

The Florida Mason



Grand Lodge of Florida

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www.glfmason.org

Grand Lodge Officers 2013 - 2014

GRAND MASTER

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

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

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

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

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

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

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

GRAND TREASURER

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

GRAND SECRETARY

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

All submissions for future issues
of *The Florida Mason*
and

E-News submissions should be
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A Message From The Grand Master



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

Brethren,

As my year serving as your Grand Master comes to a close, I cannot adequately express how grateful I am to you for giving me this opportunity to serve our Great Fraternity. It has been truly a blessed experience.

I have met some of the finest men and ladies throughout the State who have served as an inspiration to me and have become dear friends.

As you all know, **"Together We Can Accomplish Anything"** has been my motto this year. I chose this saying because it has proven true throughout my life. To be successful in life, one must seek the help of others and I have always sought the expertise of others when difficult decisions must

be made. The personnel I have selected to fill the many positions required to operate this Fraternity were all selected for their inane talents which I have used many times to help me serve your needs. Thanks to you all!

My goal this year was to alleviate some of the animosity which has existed between the Craft and the Grand Lodge over the years. I think that we have made great strides in this endeavor, however we still have a ways to go and I'm sure that those who follow me will continue to gain your support.

I have really enjoyed my reign as your Grand Master and I will forever be thankful to you all for your support.

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



"Together We Can Accomplish Anything"

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master



R.: W.: James W. Ford,
Deputy Grand Master

Brethren:

It is my hope this message finds everyone healthy and blessed. I want to thank you for your continued support of the Grand Lodge of Florida and the Masonic Home. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve you as your Deputy Grand Master, and meet so many fine Masons from around our great State. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I have observed that it is because of you, the members of our Great Fraternity, that our Masonic Home is one of the finest facilities in the nation. The care

given to our Residents is second to none.

I anticipate everyone is getting ready for our Annual Grand Lodge session and reviewing the legislation that will be presented. I am looking forward to the new Grand Lodge year with positive thoughts and great anticipation. At this Grand Lodge session, we will elect the Grand Lodge Officers and present programs that with your support and input will enhance and lead our great Fraternity into the future.

Many legislative meetings have been held around the State. The Brothers attending those meetings are asking excellent questions and the interaction is appreciated. It is inspiring to see this participation from the Craft. I can't stress enough how important it is for all Brothers to be involved.

In my travels around the state, I have found the Brothers to be

very supportive and eager to assist in any way they can. So I ask every Brother to participate and get involved in the operation of your Lodge and District. Masonry has been around for hundreds of years but we shouldn't take anything for granted. The Brothers that served this great Fraternity before us passed the gavel and it is up to each of us to take part. Every Brother has something to offer his Lodge and District and each one of us needs to discover that area that you personally enjoy. Be active, we are all Masons and this is our time to shape our destiny not for just tomorrow but for years to come.

I want to thank every Brother that attended Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home. We enjoyed a great turnout and had a fun filled day with the car show, games for the kids, talent show and so much more, look for next year's date and make plans to attend.

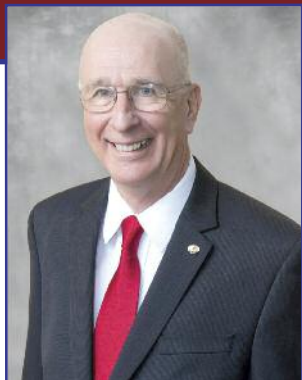
Our Grand Master, M.: W.: Danny Griffith and Lady Betsy should be very proud of their accomplishments during this year. Truly I have been honored to be a part of their lives and labors.

I look forward to our visitations to your Districts, it is a time to see old friends and make new ones, and it's also a time to interact personally with you the membership and exchange thoughts and information.

God bless you all, our Fraternity, our service men and women wherever they serve, and this great Country of ours, the United States of America.

Fraternally,
R.: W.: James W. Ford,
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden



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

My Brothers;

We are fast approaching our Grand Lodge Communication, if you are an Officer of your Lodge it is very important that you attend. By the time this message reaches you, the Officers of the Lodge should have attended at least one Legislation Meeting in your respective Zone, where the various Resolutions were introduced and discussed. The Resolutions will be presented and voted on; possibly changing

your Lodge in some ways. As Lodge Officers, you have the honor and responsibility to represent your Lodge and to vote for or against all Legislation presented and report to your Brethren after the Communication.

Brothers, the Masons living today have enjoyed a long rich Masonic History because of those hard working Brothers that served before us. Today we face challenges but not any more difficult than years ago. I truly believe the Brothers today are just as eager and willing as our forefathers and in some cases even more so. Today, however, because of our environment and way of life, we are often too impatient. There is no way to achieve instant solutions or results without hard work. My Brothers, the Officers of the Lodges cannot create a successful and prosperous Lodge without your help.

It takes every Brother in your Lodge to truly have a good, well run and productive Lodge. Your Lodge should be pleasing in appearance and a showplace in your community. How can we expect to attract new Brothers

or the public to attend open meetings when our house or Temple is in disrepair?

We need Brothers for much more than just our Ritual Work in the Lodge. We need Brothers with the time to visit our sick and distressed, check on our deceased Brothers' widows, to mentor our new Brothers, to assist the Worshipful Master and Lodge officers, to assist in the fund raisers from conception to completion, that have the talents in announcing events to help get the message of Masonry to the world and much more. We need Brothers that are willing to be Brothers.

My Brothers, this is our Fraternity, yours and mine. It's our Fraternity to work and prosper so we can pass it on unimpaired to the next generation. It's also our Fraternity to lose. Together we must do everything possible to continue a great tradition and way of life for those fortunate enough to become part of our family.

Lastly, my Brothers, we, as Grand Lodge Officers, are very interested in your opinions and comments, please let us know.

Thank you, once again, for allowing me to serve this great Fraternity as your Senior Grand Warden. It is a memory and labor of love that will be with me for life.

Fraternally;
R.: W.: Steven P. Boring
Senior Grand Warden

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

A Message From The South

My Brothers,

Where has this past year gone? It seems like only yesterday that I was installed as your Junior Grand Warden. This year I have had the pleasure of meeting and discussing many things with Brothers from all areas of our state. Now, as our Grand Lodge Communication is close at hand, I urge each of you to inform yourself about the many pieces of legislation that will be presented. Knowledge is power and you, my brothers, have the power to launch our fraternity into the future. Lead into the future, or confine us to the past. The choice is yours.

Many times people vote on important issues based upon personal feelings rather than evaluating what is best for the craft as a whole. Often a good piece of legislation that would benefit all, the craft is voted down due to misunderstandings or personal issues. This year we have several very important pieces of legislation that I feel deserve your special attention.

First; Our Masonic Home. We need to move the operations of the Masonic Home into the future by having a longer term for the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Can you imagine having a new boss at work every year? Passing this legislation would give more of the day to day decision making to the Board of Trustees and would enable our Administrator and her Staff to have more continuity in the operations of our home. Upgrading our current operating procedures would benefit the craft and more importantly our wonderful residents. Our Masonic Home is our obligation, let's do what is best for the future of the home.

Second; Our per-capita tax. This past year I was required to cut many programs and services from our budget due to lack of funding. These programs and services were all beneficial to the craft, but can no longer be funded. Also, staff positions have been eliminated at the Grand Lodge office. Services will continue to be cut and it will be necessary to charge fees for many things that were previously provided to you for no charge. We have a very efficient staff and we need to support them in their efforts to serve you the brothers.

In conclusion, I urge each of you to carefully consider all the legislation presented this year. Think about what is best for the craft as a whole. And most importantly, remember that the future of your Grand Lodge depends upon the will of the craft. Come and Vote!

I look forward to continue to serve all the Brothers of Florida. If I have not had the opportunity to meet you face to face and shake your hand, please give me that opportunity soon! Let us join our efforts to lead into the future.

Faternally,

Steven P. Boring, Senior Grand Warden

Sincerely and Fraternally,

R. W. Stanley L. Hudson (Stan)
Junior Grand Warden



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

A Message From The Grand Secretary

While preparing for the 185th Annual Grand Communication of Grand Lodge the Grand Lodge Officers and Staff are working diligently to assure everything runs smoothly.

This year has proven to be busy yet successful. The Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, and I decided not to travel around the state to present the Secretaries and Treasurers Seminar; we found that 3 or 4 hours was just not sufficient time to do a full presentation. We did, however, host a Secretaries and Treasurers Seminar weekend in Orange Park on March 21st through the 22nd. Attended by more than 122 Brothers, it proved to be a successful event. In attendance was a combined over 440 years of Secretary's experience and service. The weekend started with dinner on Friday night attended by most of the Brothers and their ladies.

Saturday Morning began with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. A welcome from our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Danny R. Griffith, was followed by a full day of presentations. Lunch was provided by the Brothers of Albert J. Russell Lodge No. 126 concluding around 4:00 p.m. On Sunday our Technology Committee was on hand to assist the Secretaries with any portal problems they may have been experiencing. Breakfast and a Church Service was presented by Worshipful Sam Bennett, Past Master of Solomon Lodge No. 20.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all of the Brothers for taking a weekend out of their lives and traveling to Jacksonville to attend this Seminar.

Thank you for all the assistance to the following without whom the

event would not have been a success:

Orange Park Lodge No.267 hosted the event; Right Worshipful Jeff Foster, D.D.G.M. and Secretary, was on hand whenever needed for setup during the activities and for breakdown. Additionally, Right Worshipful Foster arranged the hotel accommodations for the Brothers needing to stay overnight. Right Worshipful Raymond Ali was on hand Friday Night and Saturday assisting with the preparation and serving of meals. The Rainbow Girls from Jacksonville Assembly No. 21 served our meals and cleaned up following. They even assisted in directing the parking.

The Following Brothers made presentations and are to be thanked for their devotion and dedication: R. W. Roger McKay: Secretary's How to Guide; M. W. Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer; R. W. Jeff Foster and Bro. Rob Alexander: Wills and Gifts, R. W. Stephen R. Gladstone, General Counsel: "It's The Law"; and M. W. Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary, and R. W. Patrick F. Farrell, Chairman of the Technology Committee, proposed a new program.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Secretary and for serving with a fine line of Grand Lodge Officers you have elected. They are caring, dedicated men and Masons.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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



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

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,

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

We as Florida Masons can certainly be proud of a beautiful Chapel which can only add to the lifestyle, comfort and pleasure of our Masonic Home Residents.

As we traveled the state this year we met and talked with hundreds of Brothers and we kept hearing the same good news from many Lodges, that they were seeing an increase in candidates. Some of these Lodges had not initiated any candidates in a year or more, but were now receiving petitions. And not only are they initiating new Brothers, many of the Brothers are young men who are becoming active in the Lodges and will be the continuing lifeblood of our Fraternity. In many areas in the state the Lodges are having great success with programs that reach out to the com-

munities and get Masonry into the public view to show who we really are and what we are all about. We can no longer be content to sit behind our tyed doors and expect new prospects to come to us, but we must advertise Masonry and the best advertisement we have is each individual Brother. Therefore, we must always remember that if we are to be that advertisement, and in many cases be the first impression of Masonry, it is imperative that we always walk and act as such.

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

Once again, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Treasurer and work with a great line of Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Lodge Staff and you, the Craft, all over this great state. What a great opportunity to be able to give a little back to a great Fraternity and the Craft that is so important to us all.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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

A Message From The First Lady Of Masons In Florida



***Betsy Griffith
First Lady of Masons
in Florida***

I am glad I have this opportunity to show my appreciation to everyone for their donations, physical labor, and donated materials for the Ladies' Project to renovate the Chapel at our Masonic Home.

Right Worshipful Allen West provided invaluable guidance to see the project through to completion and Mrs. Lisa Tsotsos and her staff at the Masonic Home assisted in so many ways it is impossible to name them all.

The Chapel project was officially dedicated on Pilgrimage Day and it is so nice! Thanks to all of you! Everything that we wished for was accomplished.

The Residents and I appreciate all of you. It has been a great year for me and I thank you all!

Betsy Griffith

First Lady of Masons in Florida



Gulf Beach Lodge Raises Two New Master Masons

By Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M.

Following a wonderful dinner prepared by the Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 241 on Thursday, October 24, 2013, forty-two Masons enjoyed a Master Mason Degree for Brothers Edmond Leger and Devon Wiggers. The Charge was delivered by Bro. Steve Nelson, Senior Deacon and the Lecture was delivered by Bro. Tom Quay of St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139. The evening was enjoyed by all in attendance. Congratulations to Brothers Leger and Wiggers !



Scholarship Recipient Update And Thank You

In appreciation of how you helped me accomplish my goals over the past four years, I wanted to let you know how your assistance has impacted my life. When I received your scholarship, my name was Jessica Glover and I was a senior at Plant City High School. Since then, I have gotten married and am now known as Jessica Richardson. I am a first-year medical student at the University of South Florida, where I am also currently pursuing cancer research and serving on our student council as the Community Service Co-Chair. I was the 2009 recipient of your scholarship, and in the interim I have graduated Summa Cum Laude from USF with a 3.97 GPA and a BS and 2 BA's in Biomedical Science, Marketing, and Business Management. During graduation, I was recognized for my participation in neuroscience research as an undergraduate investigating a novel treatment for stroke. Last November, I was accepted to the USF Morsani College of Medicine's class of 2017, fulfilling one of my life's dreams. Although I am undecided as to the route I will pursue in medicine, I hope to continue contributing to our community and to medical knowledge. I want to thank you for your contribution to my education and hope that you will continue to help others achieve their dreams. If I or the USF MD class of 2017 can assist your organization, please do not hesitate to contact me at jricha17@health.usf.edu. Sincerely, Jessica (Glover) Richardson

Lake Butler Lodge No. 52 Honors Eagle Scout

Lake Butler Lodge No. 52 honored Eagle Scout Paul Whitlow for his achievements in Scouting. To earn his Eagle Scout Rank Paul had to plan and coordinate several construction and repair projects. The projects were performed on the Lake Butler Lodge building, with the assistance of the Brothers of the Lodge. At the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2014, Eagle Scout Whitlow was presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Grand Lodge by P.M., W.: Gerald Coutts and a Letter of Recognition from Grand Master Danny Griffith by W.:M.: Kenneth Clyatt Jr.

Traveling Gavel

In "The Grand 18th Masonic District" the original "Traveling Gavel" was transformed into the "Hot Gavel", since its transformation, it has been given new life. It started its travels at Umatilla Lodge No. 65. Umatilla Lodge not wanting to keep it, which is the intent, got it moving quickly to Groveland Lodge No. 190. Now, the "Hot Gavel" has found its way to Clermont No.226. Where do you suppose Worshipful Larry McClure will bring a band of Clermont Lodge Brothers and deliver the "Hot Gavel" to next??? Your Lodge could be next!!! A new "Traveling Gavel" was handcrafted; in the continuing effort of Fellowship "The Grand 18th Masonic District" has two Gavels, one you go get and one you want to get rid of. Happy Traveling my Brothers.



Cypress Lodge No. 295 F&AM, Naples Wins The "Taste of Bonita"

By Bro. Jim Kershaw, Secretary, Cypress Lodge No. 295, November 16, 2013 Cypress Lodge No. 295 who won First Place for BBQ in the 20th Annual "Taste of Bonita" in Bonita Springs. The annual event at Riverside Park is sponsored by the Rotary Club and provides non-profits an opportunity to show off their cooking skills. With "Chef" Right Worshipful Jeff Nowak D.D.G.M. for the 29th District manning the grill, and crew of Brothers assisting, the event was a great exposure for Freemasonry in S.W. Florida.



Manatee Lodge No. 31 Recognizes Father & Son

By R.:W.: Gary L. Schroeder, P.D.D.G.M. 1992, Zone 8 Chairman Public Relations

On Monday, January 20th, 2014, members of Manatee Lodge No. 31 recognized a father & son for their years of service to their Lodge and Freemasonry. Receiving certificates and pins were R.:W.: Thomas A. Simpkins for 50 Years of Service and his son W.: Theodore R. Simpkins for 25 Years of Service. The presentations and a celebration Dinner was held with Lodge members, family and friends in attendance. A) Presentations: (L to R) The 50 year Certificate from The Grand Lodge of Florida for Dedication and Service was presented to R.: W.: Thomas A. Simpkins by W.: Butch Thurman of Manatee Lodge No. 31. The 25 year Certificate was presented to W.: Theodore R. Simpkins by W.: Charlie Keeler, P.M. Manatee Lodge No. 31. W.: M.: Joe Fenton – Master of Manatee No. 31, also assisted with the celebration and presentations. B) A Masonic Family: Back Row – (L to R) - R.:W.: Thomas A. Simpkins and wife Lady Barbara (Past President of Moms Club for DeMolay) , Lady Brenda and husband W.: Theodore Roosevelt (Named after President Roosevelt) Simpkins. Front Row (L. to R) (Son In Law) Bro. Jack Thiel and wife Lady Leann (Daughter of Thomas A. Simpkins & Past Worthy Adviser for Rainbow Girls for Manatee), (Tom's Brother) Bro. Sammy Dean Simpkins & (Tom's Son) Bro. Jack Thomas Simpkins. C) Several District Deputies from District No. 27 also attended the Presentation. All had served and worked with R.:W.: Thomas A. Simpkins on various committees. Back Row (L to R) R.:W.: Eric West, P.D.D.G.M. 2006 & Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Florida and Zone 8 Chairman – Perpetual Membership Committee, R.:W.: Thomas A. Simpkins, P.D.D.G.M. 1991, W.:M.: Joe Fenton, Worshipful Master of Manatee Lodge No. 31, R.:W.: George Christian, P.D.D.G.M. 1980, R.:W.: Rodger Craig, P.D.D.G.M. 1989, W.: Theodore R. Simpkins, Past Master 2003 of Manatee Lodge No. 31 and seated: R.:W.: Gary L. Schroeder, P.D.D.G.M. 1992 & Zone 8 Chairman – Public Relations & Publicity for the Grand Lodge of Florida. D) Family Attending – R.:W.: Thomas A. Simpkins, P.D.D.G.M. 1991 and W.: Theodore R. Simpkins had the assistance and support of several friends and ALL the Family, including the 29 Family Members, pictured, that attended this Presentation and Celebration.



Pinellas Daylight Lodge No. 385 Donates To Pinellas Sheriffs Charity

R.:W.: William B. "Billy" Garrett, Jr., D.D.G.M.2013 21st Masonic District

Pinellas Daylight Masonic Lodge No. 385, located in St. Petersburg, stopped by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and presented a \$500.00 check for "Ride and Run with the Stars" Program. Since 1993, this program has given to needy families. The agency members use all proceeds to shop for deserving families and to personally deliver the food, clothing and toys during the holidays. The Sheriff's Office has established great sponsorships throughout the community and Pinellas Daylight Masonic Lodge is proud to support these programs. Monies raised for this worthy project was done through the hard work of the Lodge Members by holding "charity yard sales" during the year. Pinellas Daylight Masonic Lodge No. 385 was chartered in 1984 and has been an actively involved in St. Petersburg and surrounding communities for over 30 years. Its members have included men of many walks of life and professions from lawyers to plumbers, to military personnel to teachers and professors, government workers to police and firefighters. Freemasonry is open to men ages 18 and older and offers an opportunity to be proactive in the community as well as to be a part of a fraternity that has some notable history; which date back centuries. Some honorable Freemasons were and are George Washington (and 15 other U.S. Presidents), John Wayne (actor), Brad Paisley (country music star) and so many more. Those interested in more information about Freemasonry can visit the Lodge website at www.pinellasdaylight385.org



L to R: R.:W.: Reed Rue, P.D.D.G.M. 1978 (of Pinellas Daylight), Maj. Shawn Jowell, (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office) and R.:W.: William B. "Billy" Garrett, Jr., D.D.G.M. (21st Masonic District)

Happy Birthday Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291

Gulf Beach Lodge has been a force on the Gulf Beaches since April 19, 1950, and hopefully we will continue the work that was started those 65 years ago by good men and true!! Thank you to all the brothers and friends who do so much to assist in making OUR Lodge a success.... may the banner of Freemasonry continue to shine on the Gulf Beaches! The picture is from the April 19, 1950, when our Lodge was Chartered as No. 291 (along with Sunshine Lodge No. 288, now defunct) by M.:W.: Gus Dekle, Grand Master of Masons



L to R W.: Joy Adams 1st Master of Sunshine Lodge No. 288, M.:W.: Gus Dekle, W.: Carl Schafer, 1st Master of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291



Masonic Lodge Brings Holiday Cheer

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge, located in Madeira Beach, took part in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program at Tyrone Mall on December 14th, 2013. The Angel Tree program is designed to provide holiday gifts to needy children in the community. Over twenty one members and friends of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge took turns to man the Angel Tree booth at the Mall. 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.



L to R: Olien Hill, Joan Hill, Bob Meeks, Adam Wolf, Chet Strickland, Buck Owens, Pete Bengston

Brother Harry Herrmann Receives 60 Year Award

By Bro. Jim Kershaw, Secretary, Cypress Lodge No. 295, November 2013

Brother Harry Herrman received a 60-year service award. It was great to have his lady and many of his frends join us for the presentation. Harry has been active in the Naples HI-Twelve Club. In the picture Brother Herrman receives Congratulations from Brother Harrison Gay, a 55 year award recipient, and President of Naples Hi-Twelve as W.: Aubrey Jerkins looks on.



Past Masters - Master Mason Degree

By Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M., Secretary, Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291



What a glorious evening was had by all fifty-five (55) Masons who attended the Past Masters - Master Mason Degree at Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 on December 15th, 2013! The Junior Warden and Master prepared a delicious meal prior to the degree. Brother Justin Scott Linn was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by the Past Masters of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, who covered all chairs in both sections of the Degree. The Brothers of East Gate Lodge No. 355 brought Brother Joseph James Mirrione to be Raised as a courtesy. The lecture was delivered by R.: W.: Howard Knapp (Master 1996) and the Charge was delivered by W.: Bob Calhoun (Master 1998). As an aside, the Lodge collected \$200.00 in the Mite Box for our Holiday Baskets!

The Past Masters of Gulf Beach Lodge in attendance were:
Mark Niceley - 1988, Ralph Vaughan - 1994, Howard Knapp - 1996, Bob Calhoun - 1998, David Webster - 2003, David Brown - 2006, Derryl O'Neal - 2007, Dick Sansom - 2008, Shawn Rae - 2009, Tom Willmot - 2010, Joe Finocchiaro - 2011, Fernando Salazar - 2012 and John Anthony- 2013

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 Receives Donation From Madeira Beach Social Club

By R.: W.: Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, in Madeira Beach received a \$460.00 donation from the Madeira Beach Social Club towards the Lodge's annual Holiday Food Basket program. The Madeira Beach Social Club, formerly known as the Seniors Club, is a changed organization since Dianne Ray took charge as president about two years ago. The group today is larger, more involved, somewhat less "senior" and definitely more active than ever before. Its members give much of the credit for the organization's positive new direction to changes made by Dianne Ray. The presentation was made at the Lodge on Thursday December 5th in the presence of over fifty members of the Masonic Lodge. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 was congratulated for over sixty-three years of community involvement and charitable deeds. Some examples of the Lodge's activities include participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program, classroom and teacher sponsorships, annual scholarship presentations, participation in the Salvation Army Angel Tree, Holiday Food Basket deliveries and many others.



L to R: W.: John Anthony, Master; Bro. Travis Palladeno, Senior Warden; Bro. Pete Bengston, Marshall who received the donation of \$460.00 from the Madeira Beach Social Club.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Delivers Thanksgiving Food Baskets

By R.: W.: Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M., Secretary



Lodge Members and friends pose with gift boxes for Thanksgiving

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 in Madeira Beach helped bring Holiday cheer to eight local families in need. Thanksgiving food baskets, complete with turkey and all the trimmings, were prepared and delivered on Saturday November 23rd, 2013 by twenty-six members and friends of the Lodge. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 was pleased to be able to assist in making this a great Thanksgiving for those less fortunate. The Lodge will also be taking part in many other Holiday activities, including the Salvation Army Angel Tree program at Tyrone Mall in December and also delivering holiday food baskets for Christmas.

Curfew Lodge No. 73 Distributes Christmas Baskets To Widows And Shut-ins

By; W.: Mike Horvath, Secretary, Curfew Lodge No. 73

The Brothers of Curfew Lodge No. 73, from Carrabelle FL., distributed 41 Christmas Baskets to our widows and local shut-ins in December 2013. The baskets contained fruit and assorted goodies. This is something we have been doing for a number of years and is well appreciated by all.

Brothers passing out the baskets were R.: W.: Jim Phillips (P.D.D.G.M.) and R.: W.: Tony Millender, Past Masters W.: Bob Dietz, W.: Warren Roddenberry, W.: Clyde Millender, W.: Gary Skipper and W.: Mike Horvath along with current officers, Junior Warden Bro. David Jackson, Junior Deacon Bro. Eugene Quaas and Senior Steward Bro. Gene Spievy.



Florida Masonic Tag Approved By The Legislature and Available!

The code to purchase: Freemasons Tag FQR

Florida Masonic Tag was approved by the Legislature.

The requirement of 1000 presale vouchers were met.

Tags are available at your local Tag Agency.

The cost for the tag is \$35.00. All funds received from the sale of these plates will benefit the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.

Please order yours today!



Winter Haven Masonic Lodge No. 186 Supports Homeless Assistance Program

In January, when they received an unexpected bequest, the members of Winter Haven Lodge No. 186, F&AM were quite puzzled. The bequest was from the estate of Homer V. Thompson in memory of Samuel E. Page. The mystery was that neither of these names appeared in the membership records of the Lodge! Fortunately, a visitor was able to advise that Brother Thompson had been a member of Haines City Lodge No. 219, but couldn't shed any light on Samuel Page. The solution was found when R.:W.: Jim Bradford, P.D.D.G.M., said that the name sounded familiar to him and that he thought that he might have been Grand Marshal for M.:W.: Robert Lucas in 1956. A check of the "Proceedings" library proved that R.:W.: Page had, indeed, served in that position. (Note to "newer" Masons: NEVER underestimate the amount of knowledge and wisdom to be found in the older members of your Lodge!)

The members of the Lodge decided that they should share their good fortune with those more in need. Upon the recommendation of a special committee formed to search for the most worthy recipient of a \$1,000.00 donation, they determined that the "Street Helpers" program of Church of the Redeemer of Winter Haven would be a worthy recipient of this gift.

This program, supported mostly by the members of the church, brings prepared meals to three different local locations to feed the homeless every Tuesday evening. It also provides whatever assistance it can to meet the other needs of its clients.

Coach Carter and Billy McGuire, leaders of the program, accepted the donation from Worshipful Master James D. Bockover on behalf of their church. Coach Carter commented that this was the largest donation their program had ever received and that it would purchase chicken for their meals for six months.



L to R: Coach Carter (L) and Billy McGuire (C) accepting the \$1,000.00 check from Worshipful Master James Bockover (R)

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Initiates New Entered Apprentice

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



Thirty-seven Masons, including Brothers from as far away as Germany, Scotland and Newfoundland, enjoyed a Entered Apprentice Degree conferred by the 2014 Lodge Officers of Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291. Brother Ben Mead was Initiated and Entered Apprentice in fine fashion! The lecture was delivered by R.:W.: Howard Knapp, P.D.D.G.M., the Charge (for the first time) by Brother David Neville, who did an exemplary job! All Officers did an excellent job in their new chairs, congratulations to Brother Mead as well as the Officers.

Mark your calendars for a Fellowcraft Degree on January 23rd for Brothers Bobby Burkett and Adam Wolf.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory And Cardiac Research Institute

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory And Cardiac Research Institute, The Flagship Charity Of The Grand Lodge Of Florida And All Florida Masons, chartered a boat, the Anticipation IV and entered it in the WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE on December 14, 2013.

This was the very first time that a MASONIC EMBLEM was seen by so many millions of people. Helping put this event together and securing donations were FLORIDA MASONS, our Brothers from the 33rd Masonic District. R.:W.: Steve Kastner, Brother Leslie Ascowitz and W.: Dick Brown from Doric Lodge No. 140 were instrumental in coordinating and securing just the right vessel and promoting the donations to offset the expense. R.:W.: Mike Binder from J. Dewey Hawkins Lodge brought in several Sponsors.

The MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY EMBLEM displayed and lit up on the front of the vessel was crafted by R.:W.: Steve Kastner, Chairman of The MMRL for the 33rd Masonic District, a true artist and craftsman. He and his beautiful Lady Ilene placed it on the vessel and made sure that not only it was properly lit up but that our banner was properly lighted as well.

The vessel accommodates 136 people and was maxed out. The WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE is televised and played over and over again. Over one million spectators lined the waterways watching the parade. What a great feeling it is not only being a MASON but supporting RESEARCH that helps all of HUMANITY.

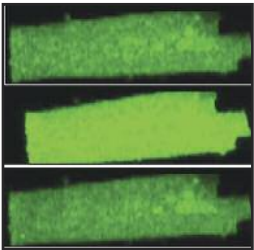
The entry was so successful that R.:W.: Ron Kamp, from MMRL, immediately secured the same vessel for the 2014 WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE. He is already working on decorating the boat for next year. There will be more LED lights and maybe big screen monitors on the sides of the vessel for an even more elaborate display.



A Look inside a Beating Heart Cell From: Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director Of Development and Communications Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory



Research Scientists at the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) are able to look inside a single heart cell and watch it work. Confocal microscopy uses light to render the cell in three dimensions and can be used



Confocal images of a heart cell loaded with the calcium sensing dye Fluo-4 undergoing electrical stimulation.

while the cell is still beating. Matthew Betzenhauser, Ph.D., who completed his post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University, is one of the Research Scientists working on this project. He is trying to better understand the role of calcium in the function of our heart and also discover why we are more likely to develop irregular heartbeats such as atrial fibrillation as we age.

Calcium in heart cells is what allows them to contract. An impulse coming from the primary pacemaker of the heart, the sinus node, causes a reservoir of calcium to be released, thus flooding the interior of the cell. In some people, the calcium reservoir is leaky, leading to the development of extra beats and other more serious arrhythmias.

Dr. Betzenhauser measures calcium activity within the cell by injecting the cell with a fluorescent dye that fluoresces when it binds with calcium ions. Using a confocal microscope, he is thus able to image the process of normal or abnormal calcium cycling and its effect on contraction of the heart cell. Using this technology he can also examine the effects of drugs that can correct any defects that exist. How such defects develop with age and how these may contribute to development of atrial fibrillation, the most common arrhythmia encountered in the clinic, are areas of particular interest. Dr. Matthew Betzenhauser is on the front lines of research aimed at better understanding these relationships.

Upon stimulation, calcium floods the interior of the cell to trigger contraction. The green fluorescence of Fluo-4 increases when bound to calcium providing a real-time read-out of calcium dynamics inside heart cells.

9th Masonic District Hosts Child ID Event

By Tom McKinney, Barrett Masonic Lodge No. 43, Live Oak



The 9th Masonic District of Florida had a Child Identification booth at "The Christmas on the Square 2013". 72 children had a CD made with their current weight, color of their hair, fingerprints and a few questions that the child could answer if they get lost or taken away by a stranger and the CD was given to their parent.



Toby Bruton, W.:M.: Hal Airth of Barrett Lodge No. 43, W.: Bill Crime, Child I.D. State Chairman and seated Bro. Paul Mathews Child I.D. District 9 Chairman.

If anyone has ever seen the look on a parent's face, then that is a good reason to be involved with the Child ID Program. More than 2,000 children are reported missing on a daily basis. This should stir our interest. We have been Grandparents, Parents, Uncles, or Aunts and we know how important our children are to us. There are many ways to support the Child ID Program within the Grand Lodge. We must work together to make sure our children remain safe with their own families.

There are many ways to have a Child ID and many programs currently in place to assist the Child ID Program. Some ideas include: get involved with the schools, church groups, Masonic Lodges and the Shrine. There are many community programs that can help this program. We as Masons must seek out these sources and work hand in hand with them. The Child ID Program can be phased into these existing programs and used to our advantage. This program can benefit our children and their parents.

The Brothers of the 9th Masonic District support this program; your support to this program is vital and will be successful with your hard work and dedication.



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Hosts 3rd Annual Table Lodge



By: Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M., Secretary

Thirty Three Masons attended the 3rd Annual Table Lodge at Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 and enjoyed a wonderful Filet Mignon dinner! Masons from as far away as New York were in attendance. The guest speaker was R.:W.: Howard Knapp who spoke on "Widows and Orphans" and our Masonic responsibility. A certified 1st Century BC widow's 'mite' was donated to the Lodge by Brother Russ Wood.

Worshipful John Ross Receives 60 year Service Award

W.:Jeff Pick, Worshipful Master – 2013

Worshipful Brother John Ross, Past Master of Venice Lodge No. 301, recently received his 60 year service award & pin. During his 60 years as a Master Mason, Worshipful Brother John has served as head of 14 Masonic Bodies.



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

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Brings Christmas Cheer

By; R.:W.: Howard Knapp, PM, P.D.D.G.M., PDI, Secretary

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge in Madeira Beach helped bring Holiday cheer to ten local families in need during the Christmas Holidays. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 was pleased to be able to assist in making this a great holiday season for those less fortunate this year.

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 has served Masons throughout the Gulf Beaches for over 64 years. Chartered in 1950, the Masonic Temple began its meetings at the "Church By The Sea" while its building was being built. Construction of the Temple was done completely by the members of the Lodge, and even the land was a donation by a generous Lodge member.

Want to visit an active Lodge? Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 meets each Thursday evening at 7:30 PM from September through June. All local Masons, as well as visiting Masons are invited to attend the Lodge meetings. The Lodge has a breakfast from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM the first Sunday of each month; all Masons and their families are invited to attend. Further information can be found on the Lodge website, www.gulfbeachlodge.org



So You Are A D.D.G.M.; You Are In Exlusive Company

By R.:W.: George Waas, P.D.D.G.M.

A Past Worshipful Master who is appointed District Deputy Grand Master (D.D.G.M.) knows he has received a high honor, along with the lifetime title of Right Worshipful. But he may not be aware of just how significant this Grand Master appointment is.

Appointment to this office elevates a Brother to the upper two percent of the Fraternity. Think about this; the numbers tell the story.

Currently, there are about 40,000 Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Around 800 are living P.D.D.G.M.s--or just about two percent of all living Master Masons.

Each year, 34 Master Masons will be appointed D.D.G.M.. Subtracting those who have already served, that's 34 out of 39,000+ Masons--less than one percent.

Over a man's Masonic Lifetime--say ages 18 to 78--60 Master Masons and P.M.s will be appointed D.D.G.M. from each District. Whether that district consists of less than 1,000 or more than 2,000, the ultimate fact remains that over this 60-year period, only 60 will be appointed to this high office. Now, during this 60-year period, the number of Masons joining or leaving the Fraternity numbers into the thousands for each district. Yet, once again, only 60 will attain this office! That's 60 out of thousands of Masons! The percentage is minimal.

By further demonstration of the significance of the D.D.G.M. appointment, take the 34 appointed each year and multiply that by the 60-year life of a Mason (note: I understand this number is arbitrary, but for the purpose of discussion, I am using this span). The result is that over this lengthy period (and assuming current population data), 2,040 Master Masons will be appointed D.D.G.M.. That number is from the thousands and thousands that join and leave our Fraternity over this time frame. Once again, the percentage of Master Masons who attain this high office is minimal, easily in the top two percent of all Masons.

It is my hope that this brief analysis of the significance of this office will give those who have been honored by an appointment--and those who will be honored in the future--the perspective that the appointment deserves.

MMRL Awarded REDC Grant

By Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development and Communications, Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director of Development and Communications
January 20, 2014

The Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) was recently awarded a \$250,000 matching grant from the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (REDC). This is the second consecutive year that the MMRL has received funding from the REDC competitive grant process.

The 2013 award of \$250,000 will be used to purchase a next generation genetic sequencer, allowing CRI/MMRL investigators to retain highly skilled jobs and to remain competitive in their efforts to uncover the basis for inherited cardiac arrhythmia syndromes, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

The CRI/MMRL inaugurated a Molecular Genetics program 10 years ago and today is one of the leading institutes worldwide helping families suffering from abnormal rhythms of the heart and sudden cardiac arrest.

The funds received from the REDC grant will be matched with funds raised through the local donations as well as grants from foundations, corporation and organizations like the National Institutes of Health and American Heart Association.

According to Dr. Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of CRI/MMRL and principal investigator of the grant, "the new sequencer should be operational by the end of March of this year, providing our talented scientists improved capability to meet the challenges ahead and to remain competitive in our ability to engender grant support from the NIH."



MMRL Recognizes Employee Of The Year and 25th Anniversaries

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

The Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) recognized several employees at their holiday party. Serge Sicouri, M.D. was recognized as employee of the year. Jose Di Diego, M.D. and David Maciewicz, CPA were also honored with an award for contributing to the success of the MMRL for the past 25 years.



When asked what this award means to him Dr. Sicouri said, "Although I know this represents a personal award, I consider this a consequence of the excellent research performed at our institute over the past many years. I am very proud of our achievements at the MMRL and the way we continue, through our research, to help diagnose and treat patients." He is part of the team of Experimental Cardiologists that look into the cause of irregular heartbeats and discover new medications.

Dr. Sicouri also handles many other duties at the Laboratory including his love for students both in the form of student tours and Summer Fellows. He also provides tours for community members interested in the research conducted at the MMRL. Charles Antzelevitch, Ph.D., Executive Director and Director of Research at the MMRL said, "Serge has been a pillar of our Laboratory family for over two decades. He is unique in his caring and willingness to help his fellow employees at the MMRL. Over the years, he has contributed importantly to advancing the cause of science and medicine and has helped our Laboratory shine in the scientific community. He has always been a strong advocate of others receiving the employee of the year award and I am delighted to see him receive this extremely well-deserved and long-overdue honor. We are proud to recognize him as our Employee of the Year and are indeed honored to have him as a member of our team."

Jose Di Diego, M.D., Manager of the Experimental Cardiology program at the MMRL, was also recognized at the annual holiday dinner for his 25 years of service to the MMRL. Dr. Antzelevitch commented, "Jose has spent his entire life doing research that improves the quality of life for all humanity. His discoveries have benefitted people in every corner of the world."

David Maciewicz, CPA, also reached the milestone of 25 years with the MMRL. David is the Comptroller for the organization and has been carefully keeping track of the books for the institute for over a quarter of a century. Dr. Antzelevitch said of David, "We are grateful and very fortunate to have David as our Comptroller and for his steadfast commitment to this organization. He is an indispensable member of our team."

I Remember A Time

By W.: Nelson Rose
Past Master, Coral Springs No. 373, member of Doric Lodge No. 140 My Brothers,

I remember a time in Masonry that when a Brother would hear the words Masonic Charges that thoughts of "The ways of virtue" or "Quitting this sacred retreat" would come to mind. It was a time when the older Brothers allowed the younger Brothers to take charge and conduct ritual and hold leadership positions, while in turn the younger Brothers looked to the older for guidance and counsel. It was a time when the biggest disagreements were whether there would be chicken or ribs at the BBQ (which always ended with the result of both) and what dates to hold the black tie affairs. Now it seems Brothers are pinned against each other for a myriad of spurious and menial conflicts and the very cement of Brotherly love is cracking and chipping away. Our membership is suffering not because of changes in society, but because of our inability to keep the normal cut-throat attitudes of society outside our Lodges. It seems we are incapable of remembering that the 5 points of fellowship (that we are to use when greeting each other) should serve as a visible reminder of the mystic tie that weaves us together into one Brotherhood.

It would be dishonest to lament the direction of our Order without acknowledging some fault of my own. I have at times failed to keep my passions in due bounds and let my emotions get in the way of making sound decisions. This drift on my part has caused some dissension and perhaps weakened my credibility to some of the Brethren. I can only offer my deepest apologies and stress that my intentions are always for the advancement of our venerable Fraternity and that we should do all we can to remain relevant, while not sacrificing those virtues which make us unique. Our inability to embody the sacred tenants of our Order does not make us bad Masons unless we fail to learn from them.

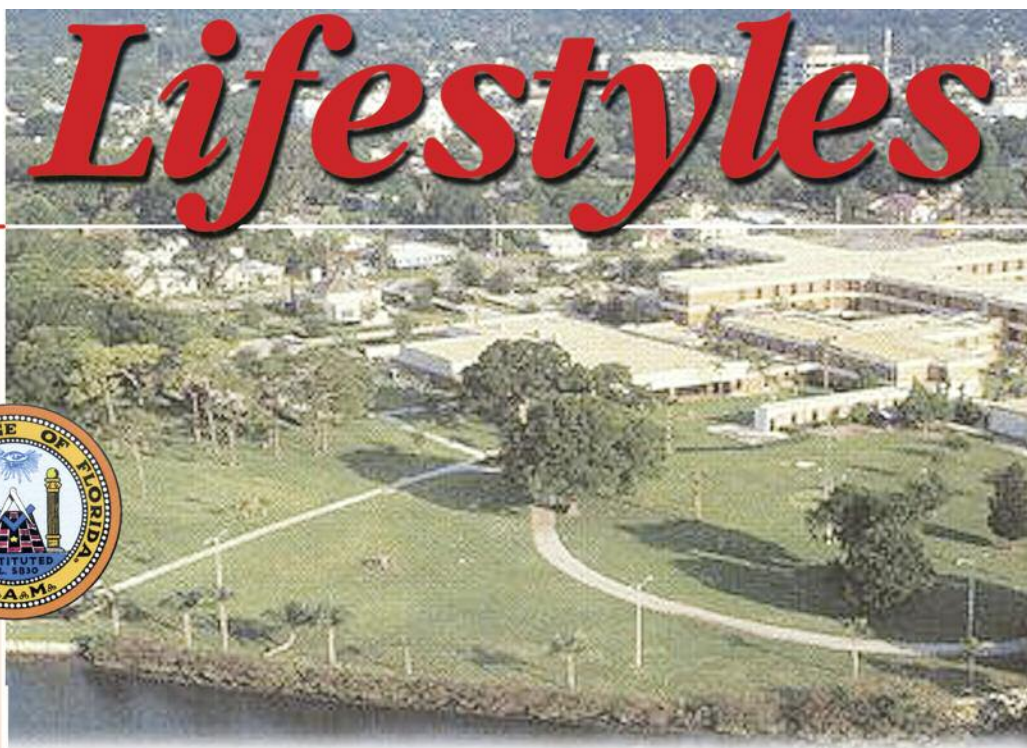
The year is young and therefore the opportunity to make this "our year" is ripe. Call a Brother you have neglected and catch up on him and how he is doing. Drop the sword and pick up the trowel by reaching out to a Brother you've had a falling out with and extend the forgiveness and love that you would want extended to you. There is no time greater than the present to resurrect what once was a vessel of influence and pillar of knowledge in society. This can only be done together and it is together that our Brotherhood will live another day and make a brighter tomorrow.

Masonic Home OF FLORIDA



A TRADITION OF CARING

On The Shores Of Coffee Pot Bayou



First Lady's Project *Our Chapel Renovation...*



Completion of First Lady Betsy Griffith's Masonic Home Chapel Renovation



Grand Master and First Lady converse with Allen West,
Member of Masonic Home Board of Trustees
and Volunteer Project Manager



Updated, fresh look in the entry way to renovated chapel
and first room our staff sees upon arrival each day



Beautiful new chapel furnishings, flooring, lighting etc.,
creates a peaceful, serene setting for worship





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

Grand Lodge Officers
2013 - 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next Issue Deadline:
The Florida Mason
Vol. 7, Issue 2
& **Masonic Lifestyles**
Winter 14
Submission Date
October 20, 2014
Print Date
December 15, 2014

Welcome



From Our Administrator

Greetings To All,

As we conclude the 2013-2014 Masonic year, the Residents and Staff of the Masonic Home of Florida wish to thank the Members of the Grand Lodge of Florida for continuing to provide such an outstanding place to live and work! We have the benefit of receiving direction from the Grand Lodge Officers and Masonic Home Board of Trustees which is focused on continuing to offer superior care and service now and well into the future. It is an exciting time to be offering a broad spectrum of senior services and already have 100 years experience in doing so!

The 2014 Pilgrimage Day Celebration was a tremendous success due to the dedication of all those who took the time to attend and support their Masonic Home. We appreciate all the hard work conducted by the members of Districts 20 & 21 who helped plan the festivities for the event. Their efforts outdoors enabled us to focus indoors, specifically the completion of First Lady Betsy Griffith's Chapel Renovation. The Grand Master and First Lady chose a project which is very important and special to the Residents. The Residents now have place to worship which is aesthetically and spiritually beautiful. The furnishings and state-of-the-art sound system help to make religious services and memorials even more meaningful. Every seat in the room is a great seat!

Thanks For All You Do,
Lisa Tsotsos
Administrator



Christmas morning would not be the same without a visit from Santa and the Egypt Shrine Clowns!



Members of Venice Lodge No. 301 always remember to take time to celebrate Residents during the holidays.

Holiday Happenings



Denise and Bill Lindberg, Resident Bea Kapfhamer's Daughter and Son-in-law host an annual "Flannel Gram" religious program at Christmas time.



John Darling Lodge No. 154 Members visit on Christmas Morning

Thank you to Brandon Lodge No. 114 for your generous donation of gift cards for the Residents



The Residents were happy to attend the party which the 33rd Masonic District puts on each year. Everyone enjoyed the music, gifts and the wonderful skit! The 33rd made sure each Resident received the items on their gift wish lists. We thank all the men, women and youth who make this event so special.



Anne Saxer, Resident, sponsored by St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139, was so thrilled to get the stuffed kitten she asked for on her wish list.



Williams, Resident, sponsored by Daytona Beach Lodge No. 270, somehow convinces Maryanne Mello, activity assistant, to do her best imitation of the upside-down tree. Thanks for the laughs ladies!

It may surprise you to know that of all the beautiful decorations we have each year at the Masonic Home, the most requested of all is the upside-down Christmas tree! In this photo Marion

Chinese New Year Celebration

A great time was had by all in celebration of the Chinese New Year in January. Residents could not stop talking about how great the food was and the array of Chinese dishes for everyone to enjoy.

Wives of the Grand Lodge Officers and Masonic Home Board of Trustees make sure to share some extra special time with the Residents during the month of December.



Grand Lodge Ladies' party in December



Residents John Brink, sponsored by Floral City Lodge No. 133 and James "Buck" Raulerson, sponsored by Dunellon Lodge No. 136



Residents Edna & Henry Pierce, sponsored by Hillsborough Lodge No. 25



Outstanding Members of Masonic Home Service Guild volunteer their time and talents



Programs Which Benefit Masonic Home Of Florida



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

36th Masonic District Annual Valentines Day Celebration

You have to love the members of the 36th District for always making sure each and every Resident has a Valentine!



On February 8th, 2014, they arrived with the food, cake, laughs and even the entertainment. We appreciate the lengths, both in effort and miles, these great men and their families go to in order to put on a party which the Residents look forward to!



L to R: Lola Billberry, Resident, sponsored by Royal Palm Lodge No. 100 and Ramona Cruz, activities assistant.



Valentines Day 2014

1) L to R: Helen "Peggy" Major, newly elected Queen, Resident, sponsored by Tampa Lodge No. 240, James "Buck" Raulerson, newly elected King, Resident, sponsored by Dunnellon Lodge No. 136, Lola Billberry, newly elected Queen, Resident, sponsored by Royal Palm Lodge No. 100, George Williams, newly elected King, Resident, sponsored by Englewood Lodge No. 360.



2) L to R: Norma Foster, Resident, sponsored by Clearwater Lodge No. 127, Marilyn DeFrenn, Resident, sponsored by Lehigh Acres Lodge No. 344.



3) L to R: Runette Vizandiou, Resident, sponsored by Floral City Lodge No. 133, Rae Losey, Resident, sponsored by Northside Lodge No. 283, Virginia "Ginny" Haug, Resident, sponsored by Phoenix Lodge No. 346.



When it came time to relinquish her crown after serving as 2013 Queen, Alice had some fun resisting the "changing of the guard." Don't worry Alice, you will always be royalty to us!

4) L to R: Maryanne Mello, activities assistant, Alice Lanier, Past Worthy Grand Matron, Florida Order of the Eastern Star, Resident, sponsored by Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330.



Thanks to Jim Mann, Member of Northside Lodge No. 283 for always bringing beautiful roses for the Ladies.

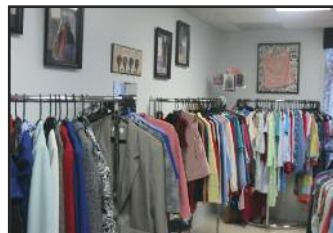
Pilgrimage Day 2014



**Pilgrimage
Day 2015
Save The
Date For
Next Year
March 21,
2015!**

Masonic Home Boutique Gets An Update

With the beautifully renovated Chapel right next door, it was time to do a little sprucing up in the Boutique. Many of you donate very nice clothing throughout the year which is placed in the Boutique for the Residents to take advantage of at no cost to them. This wonderful service is made possible by your contributions and our dedicated Resident Volunteers who work in the Boutique meeting the needs of fellow Residents.



Resident Makes A Donation Of His Talent



The Residents and Staff of the Masonic Home of Florida were very proud when Arthur Bauman, Resident, Member of Acacia Lodge No. 355 in PA, was invited to a dinner held by the Daughters of the American Revolution at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Arthur, a World War II Veteran, was asked to donate one of his works to hang in the Fisher House for families of Veterans at Bay Pines Veteran's Hospital. Thank you for representing our Home so well Art!

Marion High School Jazz Band Visit The Masonic Home

Every year the Residents of the Masonic Home anxiously await a performance by the Marion High School Jazz Band. This incredible performance by these talented young men and women is not to be missed and made possible through the generosity of Marston Lodge No. 49!



Check it
Out!

**We Are Pleased To Offer An OUTREACH Program
& WEBSITE Serving Members Throughout Florida!**

Whether you have a need for Residential Services on our St. Petersburg campus, or in your local Community, please call the Masonic Home of Florida toll free at (866) 868-6749 or go to www.MasonicHomeOfFlorida.org 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 22, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 20

ADMISSION PLANS

Life Care Plan

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

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



Pay As You Go (Private Pay)**

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

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

*Rates subject to change.

Giving A Gift Or Making A Bequest To The Masonic Home – A How-To Primer

By George Waas

The Wills and Gifts Committee is charged with raising funds for our Masonic Home through direct gifts or through bequests in a will, in addition to other programs that are explained in the committee's material that is available from Grand Lodge and posted on the website.

Giving a gift is easy; all that is necessary is to make out a check to MH-100 or the Masonic Home of Florida and send it to the Grand Lodge. Or you can go to the Grand Lodge website, click the appropriate designations and donate online using a personal credit card.

Giving to the Masonic Home via a bequest in a will requires a bit more effort, but can easily be accomplished. Listed below are examples of language that can be used in a will. Let me caution, however, that consultation with a legal advisor is encouraged. The following are for illustration only:

- Bequests for unrestricted purposes - Unrestricted gifts are to be used for the greatest need at the time determined by the appropriate Board of Trustees. A general unrestricted bequest is especially valued by the Florida Masons. A proportional bequest is often the best

Supporting Your Lodge

By W.: Martin J. Grossman, P.M.

When I say “Supporting Your Lodge,” I am referring to support for the Worshipful Master of a Lodge, support for the seasoned members, and support for our new members.

The work required to be Worshipful Master is a multi-task job. He is a Manager, Accountant, Chaplain, Organizer, etc. Supporting the Worshipful Master is very easy. He simply needs you to attend Stated Communications, Called Communications and Instruction Meetings.

Of course, he will also need volunteers to represent various committees. These, unfortunately, are usually filled by Brothers who year-after-year volunteer their time to support the Worshipful Master. It would be refreshing to see new names and faces filling these positions; new Brothers SUPPORTING the Master and each other.

Supporting a new member is a special gift. It has to do with Instruction Meetings. Although it is suggested that every Lodge Brother attend, it is every officers (elected and appointed) responsibility to attend. Only in this way can degree work be accomplished in a truly ritualistic manner. Many times I have sat painfully through a degree and watched a Lodge degree team unnecessarily fumbling with their words during a degree. Of course, the candidate is not aware of it but good work is something we owe him as he takes his first steps to join our Fraternity; the pride in doing good work is something we owe ourselves. We also owe ourselves, as well as the candidate, the pride of appearing at his Entering, Passing, and Raising. After all, we are Brothers, and as such, should begin support for our newly made Brother Masons right from the beginning. This sets the example for him to support his Brothers throughout the future. As he sees us do, he will do!

As you have gathered, the main thrust of SUPPORT is attendance at the meetings. It is only twice a month that we are asked to attend Stated Communications; most Lodges also have Instruction Meetings throughout the month. The Stated Meetings are for Fellowship. The Instruction Meetings are meant just for that reason, Instruction. Degree work is an ongoing process of learning. Only by repetition can one fully master the work. Whether it is Tyler or Worshipful Master, attending instruction meetings is the only form of learning the work. Consistent good work is accomplished only by mastering the work of the individual chair, and that is only accomplished by attendance.

Branford Lodge No. 130 Installs 2014 Officers

By Brother Robert See, Secretary, Bradford Lodge No. 130

The evening of January 11, 2014 members, families and friends of Branford Lodge No. 130, Free and Accepted Masons, joined at the Lodge for the 2014 Installation of Lodge Officers.

The evening began with a covered dish dinner that was enjoyed by all. The dining hall was decorated with balloons, place mats and napkins with the Masonic Square and Compasses printed on them. The incoming Worshipful Master, Brother Wayne Smith, his Lady Sandy and family had done an outstanding job of decorating the hall for the event.

After dinner everyone adjourned to the Lodge room for the Installation ceremony. W.: Stan Smith, Brother of W.:M.: elect Wayne Smith had traveled from North Carolina to install Brother Wayne as our Worshipful Master this year. R.: W.: David Lane was installing Marshall and R.: W.: Wyatt Clark was installing Chaplain. All Officers of the Lodge where then Installed.

After the Installation, the Worshipful Master thanked everyone and began introductions by introducing his family. Other Brothers where then invited to introduce their families and friends. Everyone was invited back to the dining hall for refreshments.



L to R: Bottom row: Bro. David Allen, Treasurer; Bro. Albert Pettingill, Senior Deacon; Bro. Wayne Smith, Worshipful Master; Bro. Manuel Starling, Junior Warden; Bro. Wendall Lewis, Junior Deacon
Middle row: Bro. Dennis Starling, Senior Deacon; Bro. Paul Crowley, Junior Steward;
Top row: Bro. Clarence Feagle, Marshal; Bro. Daniel Ritter, Chaplain; Bro. Harvey Buchanan, Tyler; Bro. Robert See, Secretary. Photo Credit: Bro. Donald Cadrain

Pineland Lodge No. 86 Installs Officers For 2014

By Bro. Randy Bolen, Senior Warden

Pineland Lodge No. 86 Free and Accepted Masons held its Installation of Officers for 2014 on December 28, 2013, with approximately 100 Masons, friends and family in attendance. A meal of Chicken Perlow with all fixings was served and a good time was had by all.

Front row: Bro. Brennan Baze - Junior Steward, Bro. Terry Dillard - Junior Deacon, Bro. Randy Bolen-Senior Warden, W.: Jamie Watts-Worshipful Master, Bro. Randy Cumbo-Junior Warden, Bro. Paul Keeton II-Senior Deacon, Bro. Tom Deputy-Senior Steward.
Back row: Bro. Jackie Arrington-Installing Chaplin, Bro. Bill Hammond-Marshall, M.: W.: Robert Trump-Installing Master/Treasurer, Bro. Larry Wyman-Chaplin, Bro. Floyd Bowen-Tyler, Bro. Terry Parker-Installing Marshall/Secretary.



Brother Charlie Homadue – 60 Year

On June 29, 2013 Brother Charlie Homadue was presented a Certificate and Pin for 60 years of Membership in our Fraternity. The presentation was made by M.: W.: Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master of Masons of Florida during his visit to the 15th Masonic District of Florida. Brother Homadue is a Member of Dunnellon Lodge No. 136.



Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 Donates To Help Feed Hungry Families

By Bro. Dr. William K. Ramsay

On Saturday, February 1, 2014, the 165-year-old Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 prepared, cooked, delivered, and donated enough grilled chicken to serve 200+ deserving folks at Brothers Keeper Soup Kitchen. The wonderful flavor of the donated food comes from a special decades-old Masonic basting sauce recipe secretly kept by Master Cook Brother Danny Snellgrove.

Charitable work is one of the tenets of the world’s largest and oldest fraternity. Assisting the community is what Freemasonry does on a continual basis.



Pictured here are Lodge “Brothers” who gave of their personal time: Kevin Deck, Larry Miller, Danny Snellgrove, Hector Paredes, and Tom Casey. (Not pictured were: Ken Shaw, Herb Collins and John Macias.)

The Brothers Keeper Soup Kitchen can be found on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pages/Brothers-Keeper-Soup-Kitchen-Ocala-FL/246300521170
For more information call the Lodge at (352) 694-2461. More information may also be found on Facebook at “Marion-Dunn Masonic Lodge No. 19”.
With Bro. Don Nottingham.

Together We Can Change The World

By Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development and Communications & Myron Thurston III, Assistant Director of Development and Communications, Cardiac Research Institute, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

We often say that we want to leave the world a better place for our children and grandchildren. That is why so many of us give to charitable causes, invest our time and effort in our communities and work so hard our entire lives to leave something for the next generation. I have a three year old son, and I hope that when he reaches my age, the world will be a much healthier place.

I dream that someday, if he needs a replacement organ, one can be made available, if he needs a special medication, one can be found. I also foresee that one day we can better delineate through genetic analysis the factors that predispose a disease, so that his doctors can intervene to prevent the disease for taking hold.

Together we can change the face of medicine. By investing your charitable dollars in research conducted in the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) you can take part in leaving the world a better place. Your support of our life saving medical research not only benefits your own health, but will benefit the lives and well-being of every generation to follow.

Scientists in our Organ and Tissue Bioengineering Program at the MMRL are working on research aimed at generating replacement organs. Imagine being able to go to your doctor, give a blood sample or skin sample, and come back 6-8 weeks later to have an organ that is a genetic match ready for transplantation into your body. We are several years away from achieving this goal, but its success hinges on the support of individuals such as you.

The Stem Cell Center, and its Director, Michael X. Jesudoss, Ph.D., are currently using skin samples to create heart cells. These cells will be used for safety pharmacology to assess the safety of new drugs, for regenerative therapy to restore function to injured and failing hearts, as well as to create human models of disease, which could then be used to develop patient specific treatments.

Molecular geneticist at the MMRL are examining the genetic predisposition to disease by sequencing the DNA of individuals with heart disease. Charles Antzelevitch, Ph.D., Executive Director and Director of Research at the MMRL, believes that this type of genetic research will ultimately guide us to the root cause of disease, thus enabling scientists at our institute and elsewhere to develop innovative treatments and cures. The MMRL is one of the top genetic screening centers in the world devoted to understanding the cause of irregular heartbeats. Doctors from all over the world send blood samples to us so that we can help them diagnose and treat their patients.

As I look back at our achievements of 2013, and chart our course for 2014, and beyond, it is clear that we have much to look forward to in the way of medical advances. However, reductions in Federal support are wreaking havoc on the biomedical research community. It is up to private, and corporate donors to help carry the torch of medical discovery. If you are already directing your charitable dollars towards the MMRL, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you are considering it, please contact us so that we can show you what your support can accomplish. We are proud that 84 cents of every dollar goes directly into the research and that our institute has earned a four-star rating, the highest available, from Charity Navigator. Exciting discoveries are on the horizon, and with your help, I am confident that we can bring them within reach.

I look forward to a healthier future for my son as a result of the research conducted at the MMRL, and hope that you can help us achieve a better tomorrow for your loved ones and for all of humanity.

Brother Peter Angeli A 40 Year Mason

By R.: W.: Ken Shaw

Worshipful Master Rich Gideon of Morning Star Lodge No. 94 presented Brother Bruno Peter Angeli with his Forty Year Membership Award at a meeting held on February 13th. Morning Star Lodge is located in Silver Springs and was chartered on January 20, 1886.



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

W.: Lewis Fuelner - 50 Year Presentation

At the first stated communication of 2014 Brothers of St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139 had the honor of presenting W.: Lewis L. Feulner, Past Master in 1970, with a 50 year membership award. We hope to see W.: Fuelner again to bring his experience and zeal back to our Lodge. Congratulations W.: Fuelner and may you have many more years of Health and Prosperity.



R to L: R.: W.: Alan Rosenthal, Bro. John Ferguson, Senior Warden, 2014 W.: M.: Thomas Quay, Bro. Nick Mamalis, Junior Warden, W.: Lewis Fuelner, Past Master, and R.: W.: Earl Ray.

East Hill Lodge No. 310 Adopts Another Teacher

D.D.G.M. R.: W.: Haskell Vest wants all Brothers to know how happy he is with East Hill Lodge No. 310 Adopt a Teacher Program in Pensacola. With the presentation of another check it now brings the total to nine teachers adopted in Pensacola. Two other Lodges have budgeted to add to this number soon. Worshipful Doug Cain is shown presenting a check to Mr. Gary Horne of Ferry Pass Middle School, before the Brothers of the Lodge.



Cold, Wind, No Problem At New Years Eve Event In Pensacola

By Bro. Harry Boyette, Public Relations & Citizenship Committee

December 31st, 2013 was a cold and windy night in Pensacola, but it didn't dampen the spirits of thousands of people gathered downtown to celebrate and bring in the New Year. Pensacola has a unique way of ushering in the New Year. We raise this giant Pelican way high on a crane, and then lower it to a countdown at midnight.

Street entertainers and bands played the night away to the enjoyment of the crowds. But one Mason, R.: W.: Lloyd (Mac) Mcgruder III, had another idea. With the help of over 40 masons and their wives (Districts 1 & 2) he led the team to help raise funds for the Grand Masters visit.

Using the kitchen of the Pensacola Masonic Center he and his band of cooks prepared a fabulous meal of such items as Red Beans and Rice, with Sausage, Chicken Gumbo, Shrimp Creole, Roast Beef, Ham and Bread Pudding covered in magic sauce for dessert.

With food completed a caravan formed to deliver these tasty treats to the VIP tent where it all came together to make this night special. Food was kept hot in a kitchen tent where volunteers carried it out to a serving line in the VIP tent as needed. Some cleared off tables and hauled away trash. I'm not so sure the people being served had any more fun than the masons and wives did as our fellowship and camaraderie kept us warm throughout the night.

R.: W.: Haskell Vest and his lady Joyce, need a special thanks for coordinating all the workers and keeping food and fellowship flowing. A great job my Brothers and sisters.



(L) R.: W.: Lloyd Mac Magruder chows down on his own cooking, while Bro. Ed Stewart supervises.



(R) W.: Kirk Stierwalt serves up a hot meal on a cold night.

Rainbow Assembly No. 42 Newest Member (?)

We would like to introduce Sister D'Lite (aka Rite Worshipful Dwight Wilkes, P.D.D.G.M.), the newest Rainbow girl of Rainbow Assembly No. 42. He was initiated on Saturday afternoon, April 5th) as a fundraiser for the girls to go to Grand Assembly and they were able to raise over \$600.00 because of his acting. Rite Worshipful Hicks generosity shared his time to do this for the girls of the Assembly. He is a good example of what we as Masons can do to support our youth programs however and whatever is needed.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is the only youth club that teaches what matters most – leadership, confidence, and citizenship. Every day, across the globe, hundreds of thousands of girls come together to laugh, share, and grow through fun events and challenging workshops designed to empower girls of all ages. Rainbow Girls volunteer for their community and travel around the world, visiting other clubs and making lots of new friends. Along the way, they gather invaluable life skills that help them become the best daughter, sister, student, and friend they can be.



Sarasota Lodge No. 147 Three Hundred Years Of Freemasonry

By Bro. Rusty Glendinning

THREE HUNDRED years of Freemasonry were celebrated January 28, 2014 as five Brothers of Sarasota Lodge No. 147 were honored for their many years of service to the Craft.

Each of these Brothers commented on how Freemasonry has impacted their daily lives and thanked the Lodge for these service awards.

L to R: W.: Damian Ostermeyer, Worshipful Master; Bro. Joe Lovingood (65 years), Bro. William Edelston (55 years), Bro. Juan Rodriguez (65 years), Bro. Merle Lilly (60 years) and Bro. Robert Bower (55 years).



Florida’s Youngest Master Mason

Austin Ramsay received his Certificate of Membership from Worshipful Master Mark Haley Sr., of Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19 welcoming Austin to his new world of Freemasonry as a Master Mason. His Brother Marshall (also a Master Mason) is seen in the second picture.

Worshipful Master Haley stated the Austin is the youngest Master Mason in the entire state of Florida. 18 years 7months when “raised” to the sublime degree. Austin and Marshall are the sons of Brother Dr. Bill Ramsey.



70 Years As A Mason

Lawtey Lodge No. 189 Celebrated A WWII Veteran’s 70 Years As A Mason.



Thirty Masons, wives, and mothers came together on February 20, 2014, in Lawtey, Florida to honor and celebrate with Brother Lloyd Wilkerson. R.:W.: Lloyd Wilkerson was born on 8-22-1919, a WWII Veteran, and has been a Mason for over 70 years. Little is known of his Masonic history as well as his life, because he is not the person who brags about his accomplishments, but I am here to reveal some of what I know. He was born in Sapp,



About 1945 as a young Mason

Florida. Sapp was on SR 121 between Raiford and MacLenny (Sapp, Fl. no longer exists). He moved to Lawtey while a small child, went into the military, and subsequently moved to Clay Hill in Clay County, Florida. He retired after serving 22 years with the CCC, Army Air Corp, and the Air Force. He went on to join the Air Force Reserve. He obtained his pilot license while in the military and served in many capacities and went to many countries. He even survived an airplane crash while in the military. Subsequent to the military, he retired after working with the State of Florida as a Forest Ranger, clerk with the Surplus Property Division and as a Correctional Officer for the Florida Department of Corrections.

R.:W.: Lloyd has traveled a very long and rewarding road in Masonry. He was initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on November 30, 1943 while overseas in the military. While at Lawtey Lodge No. 189, served as Senior Deacon and Junior Warden in 1969, Senior Warden in 1970, Worshipful Master in 1971, Secretary in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1986, and 1988, Senior Deacon in 2006 and 2008, Chaplain in 2008, Senior Steward in 2009, Historian in 2011, Marshall in 2013, and Senior Steward 2014. In addition, he served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1975.

He joined Scottish Rite in 1955. Since that time he was in the Scottish Rite Guard in 1974 and 1976, worked in the Scottish Rite kitchen in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986. R.:W.: Lloyd joined the Lawtey York Rite in 1975. He was High Priest of James Yeager Chapter during 1986, 1987, and 1988. He received the Order of High Priesthood in 1981 and was District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 8th District for 1987. R.:W.: Lloyd was Illustrious Master of Lawtey Council No. 39 Royal and Select Masters in 1979. He received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 1980, and the Order of Anointed Kings in 1980. He was the Recorder for Lawtey Council during 1986, 1987, and 1988.

R.:W.: Lloyd continued to serve the Masonic Order by being the Illustrious District Deputy Grand Master in the 8th Cryptic District for 1991. He received the “Ish Sodias” award in 1992. Brother Lloyd was the Commander of Bradford Commandery No. 43 in 1981, made Knight Crusader of the Cross in 1982, and District Deputy Grand Commander of the 8th District in 1982. He went on to make life member of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation during 1982, and received the Knight of the York Cross of Honor in 1982. R.:W.: Lloyd was the Recorder for Bradford Commandery No. 43 in 1986, 1987, and 1988.

R.:W.: Lloyd joined the Morocco Shrine Temple in 1971; Starke Chapter No. 224 Order of the Eastern Star in 1971, was Worthy Patron of Chapter No. 224 OES in 1977, and Chaplain of No. 224 OES in 1983. He was the Chairman of the Masonic Home Committee for the OES in District 14. He also joined John B. Phelps York Rite College No. 31 in 1983, and affiliated with North East York Rite College No. 114 in 1986. R.:W.: Lloyd received the Grand Cross of Colors International Order of the Rainbows in 1985, and was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Council of Florida to the Grand Chapter of Virginia.

The crowd enjoyed a fine dinner and great socialization with Fellow Brothers, sisters, and families. Brother Lloyd has set an example of what a good Mason is; integrity, courage, dedication, and always smiling.



2011 as a well traveled Mason



City of Kissimmee Declares Grand Master Of Florida’s Visit A Special Day

By W.: Rick Overbee

On Saturday November 16th, during the Annual Steak Dinner, the Brethren of Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 were very honored to have the Mayor of Kissimmee, Honorable Jim Swan; sitting Commissioner, Honorable Jose Alvarez, who is also a member Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80, and the City Attorney, Honorable Don Smallwood, also a member of the Lodge, present our Grand Master of Florida, M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith with the following Proclamation. This declares the Day of Special Observance for the community, for Orange Blossom Lodge, and all Florida Freemasons, thereby naming the special day:

**PROCLAMATION:
GRAND MASTER
Danny R. Griffith Day!
ORANGE BLOSSOM LODGE
No. 80, Free and Accepted
Masons, Grand Master
Danny R. Griffith**

WHEREAS, Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80, Free and Accepted Masons of Florida has traditionally honored the Grand Master of Florida with a Silver Belly Stetson Kowboy hat in recognition of Kissimmee’s heritage.

WHEREAS, Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 will host Grand Master Danny R. Griffith on November 16th, 2013.

WHEREAS, The City of Kissimmee is well known for its history as a Kowboy community.

WHEREAS, Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 has contributed monetary donations to the community, provided for the elderly Residents with donated manpower, sponsored yearly educational scholarships for continuing education to our high school graduates. In addition, sponsors a Cub Scout Pack and a Boy Scout Troop.

WHEREAS, Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 has been a valuable member of the community for over one hundred twenty- eight years.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the City Commission for the City of Kissimmee do hereby proclaim November 16th, 2013 as “Grand Master Danny R. Griffith Day”

IN WITNESS, THEREFORE, This is signed this 16th day of November, 2013.



Brooker Elementary School Principal Addresses Pine Hill Lodge

March 18, 2014 By Ted Barber

As a special event for The Florida Grand Lodge’s designated “Youth Month”, Mrs. Deborah Parmenter, Brooker Elementary School (BES) Principal, provided Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 valuable information about our youth on a stated communication evening.

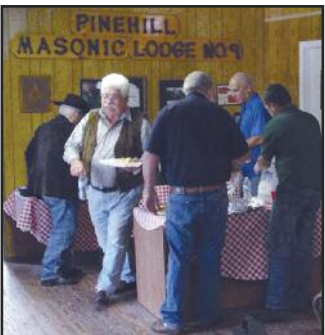
Pine Hill Lodge has been actively assisting BES for many years with voluntary reading to students, back to school events, yearbooks, the “Why I Love America” drawing and essay contests, and other activities.

Mrs. Parmenter, following a chicken and rice supper, told the members of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 that Brooker Elementary School is experiencing many challenges to include growth and student testing. She told the members of Pine Hill Lodge that a newly organized mentoring program, called “TALKS”, needed volunteers where each Thursday afternoon between 1:00 PM and 1:45 PM an adult male would meet with three male students to exchange information outlined in a specific mentoring book. The vision of this program is to share wisdom between generations with the purpose of leading young men to make personal commitments to integrity and excellence.

Another program that Mrs. Parmenter mentioned is the return of Bible Club, an initiative of Brooker Baptist Church. As a special part of this before-school club there will be a fieldtrip for club members to Melrose for the “In His Wakes” experience. Here students will learn to “Get off the dock” by learning to ski, hydro slide, and tube. This opportunity, however, requires approximately \$150 per student. She told the Lodge Members that she would provide additional information to assist in making decisions as how the Lodge might help.

One question about the FCAT testing program seemed to be of particular interest to everyone. Mrs. Parmenter believed the school was ready to achieve a “B” or “A” rating but recent changes in grading criteria have clouded their predictions. “Because we are a small school the impact of each individual student is exceptionally weighty on the school grade. In fact, the performance of just six students can swing us anywhere from and “A” to an “F,” she stated.

She also mentioned the new “Common Core Standards” testing that will replace the FCAT next school year that was adding to the challenges of preparing the school. She remarked, “Brooker is an excellent school with profound teachers that is providing a first-rate education for the students of this community.” Mrs. Parmenter’s presentation regarding the youth in the Brooker Community was extremely well received and appreciated.



DeSoto No. 105 Travels To Sun City To Confer Fellowcraft Degree

By: W.: M.: Troy Di Vito, DeSoto Lodge No. 105, Riverview, FL 33569

The Brothers of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 (Riverview, Florida) have been working hard to earn their wages in 2014. Worshipful Master Troy DiVito obtained the necessary dispensation and the Lodge traveled to Sun City Center, Florida where they conducted the Fellowcraft initiation ceremony. Sun City Center is a retirement community located about twenty-five miles south of Tampa and is home to approximately 19,000 Residents that are 55 years of age or older. Masons from many jurisdictions call Sun City Center home. Both the Shrine Club and the Scottish Rite Club are active and host regular luncheon meetings. However it is challenge for some older Brothers to drive at night, reduced physical mobility, and other infirmities of age are some of the reasons these Brothers have not been able to attend a regular Lodge Meeting. They are still an important part of our family, and the Brothers of DeSoto Lodge are committed not to forget them.

The Sun City Center Recreation Center became a temporary Lodge Room after a thorough inspection of the facility proved its architecture fully suitable and capable of being properly Tyled. Preceding the degree refreshments were provided by The SCC Shrine Club;



they also provided a refresher to remind Brothers of the obligation and teachings of the degree. Worshipful Master Troy DiVito checked dues cards and this remarkable ceremony commenced. The degree was remarkable in the effort required to move the various furnishings and establish the Temporary Lodge Room. Also remarkable in the fact that the attendees represented hundreds of years of Masonry, yet the degree team by comparison represented only a few.

On this special occasion the Fellowcraft Degree was conferred on Brother Richard Clyde Shelly and Brother Steven Michael Little. Notably present for Brother Little passing to the degree of Fellowcraft, was his father, and DeSoto Lodge No. 105 Past Master Worshipful Delmas Little. He expressed the pride of a father at the accomplishment of his son; it was a poignant moment for all in attendance. The DeSoto Lodge Degree Team received many well deserved accolades and a generous helping of heartfelt appreciation. A degree team member commented at closing, "Seeing the faces of the [Sun City Center] Brothers and their passion for Masonry makes all the effort worthwhile." Truly the Brothers of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 have earned their wages on this evening.



The Fellowcraft Degree Team:
Brother Steve Wilson, J.: W.:
Brother Steve Little, W.: Delmas
Little, W.:M.: Troy DiVito

Jacksonville York Rite Festival Named In Honor Of M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith

By M.:E.: Corbin Elliott

M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith, Grand Master of Masons of Florida, the Jacksonville Festival Honoree, was present for the opening day of the Jacksonville York Rite Festival to welcome the new Companions on March 8, 2014.

Pictured is M.:W.: Danny Griffith (first row, center in red coat) with the new Companions after the Past Master Degree on Saturday, March 8, 2014. The new Companions were seated in the first and second rows, and the Royal Arch Chapter Companions are shown standing behind them.

Shown standing in the second row, from the left were: R.:E.: Charles Edward Constant, DDGHP, District No. 7, acting R.:W.: Master in the P. M. degree; R.:E.: Corbin P. Elliot, PDDGHP, Companion Mark Balester and Companion Donald Gay.

Seen in the third row, left to right, are Companions Richard Aeh, Arthur Holden, Robert Gagnon, M.:E.: Darryl A. D'Angina, MEPGHP, Ernest Beeman, Logan Miano, R.:I.: Corey Kosciusko, DDGIM, Y.R. District No. 7, R.:H.: District Instructor, Masonic District No. 12; and M.:I.: Rusty Ludlum, MIPGM, District Instructor, of York Rite District No. 8.

Seen in the back row are, from left, Companions Bob Shellenberger, R.:E.: Edward Dunn, PDDGC, Pete Trent, and Wilmer T. Atwell.



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 – Raises Two Master Masons

By Howard W. Knapp PM, PDI, P.D.D.G.M.



Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located at 14020 Marguerite Dr. in Madeira Beach, announces its newest Master Masons. Brothers Bobby Ray Burkett II and Adam Lee Wolf who were made Master Masons at a ceremony held at the Masonic Temple on March 13, 2014, in the presence of 53 members and visiting Masons. Masons from as far away as Newfoundland and New Brunswick Canada were in attendance, including Right Worshipful Donald Gruchy, Grand Representative to the State of Florida from the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick Canada. Brother Burkett was originally from Alma Georgia and is employed locally as an Engineer. Brother Wolf, originally from Wayne New Jersey, is a Systems Analyst.

Prior to the ceremony the attendees enjoyed a wonderful dinner prepared by Brother Steve Nelson, the Lodge's Junior Warden. The ritual ceremony was presided over by Worshipful Master, Michael Pagnotta, and the 2014 Officers of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge.

Honorary Past Master Conferred To Brother Bob Shogren

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

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291 recently conferred the title of "Honorary Past Master" on Brother Bob Shogren, a 55 year Mason. Brother Bob and his wife are moving to California to be closer to family, he will be missed around the Masonic Temple. A dinner was held at the Lodge on Friday, March 14, 2014 in Brother Bob's honor. The presentation was made, much to his surprise, following the dinner. Brother Bob was given a standing ovation by the Masons, family and friends present.



"Together We Can Accomplish Anything"

By W.: Roy L. Weiland

Lawtey Lodge No. 189 Free & presented a youth program and youth recognition night on March 20, 2014 in Lawtey, Florida. The Scouts opened the night with the presentation of the Colors. JROTC cadet Lieutenant Colonel Cody Bias led the Pledge of Allegiance and Major Cory Johns gave the prayer. Thirty-five boys, family members, and Masons enjoyed a dinner of hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, mac-n-cheese, chips, banana pudding, apple pie and ice cream as well as drinks and tea.

Boy Scout Troop No. 70 was recognized with a Grand Lodge Certificate of Recognition and honored for their work and involvement in the community. The Masons of Lawtey Lodge also presented Scoutmaster Paul Funderburk with a donation to assist with their cost of earning Merit badges, camping, uniforms, community projects, etc.

Bradford High School JROTC cadets Lieutenant Colonel Cody Bias and Major Cory Johns attended and were presented a Grand Lodge Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding program at Bradford High School. Lawtey Lodge No. 189 also presented them with a donation for their unit.

Lawtey Lodge No. 189 recognized and presented Bradford County's newest Eagle Scout, Jonathon Kyle Funderburk, with a Grand Lodge Certificate for his accomplishments with earning the highest rank a boy can earn in scouting.

Worshipful Master Bill Lenoir and District Deputy Grand Master Bobby Rehberg stated they were honored to be able to present the hard earned awards and recognitions. Both are members of Lawtey Lodge and look forward to continue working with our youth in the community. They understand that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow and know that fine organizations such as JROTC and Scouting are an important part of making leaders.

Lawtey Lodge No. 189 Honors JROTC And Scouts



Bobby Rehberg, Lieutenant Colonel Cody Bias, Major Cory Johns, Bill Lenoir



L-R are: Bobby Rehberg, Paul Funderburk, Kyle Funderburk, Bill Lenoir



Bobby Rehberg, Bill Lenoir, Paul Funderburk, Kyle Funderburk, Johathan Schmidt, Johnny Spencer, Riley Miller, Serth Christy

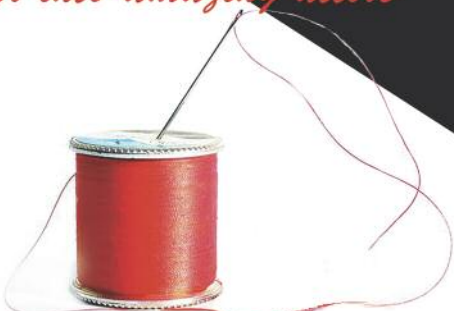
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Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360 - Celebrates D.D.G.M.'s Official Visit & Fellowcraft Degree

During a lodge dinner function at Ferry Pass Lodge No. 348 in Pensacola on April 21, 2014, Brother Daniel George Fish proudly receives his distinguished badge of a mason. He was presented the lambskin after successfully displaying exemplary proficiency in reciting the catechism memory work of the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry.

Brother Fish joins a select few who have taken that final step of putting in the hours necessary to learn the work to be proficient enough to earn the honor. His dedication and interest in the Fraternity became evident early on when he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on December 16, 2013 and then raised less than three months later on March 10, 2014.

The Senior Steward station in the lodge was vacant and without hesitation he accepted the job when asked. The presentation was made by R.:W.: Haskill R. Vest, DDGM, District 2 who was making his second and final official visit to the lodge before being relieved by the new incoming DDGM after the annual Grand Lodge Communications.



Prominent Local Mason Receives 60 Year Service Award

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

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach Florida, presented local distinguished Freemason, Donald T. Harriott, with his 60 Year Service Award on Thursday March 6, 2014. Brother Harriott was made a Mason in 1953 at Fidelis Lodge No. 242 in Patterson, New Jersey.



L to R: Bro. Donald T. Harriott; R.:W.: William B. Garrett Jr. and Master of the Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, W.:M.: Michael H. Pagnotta



L to R: Bro. Donald T. Harriott; R.:W.: William B. Garrett Jr.



He served as Master of Fidelis Lodge in 1963. In 1991, following retirement and moving to the Gulf Beaches, Brother Harriott joined Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291. He served faithfully as the Lodge Chaplain from 1994 until 2007.

Brother Harriott is also active in the York Rite of Freemasonry and in 2005 served as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida.

Brother Harriott's 60 Year Service Award was presented by District Deputy Grand Master, William B. Garrett Jr., who oversees the local Masonic Lodges. Fifty five members and visitors from as far away as the UK and Canada were in attendance for this memorable event.



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



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

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Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Zip Code _____ CDV Code _____
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Lawtey Fest Includes Child ID From District 10

The 10th Masonic District provided the free Child ID program to children during the Lawtey Fest on March 8, 2014. The 10th District includes Bradford, Union, and Baker Counties.

Representing the 10th District at the Fest were W.: Roy Weiland, W.: John Bellovich, R.:W.: Bobby Rehberg, R.:W.: Stan Harvey, W.: John Mann, R.:W.: Larry Scott, and R.:W.: Leaman Alvarez.



Support the Florida Masonic Child ID Program.

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

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

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



Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360 - Celebrates D.D.G.M.'s Official Visit & Fellowcraft Degree

February 4, 2014: Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360 - Officers and Members - Celebrates an Official Visit by R.:W.: Barry Hart, District Deputy Grand Master of the 27th District and The Fellow Craft Degree Catechism of Bro. Dane Grossnickel, who is also scheduled with Bro. Brian Boozan (Not Pictured) for The Master Mason Degree at 9:00 A.M. on February 15, 2014 - For Further Information Call: Englewood Masonic Lodge No. 360 - 265 Pine Street, Englewood, FL. Phone No. 941 - 475- 9211.



(Back Row - L. to R.) Bro. Pat Glover - President, Bro. Joseph Sikop - Member and Bro. Chris Harrison - Treasurer, of The Widows Sons Knight of the East of Florida, who have organized several Toys for Tots, Veterans and Charity - Fund Raisers and they have been traveling with their motorcycles and visiting several Masonic Lodges in Florida ; Bro. Stoney Stonecipher - S.D., W.: Robert Holland - S.W. ; W.: Ed Behringer - Treasurer.
(Front Row - L. to R.) Seated - R.:W.: Gary Schroeder P.M. 1987-88 & P.D.D.G.M. - 1992, R.:W.: Barry Hart - D.D.G.M. - 2013 & 2014, Bro. Dan Van Alstine - J.D. , Bro. Dane Grossnickel - Fellow Craft Degree Mason, Worshipful Master - W.: M.: Jerry Wadel - 2013 & 2014 , Bro. Dennis Doome - J.W. and Bro. Mike Nicklos, Lodge Secretary!



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Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida



Boynton Lodge Honors Local Law Enforcement

By W.: Scott A. Schwartzberg

On Thursday, October 24th, Boynton Lodge No. 236 had an open meeting to present the Police Officer of the Year award. The evening started with a presentation by Officer Rita Swan, of the Crime Prevention Unit of the Boynton Beach Police Department. Officer Swan gave tips on how to prevent crime at home as well as when out and about.

Plaques honoring Officers Eric Reynolds and Chris Monroe as Officers of the Year were presented. Officer Reynolds recounted the experience that earned the two this award, preventing the escape of a bank robber. Officer Reynolds was wounded in the shootout. Officer Monroe was unable to attend the presentation as he was involved in another shooting recently, though he was safe and healthy.



R.:W.: Ewald Forsbrey Receives 55 Year Award

By Jim Kershaw, Secretary, Cypress Lodge No. 295, October 10, 2013

Right Worshipful Ewald Forsbrey, a Dual Member of Cypress Lodge No. 295, Naples, and Cornerstone Lodge No. 178, Manhattan, New York was presented 55-year awards by both jurisdictions. The award from New York was presented by R.:W.: Forsbrey's son, R.:W.: Gregg Forsbrey, Master of Ceremonies for the Grand Lodge of New York and Brother Scott Forsbrey. Both sons visited Cypress Lodge No. 295 to honor their Dad. They are also members of Cornerstone Lodge No. 178.



Brother Ben Nelson, Senior Warden, presented the award on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

"Together We Can Accomplish Anything"

