succinctly the message of this group: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



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60 Year Service Award



Brother Eugene Lester Hunsicker



D.D.G.M. Bob Bryant & 60 year Brother Eugene Lester Hunsicker



Brother Eugene Lester Hunsicker, Bob Bryant & Mrs Hunsicker

Photos taken on Memorial Day when this 60 Year Service Award was presented by D.D.G.M. Bob Bryant to Brother Hunsicker. The photos were presented to the Hunsicker family, who reside in an Assisted Living Center in Rome, Florida.

80 Year Service Award



Brother George Franklin Dukes receives 80 Year Service Award



McMillan to the right of Brother Dukes is a fifty year Mason and nephew of Brother Dukes. He is also a Member of the Hamilton Lodge No. 58. Brother Dukes gave a very eloquent thank you message from the heart. It was a memorable evening for all in attendance.

These photos were taken at the presentation of an 80 year service award to Brother George Franklin Dukes from Hamilton Lodge No. 58 in Sandersville, Georgia. Brother Dukes lives in the Davis Islands area of Tampa and at 102 years is the oldest living attorney in Hillsborough County. Brother Walter

Cabul Lodge Installs 2012 Officers



Ken Sterling, Treas.; and Larry Giggey, Sr. Chap.; Not Shown in the picture is Jerry Beasley, Asst Sec.; and Tom Haber, J.:D.:.

Cabul Lodge No. 116 Installed our 2012 Officers on Dec. 29th 2011.

Brothers Maxwell & King were Raised in May, Brothers Thiele and Beasley were Raised in November, and Brother Haber in December. In all, Cabul Lodge Raised seven Master Masons in 2011.

L to R: Back Row is Jeff Maxwell, S.:D.:; Raphard Hickox, Treas.; Matt King, J.:D.:; James Anderson Mar., Marvin Thiele, S.S.; and Donald Warner, Sec.
The Front Row: L to R: Billy Gould, S.:W.:; Bill Cruce W.:M.:; Bill Autro, J.:W.:.

120th Installation Ceremony



L to R: R.:W.: S. D. "Don" Zolonz, Robert F. See, R.:W.: David Lane, R.:W.: Kenneth Croft

Submitted by Robert F. See, Worshipful Master Branford Lodge No. 130 F&AM

On the evening of January 7, 2012, Branford Lodge No. 130 F&AM, held its 120th Installation. This installation of Officers was unique in the fact that the Installing Officer, R.:W.: David Lane, PDDGM of the 9th Masonic District, Installing Marshal, R.:W.: S. D. "Don" Zolonz, PDDGM of the Old 27th Masonic District, Installing Chaplin, R.:W.: Kenneth Croft, PDDGM of the 9th Masonic District and Worshipful Master, Robert F. See are not only Masonic Brothers, but also "Telephone Company Brothers". They had all worked at one time for the Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company in various locations in South Florida.

Brother See came up with the idea that he wanted to be installed by his former fellow employees. R.:W.: Wyatt Clark, D.D.G.M. of the 9th Masonic District, gave him permission to proceed with the installation. Unfortunately, R.:W.: Clark was unable to attend, because he was Installing Officer at Wellborn Lodge No. 13 that was holding their installation the same evening.

All of the Installing Officers are retired from Southern Bell. Robert still works for BellSouth - AT&T, but is planning to retire in April, 2012 after 38 years of service.

South Miami Lodge Assists In Honoring Fallen Heroes



South Miami Lodge No. 308 Past Masters, W. Felipe Perez and R.:W.: Joseph Fleites, assist the Miami-Dade County Police Department in the creation and installation of a memorial honoring two fallen Police Officers, who lost their lives in the line of duty on January 20, 2011. Officers Amanda Haworth and Roger Castillo were killed while trying to serve a warrant. It was a Distinct honor for these two Brothers to assist the Miami-Dade Police Department in honoring two fallen heroes of our community.

Pine Hill Lodge Takes Ga. Gavel



L to R: W.:M.: Ted Barber, Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, W.:M.: John Paul Mann, Sandersn Lodge No. 122 and S.W Preston Davis, Sandersn Lodge No. 122

Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 takes Georgia Traveling Gavel from Sandersn Lodge No. 122, January 12, 2012.

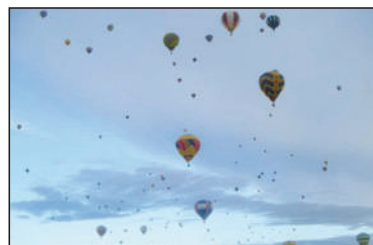
Pine Hill Lodge Takes "Friendly 10" Gavel



Pictured: Otis Tetson, Bob Holder, Roscoe Cruce, Arley Roe, Bob Haines, Ted Barber, W.:M.: Ted Barber, Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Bruce Kirby, Gene Bertine, W.:M.: Clethan Johns, Raiford Lodge No. 82 and Jeff Davis.

Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 takes "Friendly 10" Masonic District Traveling Gavel from Raiford Lodge January 17, 2012.

Hop Onboard The 2012 Masonic RV Tour



Masonic RV Tours just concluded for 2011. We had a wonderful summer and fall. The 35 days on the Alaska caravan began in Dawson Creek with an elk roast dinner provided by Peace Lodge No. 126. Three days later we attended a buffalo barbeque/cook-out provided by Ft Nelson Lodge No. 179. In Fairbanks we toured the city by bus, visiting museums, the oil pipeline and a working goldmine. We saw whales, seals and otters, bumped into icebergs, watched glaciers calve and ate gourmet meals between scenic drives that included knocking bears off the roadway. Joe and Gwen Williams actually had one bounce off the front of their coach (no injury or damage). Several travelers said "what a day --- it can't get any better", then said it again the next day and the next. Jim L Furhman, (National President of NCT) and Charlie Ladd went 4 wheeling and cut diamond willow walking sticks for all of us in the outback of the Yukon. We saw them selling for \$200 in shops along the AICan Highway. Take a look at Salmon Glacier in the photo top left.

On the Western National Parks tour, we enjoyed great weather and beautiful scenery along both sides of the Rockies. We crossed

the Continental Divide numerous times and exceeded 10,000 feet in several places affording views of over 300 miles. We drove alongside buffalo, mountain goats, wolves, elk and caribou in and out of several parks. We visited Lodges and OES Chapters in several places. In Albuquerque, NM, Ballut Abiyad Shrine Center hosted us in grand style. They fed us well, bussed us to surrounding events, and guided us through the maze of the Balloon Fiesta. Cameras couldn't record the awesome mass ascension of 700 plus balloons; it must be experienced in person. The "glow" the prior night really can't be understood without being there. We will continue to work with the Shrine Center there for future Balloon Fiestas.

If you are interested in a Masonic RV Tour, visit www.masonicRVtours.com or call me, John Lehmann 386 984-6070 or best yet email me jonjun@gmail.com. We tour Nova Scotia 26 days beginning 27 June 2012.

Grand Master Installs Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge Officers For 2012



2012 Installed Officers



2012 Installing Officers



M. Fernando Salazar, Worshipful Master;



Honor Guard from Sunshine Commandery No. 20 in St. Petersburg.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. Madeira Beach, held its 62nd Annual Installation of Lodge Officers on January 7th, at the Masonic Temple. The Grand Master of Masons for the State of Florida, Most Worshipful Jim J. Harris, officiated the Installation with the assistance of Right Worshipful Chas Jordan, District Deputy Grand Master of the 21st Masonic District as Installing Marshal, Worshipful Donald Harriott as Installing Chaplain and Worshipful Bob Davidson as Installing Organist. The Installation of the 2012 Lodge Officers was open to the Members and public alike. The new Lodge Officers for 2012 are: M. Fernando Salazar, Worshipful Master; John Anthony, Senior Warden; Ismael Montes, Junior Warden; Howard Knapp, Secretary; David Webster, Treasurer; Michael Pagnotta, Senior Deacon; Travis Palladeno, Junior Deacon; Steve Nelson, Senior Steward; Carl Moore, Junior Steward; Allen Godfrey, Chaplain; Pete Bengston, Marshal; Jonathan Ferguson, Tyler; Matt Ness and Steve Fetherman, Conductors and Ed Pinkham, Musician.

Assisting in the Installation was Worshipful Ed Smoak on bagpipes, and the Honor Guard from Sunshine Commandery No. 20 in St. Petersburg.

Forty Eight Masons Enjoy First-Ever Table Lodge



Forty Eight Masons, including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons from as far away as England and Canada enjoyed the first ever Table Lodge at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 on Thursday evening December 29th, in honor of St. John's Day. The attendees enjoyed a wonderful ham dinner prepared by the Junior Warden, John Anthony. The evening was complete with traditional toasts, responses, songs, and topped off by the Guest Speaker R.:W.: Robert D.C. Taylor from Newfoundland. Special thank you to Nitram Lodge for allowing us the use of their tables. This event was so well received it will likely be repeated in the future.



Suncoast Riders Present Donation to Gulf Beach Lodge Master Elect, Fernando Salazar



L to R: Derryl O'Neal, Tom Doty, Buck Owens, Steve Nelson, John Anthony, Jeff Burger and Fernando Salazar

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach, recently received \$1,545.00 in donations from the Suncoast Riders Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. The Suncoast Riders are all Freemasons who love riding their motorcycles, as well as putting on fund raisers to support charitable work in the community. Information on their Chapter can be found at the following web address www.suncoastriders.com

Sarasota Installation Of Officers

The newly Installed Officers of Sarasota Lodge No. 147



Front row L to R: Brothers Andrew Glucov Sr. Stewart, Domino Villino Sr. Deacon, Juan DeLaRosa Sr. Warden, Jim Gillett Worshipful Master, Damian Ostermeyer, Jr. Warden, William Merritt Chaplain, Marcos Romero Sr. Steward. Back row L to R: Daniel Tibbets Asst. Tyler, William Peterson Sr. Tyler, Jeffrey Lawrence Jr. Deacon, W. Norman Cyphers Treasurer, Al Doane, Marshall. Not pictured R.:W.: Bill Burris Secretary.

Sarasota Lodge No. 147 F.&A.M. held their Annual Installation of Officers on January 6, 2012. Approximately 150 Members and guests attended the festive evening which signalled a new year of service by the Lodge to the Sarasota Community.

District 27 Child I.D. Program Receives Allstate Foundation Grant

January 24, 2012 - Sarasota, FL - The Florida Masonic District 27 Child ID Program has been awarded an Allstate Insurance Foundation Hands Around The Community Grant. The award of \$1,000 is sponsored by Allstate and was presented on January 24, 2012, at Phoenix Lodge No. 346 Free and Accepted Masons by Junior Steward Mark Tishman, who is an Allstate Financial Services Specialist and the owner of Pacific Rim Insurance and Financial Services in Sarasota. Each year, the Allstate Foundation awards more than \$2 Million in grants to community service organizations in which partner agents are involved. One of this year's local recipients is The Florida Masonic District 27 Child ID Program



L to R: W.: Joe Reynolds, Brother Mark Tishman and R.:W.: Gene Jeffers receiving \$1,000 check from Allstate Foundation for 27th Masonic District's Child ID Program

65 Year Mason And Installation



Worshipful Brother George Wright received his 65 Year Certificate, shown here with his wife Beth

Submitted by Gary Stengl, PM, Ribault Lodge No 272, Jacksonville Beach

On Saturday, January 7, Shawn Moonen, the new Worshipful Master of Ribault Lodge 272 was installed by his Dad, W. Hal Fetterolf. The installation followed an excellent dinner which was concluded with a slice of homemade cake prepared by R.:W.: Charlie Irl's daughter, Carla.

Then, at his First Stated Communication on January 10th, our new W.:M.: Shawn welcomed the 12th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.: Frank Kleese for his official visit.

On January 17th, the Lodge Initiated five new Brothers at a Called Communication.

On January 19th, Worshipful Shawn and nine Ribault Brothers visited Fargis Lodge 356 to retrieve our Traveling Gavel.

On January 24th, in open session prior to our Stated Communication, the Lodge had the privilege of presenting a 65-year certificate and pin on behalf of the Grand Lodge of New York to Worshipful Brother George Wright in the presence of his wife, Beth, and a group of family and friends. Worshipful George is a Member of Farmers Lodge 553 in Edmeston, NY.

On January 25th, Ribault hosted the 11th and 12th Masonic Association meeting preceded by a good dinner for all. This as usual proved to be a great time of fellowship for Brothers from many area Lodges.

Then, to top off the month, at a Called Communication on January 31st, the Lodge passed two Ribault Brothers along with a courtesy candidate from Arlington Lodge 309 to the Fellow Craft Degree.

This was, indeed, a month to remember.



Brother Shawn Moore Installed by his father, W. Hal Fetterolf

Brother Gavagan Receives 40 Year Pin From Granddaughter



Bro. Tom Gavagan receives his 40 Year Pin from his granddaughter, Sophia Gavagan-Long, at Fellowship Lodge in Tampa, FL. W.:M.: Steve Plotz presided over the pin ceremony.

Phoenix Lodge Off To Great Start



Sarasota, FL, Jan. 3, 2012 - Phoenix Lodge No. 346 is off to a Great Start! - Chartered for no more than a year, Phoenix Lodge No. 346 had no preconceptions on how many might attend their dinner and Installation of Officers. The Lodge itself is a result of a consolidation of two Lodges in District 27: Cary B. Fish No. 346 and The Builders No. 376.

Newly installed Master, Dutch Neihart estimates that 128 people came to eat and several more folks attended the Installation that forwent a wild game dinner. The menu that evening included striped sea bass, Atlantic cod, and marinated venison.

Installed by R.: H.: Aubrey Cross, PDI, Worshipful Neihart's Key Message to Phoenix Lodge No. 346 was that he endeavors to find his Lodge a permanent home. The Lodge currently meets in the Scottish Rite Building on South Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota.

Bradford Lodge Takes Two Traveling Gavels

Worshipful Charles Browning, Master of Bradford Lodge No. 35 and 12 other Members of Bradford Lodge came in force Tuesday, February 7, 2012, to Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 in Brookier, Florida to get the Georgia and the "Friendly" 10th Traveling Gavels. The addition of Bradford Members Tuesday evening made the Stated Meeting in Brookier very enjoyable by everyone! The visitors got to see the new chair lift donated by Worshipful Mike Basham and presently stored in the Pine Hill Lodge dining room.



Ted Barber Jr. and Gerald "Buddy" Guynn together with Ted Barber Sr. are about to dismount the Lodge chair lift and secure it in the Lodge dining room.



Charles Browning, Worshipful Master of Bradford Lodge No. 35, accepting the two traveling gavels from Ted Barber, Worshipful Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9.



L to R: Buel "Rocky" Hudson, Charles Browning, Ted Barber, and Brian Sutton.

Back rows L to R David Duffy, Jeff Oddy, Scott Roberts, Mark Griffith, Frank Camacho, Ron Raliff, George Roberts, and Ernest Beeman.

Hillsborough Hosts Family Night



On January 31, 2012, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F&A.M. hosted a Family Night at the Lodge, and presented Miss Leigh Dittman with the Joseph Moore Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award and a contribution to her foundation. W.: Moore was the First Master of Hillsborough Lodge in 1850, and a leader in the cause of our honorable fraternity. Miss Dittman was accompanied by her father, Noble Brother David Dittman. The Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 will continue to support Leigh Dittman and her cause to provide relief for children who are in need through the Shriners Hospitals.

Hillsborough Honors Mr. Knafla



Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F&A.M. had the pleasure and honor of conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree on January 17, 2012, for Mr. Jesse James Knafla, a long-standing Member of the Paul Revere Chapter of DeMolay. To commemorate this evening, all of the officer chairs were occupied by Brothers who have been recognized and distinguished

as Members of the Legion of Honor: Brother John Hillyer, IV, LOH (Junior Deacon), Brother Jerry Meguiar, LOH (Marshall), Brother Jody Meguiar, LOH (Senior Steward), R.: W.: Sam Pesola, LOH (Senior Deacon), Brother Bill Cobb, LOH and Personal Representative to the Executive Office (Junior Steward), R.: W.: C. Don Prosser, LOH (Senior Warden), R.: H.: Tom Newton, LOH (Presiding Master), R.: W.: Stephen Jacobson, LOH (Junior Warden), and W.: Willie Jones, LOH (Chaplain, Lecture, and Charge).




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Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

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

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

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Boynton Lodge No. 236 Hosts Guest Speaker Hammer

On March, 3 2012 "BLERG" organized a great Masonic speaking engagement in which W.: Andrew Hammer delivered a wonderful seminar at Boynton Lodge No. 236 F&A.M. of Florida. "BLERG" is the nickname for Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group which consists of Brothers that meet once a month to discuss different Masonic topics, share research papers by its Members and share thoughts in general all the way from Masonic to different Esoteric philosophies. The group presents at least one research paper or article in our Stated Communications in order to bring further light for the rest of the Craft.

There were over 40 Brothers in attendance, coming from Lodges in Districts 32, 33 and others as well as the splendid visit of Most Worshipful Jim J. Harris. The seminar was scheduled from 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. which included a lunch and breaks in between. W.: Andrew Hammer discussed "Observing the Craft" and most importantly the pursuit of excellence in everything that is performed in the Craft Lodge. He also discussed with much enthusiasm what Masonry is and is not including the different distractions within it.

W.: Andrew Hammer, Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, "Observing the Craft" calls for a reverent and philosophically serious approach to the practice of Freemasonry. It is a stringent argument for the Symbolic Lodge as being the whole of Masonry, calling for nothing but the utmost effort and commitment to be put into the operation of a Masonic Lodge and its meetings. He is a Royal Arch Mason, a Scottish Rite Mason and a Member of the Allied Masonic Degrees. Additionally, he is a Member of the Philaethes Society and the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle. He is on the Executive Committee of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and on the Board of Directors for the Masonic Society.

Some of the comments of the Brethren whom attended were as follows:

Brother Thomas Wotherspoon: "Having attended two lectures arranged by the Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group, I realized there is much more to Freemasonry than most Brothers realize. The last lecture by Worshipful Andrew Hammer explained much of the history and customs of our Craft, particularly what it means to be an observant Lodge. It was truly enlightening, and I believe will encourage Lodges to adopt practices that will restore the original ideals of Freemasonry. "BLERG" lectures peel back the layers of the onion, revealing the truth behind our Craft. And isn't that further light what every Brother is really seeking?"

W.: Robert C. Mandell: "Attending W. Andrew Hammer's seminar at Boynton Lodge No. 236 was one of the most enlightening educational experiences of my Masonic career. Most Brothers share a significant number of concerns with regard to the direction Masonry has taken but have been hesitant to discuss them among their Brothers both inside and outside of Lodge. W.: Bro. Hammer brought many of these items to the forefront. The ease of entry into the Fraternity, the mundane nature of many of our meetings and the distractions offered by many of our Appendant Bodies for both our time and money were some of the subjects touched on at his seminar. In general W.: Bro. Hammer expressed the necessity of Blue Lodges to become more "Observant" and return to the root of what has made Masonry great over nearly the past three hundred years."

Brother Scott Schwartzberg: "I believe that this event is the most important that I have so far attended, as I think that his book, Observing the Craft, is one of the most important books that I've ever read. This presentation helped to clarify in my mind both what we are doing wrong, and more importantly, what we are doing right in our Lodge. By being aware of what we need to focus on, the negative aspects can be minimized, and the positives can be multiplied, with the end result being a Lodge that is that much better than before. Although I did not know it prior to reading this book, an Observant Lodge is what I was seeking to join when I knocked at the doors of Freemasonry."

Boynton Lodge Esoteric Research Group is organizing the next Masonic Seminar for September 8th with the speaker coming from Scotland Brother Robert Cooper discussing, *Cracking the Freemason's Code: The Truth About Solomon's Key and the Brotherhood*, *The Red Triangle - A brief history of Masonophobia*, *The Masonic Magician: The Life and Death of Count Cagliostro and His Egyptian Rite* and more. For more details please visit www.boyntonlodge236.com or write brian_work@yahoo.com.

Jim Harris, M.W.G.M., Installs Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126



M.: W.: Jim J. Harris, M.W.G.M., Installing Officers, right; and Pete Silva, new M.: W.: of Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126, on the left.



Worshipful Master Pete Silva (in center of 1st row), and the newly installed officers of Albert J. Russell Lodge, with M.: W.: Grand Master Jim J. Harris, M.W.G.M. of Florida (center, back row), and the Installing Officers and other Grand Lodge Officers present for the Installation. A very good time was enjoyed by all.



M.: W.: Jim J. Harris and W.: Andrew Hammer



Brother Scott Schwartzberg, M.: W.: Jim J. Harris, Worshipful Master Brad Partridge and Brother Brian Work

Mozart Piano Competition

Alpha Lodge No. 172, Free and Accepted Masons along with the Okaloosa Music Teachers Association sponsored the 10th Annual Mozart Piano Competition on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at St Simons on the Sound Episcopal Church.

Thirty-seven (37) young musicians from Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton and Okaloosa Counties in four different age groups compete for ribbons and cash prizes by playing an assigned piece by Mozart on the piano. The musicians range in age from 7 to 18 years. Cash prizes range from \$100 to \$500 depending upon the age group. Over the past ten years, Alpha Lodge has provided over \$15,000 in prize money. The winners by age group are shown in the photos.



Primary, Mia Tran



Elementary, Corey Chung



Junior, Sydney Chung (presenter, Eugene Barnes, Competition Chair)



Senior, Olivia Strom (presenter, John M. Lewis)



Intermediate, Geoffrey Stemen (presenter, John M. Lewis, District Deputy Grand Master, 3rd Masonic District of Florida)



The Masons of Alpha Lodge. L to R: Fred Pryor; Dennis Barbarissi, J.: W.: David Gaillard; Bob Senft, S.W.; Ben Gaillard; Al Taylor; Eugene Barnes, Competition Chair; Bob Mittler; Bob Burton, W.: M.: John Lewis, D.D.G.M. Dist 3.

Trapshoot to Benefit Scholarship Fund



L-R: Shawn Rae, Andy Kotsaftis, David Webster, Fernando Salazar, Oscar Salazar and Marc Apgar

The Suncoast Masters and Wardens held their annual Trapshoot at Skyway Trap and Skeet, benefiting their scholarship fund. Many Masons from Lodges far and near came with their families and friends and participated or watched in support.

Congratulations to the Brothers of Gulf Beach Lodge who participated and helped get 1st prize!

Particularly a big thanks to W.: David Brown, W.: Shawn Rae, W.: Tom Willmot, Brother Andy Kotsaftis and Brother Roger Tune whose very high scores secured 1st place.

Also participating from Gulf Beach Lodge were: W.: Fernando Salazar, Brother Marc Apgar, Brother Nelson Bradbury, W.: David Webster with his son and daughter in law, Brother Oscar Salazar, and Di Brown.

Brother Andy Kotsaftis also won individual 1st place in division 3.

A great time was had by all!

40 Year Award Presented



L to R: W.: M.: Roger Neihart, Miller and presenter R.: W.: Frank Albinson

John J. Miller received his 40 Year Award Tuesday, April 17th at the Phoenix Lodge No. 346.

The Florida Mason

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

Volume 5, Issue 1



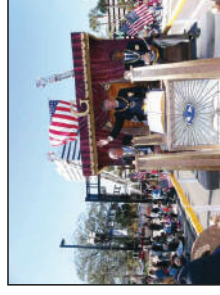
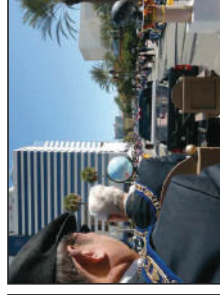
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Welcome to the Grand Lodge of Florida



Masonic Float in Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade



The Grand Lodge F&A.M. of Florida sponsored a large, beautiful float in the Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2011.

The float was laid out as a Lodge room, allowing places for several Lodge Officers and Brothers to sit, as in a Masonic meeting. The float carried some ten Brothers from the Times Union Building through downtown to the Everbank Field Stadium.

Shown here was the float along the city parade route, and at the end of the parade in front of Everbank Field.

Among those Brothers seen riding on the float, were: M.: W.:

Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, F&A.M. of Florida; R.: W.: Raymond M. Alt, P.D.D.G.M., Grand Sword Bearer; R.: W.: Rudy J. Boatright, P.D.D.G.M., Past Grand Tyler; R. H. Corey D. Kosciuszko, D.L., 12th Masonic District; Ronald Smith, W.: M.: of Orange Park Lodge No. 267; Jason C. Cowart, W.: M.: of William B. Barnett Lodge No. 187; and George Thompson.

The float was towed by Charles "Bob" Cooper, P.M., Arlington Lodge No. 309, in his pickup truck.



"The Best Leadership Is By Example"