

The Florida Mason

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

Volume 13, Issue 1



Grand Lodge of Florida
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Tel: 904.354.2339
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Grand Lodge Officers
2020-21

GRAND MASTER
M.:W.: Tommy Turlington
(Deltona)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.: W.: Jeffery S. Foster
(St. Augustine)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Robert J. Lambert
(Tampa)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
R.: W.: Glen B. Bishop
(Clearwater)

GRAND TREASURER
R.: W.: Rudin "Rudy" J. Boatright
(Fleming Island)

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

*All submissions
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The Florida Mason
and Facebook submissions
should be sent to,
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provided here,
Do Not send text messages)*

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November 1, 2022
Print Date
December 15, 2022



M.:W.: Tommy Turlington
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

My Brothers,

The year 2020 has not been what I had envisioned by no means. Not being able to have our Grand Lodge Annual Communication last May was surely a disappointment to us all.

My planned year of Communication, Accountability, and Unity all being great things turned out not to be enough. Flexibility had to be added to my goals.

As the year 2020 progressed we had to learn to be very flexible not only in Masonry but in our home and work.

I want not only to thank you, but congratulate you for your understanding of the issues that we have faced thus far.

We have learned from this period of flexibility to hold meetings on Zoom or Microsoft Teams, which has saved us money and time and the risk of catching or spreading the virus.

My hope moving forward is that we will be able to hold our Grand Lodge Annual Communication this May and that the virus will be behind us and the worst is over.

Please continue our safety measures that have been put in place in our Lodges as well as the CDC Guidelines until directed otherwise.

Continue to follow the goals for the year for Communication, Accountability, and Unity with flexibility when needed.

Please keep the families of our love ones that we have lost this year in your thoughts and prayers.

I thank each of you for all your prayers and heartfelt well wishes that I have received this year. They meant more to me than you will ever know.

In closing, I wish each of you and your family good health and prosperity and look forward to being with you in May at our Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

God Bless each of you, our Great Fraternity and the United States of America.

Fraternally yours,

M.:W.: Tommy L. Turlington, Jr.
Grand Master 2020

"2020 Vision"



A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for having the trust in me to serve as your Deputy Grand Master. It is my honor to serve you and this great Fraternity.

As 2020 comes to an end, we need to reflect upon the many difficult challenges that we have faced since the beginning of the pandemic and look forward to a normal future, or whatever "normal" will be. As our country struggles with the pandemic, social and political unrest, there is no better opportunity

for us, as Masons, to show the world the beauty of Freemasonry.

As Masons, we are taught to subdue our passions, but we seem to forget that when we are posting on social media. We should rise above the darkness and be the light that we are supposed to be. In today's

society, instead of meaningful debate, it is who can yell the loudest or post the most demeaning meme. We need to refrain from this type of behavior and conduct ourselves as upright men and Masons.

As we all know, our Membership has declined over the past couple of decades and if we want Freemasonry to survive into the future, we need to increase our membership. Young men today do their research on the internet, which includes social media. If they see our Members acting no better than the common man, then they will not have any interest in becoming part of our Fraternity.

Finally, my Brothers, at the close of every meeting, we ask the Great Architect of the Universe to teach us to realize the beauties of the principle of our time-honored institution, not only while in the Lodge but when abroad in the world. Are you fulfilling that obligation?

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Jeff Foster
Deputy Grand Master



R.:W.: Jeff Foster
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

Brethren,

As we near the end of 2020, and almost all our Grand Master's Official Visits have been completed, I have to say how proud I am of the Craft on how you have adapted to the needs for a safe visit. Thank you for watching out for your Brothers. Our Lodges have had to do things we are not used to in order to conduct business and Degrees. All of these challenges will soon pass, not as quickly as we would like, but they will pass.

We will soon go forward with the updates needed at Grand Lodge in order to fulfill the promises we have made to get us ready for the future of our Great Fraternity. There are exciting things coming that require we be technologically ready. Your Grand Line is well aware of the changes we need to get ready for that future.

We need to take a good look at the way the outside world sees us. Would you go into a building that the front porch is falling apart or the paint is peeling off the walls? Would you even take the time to go in if the grass is a foot high? If you did enter, how long would

you stay if the first thing you smelled was mold or the stench of a broken sewer line? How about if it was so dingy and dark that it reminded you of an old cave or if it was hotter inside than outside? Men are not looking to join a Fraternity of free thinkers under these conditions. If we are not proud enough of who we are to take the time to spruce up our house, how can we expect anyone else to think we are worth their time? I know that some of our Lodges have taken a good look at these conditions and have made vast improvements. I congratulate you Brothers for understanding what needs to be done to get ready for the future.

I look forward to the New Year and seeing more of my Brothers. I also would like to congratulate all the incoming Officers of the Lodges. May 2021 be a successful year for all of you.

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to watch over us and bless us all.

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Robert J. Lambert
Senior Grand Warden



R.: W.: Robert J. Lambert
Senior Grand Warden



R.:W.: Glen B. Bishop
Junior Grand Warden

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

My Brothers;
Let me start by thanking you for electing me your Junior Grand Warden. It is an awesome responsibility and one I pledge to you that I will work hard to continue to earn your trust in. I look forward to serving the Craft in the several roles and responsibilities of the Junior Grand Warden and as the newest member of your Grand Lodge Team.
It is good to see most of your faces as we travel the State. We understand that not everyone feels safe going out to events and that is okay! Your safety and the safety of your loved ones is paramount. Please know that we will get through this and come out stronger, closer, and better knowing that our Fraternity can make it through ANYTHING together.
One issue of importance to me is Masonic Education, more so bringing it to the Craft in a new, more effective way. It might not be new to the world, but it is to us. We have made great strides forward bringing out Master Mason I, II, and III Exams online, now it is time to bring our Masonic Leadership Training (MLT) online as well. Currently our State Chairman is working hard and making MLT available in Zoom classes across the state. Keep in mind, we will not do away with in-person classes, it is the

interaction you get being able to ask questions and bring up different scenarios to the group. This can be done online as well. Ultimately, I would like to see it presented in three different ways: in person lectures, Online Zoom-style classes, and recorded videos with short quizzes at the end, that way regardless of how a Brother learns best, it will be available for him.
Grand Lodge has a committee that not many Lodges may not be aware of, that being the Technology Committee. One of the responsibilities of this committee is to help, aide, and assist Lodges with their IT questions and needs. During the Secretary and Treasurer Workshops there is a class about the committee with pointers and recommendations on how to make your Lodge a little better from an IT stand point. We can be found on page 18 of the Florida Directory, if you have a question give us a call.

Semper Fi,

R.:W.: Glen B. Bishop
Junior Grand Warden



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

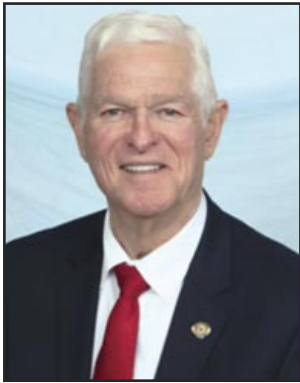
A Message From The Grand Secretary

Well My Brothers,
It certainly has been a different year. The coin phrase is *flexibility*. The Grand Lodge Office Staff has been very accommodating and at times it was necessary for them to work from home and other times to work during the evenings, but their dedication has proven to be fruitful in maintaining the records of Grand Lodge and those of the Grand Lodge Officers. As I've said, I'm not sure of what we face in the near future and I really don't understand how to use a crystal ball. I am confident that whatever the Grand Lodge Faces, the staff and the Grand Lodge Officers will be capable of performing their duties and moving forward with the principles of our Fraternity. I really did miss seeing all my friends and perhaps making some new ones and running our Annual Grand Communication. Past Grand Master Westerman handled the pandemic very well and I complement him on his forward thinking, together with the Elected Grand Lodge Officers, to allow us to continue with our operations.
This year we did several Secretaries Seminars via video conference on Zoom and they seem to be generally well accepted, of course like everything, they can be improved on and we are working on that as we speak. I wish to thank R.:W.: Jeff Foster, R.:W.: Rudy Boatright, and R.:W.: Glen Bishop for their continued support

in making these presentations. They have much to offer our Fraternity and are willing to do whatever it takes to assist the Secretaries and the Elected Officers of the Particular Lodges. Check the monthly mail on the Grand Lodge Website for dates and times of upcoming seminars.
It is a pleasure to work with our current Grand Master, although he has under gone open heart surgery. He has a good attitude and has committed to move forward as Grand Master to represent our Fraternity. It's hard to believe that shortly I will have served 13 years as your Grand Secretary. It has certainly been a pleasure and honor to serve in this Office and it has been very rewarding to me personally. I am very privileged to be working with a superior staff at our Grand Lodge Office as they are dedicated and professional individuals. I hope we all can sit in Lodge together as friends and Brothers in the very near future. My wish for you is for a Healthy Year and your families' continued health.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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



R.:W.: Rudin "Rudy"
J. Boatright
Grand Treasurer

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

My Brothers,
Thank you my Brothers for allowing me to serve another year as your Grand Treasurer. 2020 has been one of the most challenging years of all. We are all looking for a much better year in 2021.
The Masonic Museum here at the Grand Lodge in Jacksonville has been renovated and new displays have been added. I would like to invite all our Brothers and their friends and family to visit and see what has been accomplished. I think you will find it very informative. Just remember to wear a mask when visiting the Grand Lodge Office.
We need to continue to keep all our service men and women and all first responders in our thoughts and prayers. We owe them so very much. If you see one out and about, think about thanking him or her for their service. If you

know a service member deployed somewhere, why don't you the get their address and mail them an appropriate card letting them know they are not forgotten.
If you are in the Jacksonville area, please stop by and let our staff know how much you appreciate all they do for the Craft.

Fraternally,

R.:W.: Rudin Boatright
Grand Treasurer

Pineland Lodge No. 86 Donates Drone Cart

Brothers from Pineland Lodge No. 86 adopted math teacher Dan Lewandowski (Brother of Melrose Lodge No. 89) earlier this year as part of our Adopt-A-Teacher Program.
Brother Lewandowski, known as Col. Ski to most, also teaches aviation and mentors a drone club at Q.I. Roberts Junior/Senior High School. He approached Pineland Lodge No. 86 about building a cart to transport their competition drones.
While inquiring about supplies for the

build, Matt Holbrook of Holbrook Metal Fabrication stepped in and offered to not only build the cart, but also powder-coat it in the school's colors.
The result is a quality build that should work very well for the drone competition team. Col. Ski and the students are very appreciative. Pineland Lodge No. 86 extends its thanks to Matt Holbrook and is proud to have been involved in making this happen.



Pictured L to R:
(among students):
Col. Ski,
W.:M.: Kent Warman,
M.:W.: Robert Trump,
Brother Shane Harrell,
Joseph Theobald
(Principal)

Pineland Lodge No. 86 Presents Perpetual Friend Membership

Pineland Lodge No. 86 presented Ms. Kerri Rose a Perpetual Friend Membership. Ms. Rose has been a longtime friend of Pineland Lodge No. 86 and has provided support in many ways over the years.
The Brethren of Pineland voted to make Ms. Rose a Perpetual Friend to recognize her for her kindness and support to Pineland. The presentation was made during a Fellowship Breakfast at MeMa's Restaurant where Ms. Rose, her son, and many others were present.
Her name will also be added to a plaque listing Perpetual Friends which will forever be displayed at Pineland Lodge No. 86.



Ms. Kerri Rose of Mema's
Restaurant, Satsuma, FL

Brother Jimmy Williams 25-Years A Mason at Pineland Lodge No. 86

At a meeting of Pineland Masonic Lodge No. 86, Brother Jimmy Williams was recognized for his 25-years as a Freemason. R.:W.: D.D.G.M. Christopher Knight made the Presentation of a 25-Year Lapel Pin and Certificate with assistance from Worshipful Master Kent Warman. The Brothers of Pineland Lodge No. 86 were there to share in the occasion along with Brothers from several area Lodges. Pineland Lodge is located at 190 E. Peniel Road in Palatka. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month with supper at 6:30 pm and Meeting at 7:30 pm.



L to R: R.:W.: Christopher Knight,
Bro. Jimmy Williams, W.: Kent Warman

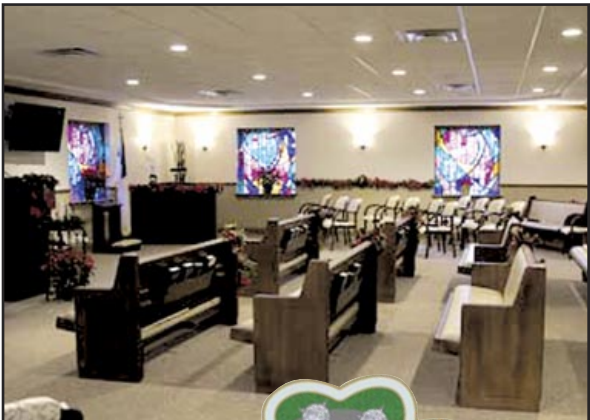
First Ladies 2020 Project



This year Lady Sandy Turlington, wife of M.: W.: Thomas L. Turlington, Jr. Grand Master, has selected for her project at The Masonic Home of Florida, the installation of a movie theater for the Residents.

Each year the wives of our Grand Masters have chosen a project that benefits the Residents of The Masonic Home while increasing its appeal to future Residents, this year is no exception.

Over the past years, the wives of our Grand Masters, with the assistance of the wives of our District Deputy Grand Masters, Appointed Grand Line Officers, and others Ladies have installed a physical therapy center, remodeled the main lobby and front entrance of the Home, remodeled and upgraded the nurses station, installed an ice cream parlor, remodeled the Board Room and Chapel and many other projects.



None of these things could have been done without the tireless work of our Ladies. Please consider a donation to this year's project and let us strive to make another significant improvement to our Masonic Home.

Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 Hosts Two Food Distribution Events



The Brothers of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 hosted two highly successful Community food distribution events for the local Hollywood Community financially affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The drive-by food events were hosted outside Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 on Wednesday, April 22, and Wednesday, May 6, 2020. These events were funded exclusively through donations from the Members of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299



and well-wishers from the local Community.

Due to the overwhelming response from Members of our Lodge and local organizations, we were able to provide dry food, fruits, and vegetables to over 1,000 families at each event.

These pictures are from the event. The Members of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 were quite pleased and happy to participate in these fulfilling activities during these challenging times.

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Awards Annual Scholarship Award



Ms. Katerina Nasto

Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, presented its annual Albert T. and Tupper MacMillan Scholarship, supported by the Ernest J. Freeman Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Scholarship was presented to Ms. Katerina Nasto, a graduating Senior at Largo High School in Seminole. Katerina Nasto graduated with a 4.0 grade point average and has been accepted into Harvard University where she plans to begin her studies in Biological Sciences in the fall. Ms. Nasto has over 140 hours of volunteer service at Largo Medical Center where she helps transport, discharge and assist patients, escort guests and run errands for the nursing staff.

She is co-creator of "Global Audiobooks" a Youtube Channel where she records and uploads short stories for kids in Greek, French and German. Ms. Nasto has served as co-coach for free after-school volleyball clinics and taken part in Community events through Girls in STEM club, Science Honor Society and National Honor Society. She has been a member of the student council for three years and the Pre-Medical Club for three years, serving as Vice President her senior year. Ms. Nasto has played on the varsity volleyball team for four years and was captain of the team this year.

She has been honored as the Pinellas County All-Star Volleyball Player in 2020. Ms. Nasto earned the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award in 2019 in recognition of her involvement in the Community, awarded by the Holocaust Museum. She was named Student of the Year in 10th grade for AP Psychology and IB French, and Student of the Year for IB Biology in 11th grade.

Memorial Lodge No. 16 Grave Marker Restoration Project

The Brothers of Memorial Lodge No. 16 held a grave marker restoration project within the Masonic Section of Woodlawn Memorial Park in Gotha, FL (near Orlando). After many hours of elbow-grease not only were the markers for our Brothers and Eastern Star Sisters whom have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above cleaned and restored but W.: George was spiffed up as well (who knew that tomato catsup is a fine brass cleaner!)



At labor: W.: Ricky Ricks, W.: Wendell Tomimbang, W.: Michael Catello, W.: Philip "Grandaddy" Paul, Bro. Ed Dibble, Bro. Tom Erskin, R.: W.: Larry Williamson, W.: Sam Glover, W.: M.: Mike Griffin.



All submissions for future issues of The Florida Mason and Facebook submissions should be sent to,

R.: W.: Larry Duff

Idduff@centurylink.net

(Please use email address provided here, Do Not send text messages)

Any questions, call him at:

352-874-2164

Pearl of The West Lodge No. 146 Gets Upgrades

When Florida was closed due to the Covid-19 virus, several Members of Pearl of the West Lodge No. 146 gathered on occasion to renovate the dining hall by painting, cleaning and re-polishing the terrazzo floor and adding chair rail and rubber base molding.



Submitted by Bro. Craig Franklin, Senior Steward
Pearl of the West of The West Lodge No. 146



Boynton Lodge No. 236 Community Outreach

On Tuesday May 26, 2020 Boynton Lodge No. 236, surprised the doctors and nurses at Bethesda Hospital East Emergency Room with a pizza lunch, as well as more for the night shift.

Brothers Stephen Otto and Scott Schwartzberg led this Community effort on behalf of those who protect our City. Brother Otto planned this meal

with Rebecca Carroll of the hospital's Foundation.

The pizzas were purchased from Uptown Pizza in Boynton Beach, near the Hospital.

While traveling around the city on their delivery route the Brothers ended up traveling on roads named after the families of at least three late Members of the Lodge.



Boynton Lodge No. 236 Community Appreciation To Fire Rescue

Submitted by Scott A Schwartzberg, Senior Warden, Boynton Lodge No. 236

On Tuesday June 9, 2020 Boynton Lodge No. 236, delivered pizzas to every Fire Rescue Department Station in Boynton Beach including the headquarters.

Brothers Scott Schwartzberg and Stephen Otto, pictured above with several firefighters, led the Masonic Community effort on behalf of the Lodge.

Boynton Lodge No. 236, hosts an Awards Night for Police and First Responders annually but this year's cancellation turned the hearts of the Members of the Lodge outward to serve those that protect the citizens of Boynton Beach. They were surprised to see one of the former award winners, Capt. John Canela at one of the Station Houses.

The pizzas were purchased from a local restaurant in Boynton Beach, after the owner agreed to come in early and make them, though the restaurant remained closed for lunch.

While traveling around the city on their delivery route, the Brothers ended up traveling on roads named after the families of at least three late Members of the Lodge.



Pineland Lodge No. 86 Adopts Q.I. Roberts Jr-Sr High School

Pineland Lodge No. 86, recently adopted Q.I. Roberts Junior/Senior High School in a presentation made at Lodge. Pineland Lodge is proud to support our educators and students.



Pictured (left to right) are Joe Theobald
(Principal of QI Roberts),
W.:M.: Kent Warman of Pineland Lodge No. 86.

W.: Joe Garrett – 55-Years A Mason At New Smyrna Lodge No. 149

Worshipful Brother Joe Garrett, Past Master of New Smyrna Lodge No. 149, was Awarded a Certificate of Membership for 55-years from W.: Donald H. Tucker, at the March 16th, 2020 Stated Communication.



W.: Donald H. Tucker and
W.: Joe Garrett

West Broward Lodge No. 253 Hosts Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop

West Broward Lodge No. 253, has been sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop for 25 years; it was originally started by a West Broward Lodge Brother.

On June 13th, 2020, the Cub Scout Pack No. 492 had a drive-by Crossover; a ceremony that advances them to the next rank level.

Thirty-nine kids came to gather their awards they earned for the year, new rank neckerchief and handbook, with some candy and toys.



Our very own R.:W.: Glenn Gomez (third person from the right), is the Lodge Treasurer for over 25 years, and Charter Representative for both Cub and Boy Scout units.

West Broward Lodge No. 253 – Displays Law Enforcement Appreciation

What little things we can do for our Community & for our first responders goes a long way!

We appreciate the hard work & dedication of the Pembroke Pines Police Department through the COVID19 pandemic. They are putting themselves at more risk and now, their families; all to protect the City of Pembroke Pines and its citizens.

On May 13th, West Broward Lodge No. 253 was able to say “Thank You” with a small gesture, feeding the department with 10 XL pizza pies.



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Perpetual Friend Memberships At Leesburg Lodge No. 58

Leesburg Lodge No. 58 was happy to present two Perpetual Friends Memberships to two Ladies who are a mainstay in supporting our monthly First Saturday Morning Breakfasts and Dinners.

The Brethren of the Lodge awarded these honors to Lady Tina Horvath Haas and Lady Terri Lynne Bode for all their hard work, dedication, and support of the Lodge.

The presentations were made during the July 4th, 2020 First Saturday Monthly Breakfast.

Thank You Ladies.



West Broward Lodge No.253 - Cookies for a Cause - Salvation Army Fundraiser

West Broward Lodge No.253, paired up with Marissa Marx, owner of Succulents and Spice, to help raise money for the Salvation Army serving the vulnerable population during COVID19.

On June 6th and 7th, 2020, for two hours each, we conducted a drive-by donation drop off at our Lodge.

For donating a canned item and \$10.00 dollars, each person received a dozen of delicious cookies baked by Marissa Marx.

We were able to raise \$423.00 dollars and six large boxes of canned items.



Pineland Lodge No. 86 Honors 55-Year Masons

At a Meeting of Pineland Lodge No. 86, Brothers Bobby Rivers (Past Master) and Herman Whaley were recognized for their 55-years as Freemasons.

Past Grand Master of Masons of Florida, M.:W.: Robert Trump made the presentation of a 55-Year Label Pin and Certificate with assistance from Worshipful Master Kent Warman.

The Brother's wives were there to share in the occasion along with Brothers from Pineland Lodge No. 86 and several area Lodges. Pineland Lodge No. 86 is located at 190 E. Peniel Road in Palatka. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month with supper at 6:30 pm and meeting at 7:30 pm.



Pictured (L to R): W.: Bobby Rivers, W.:M.: Kent Warman, Bro. Herman Whaley and M.:W.: Robert Trump, PGM (background)

Six Receive Masonic Honors At Madison Masonic Lodge No. 11

To say it was a big night for Madison Masonic Lodge No. 11 is an understatement. Twelve Master Masons were honored for their successful tenures of service to the Masonic Order and six in attendance were presented Certificates and Pins as a token of appreciation.

The awards night was held on Monday, Nov. 11, in the banquet hall of the downtown Madison Lodge. Around 35 were in attendance to witness the occasion.

After a hearty meal, Lodge Secretary and Past Master Jim Stanley announced the recipient of the honor. Those included Masons in attendance: Sidney R. Johnson, 50-Years; James O' Neal, 50-Years; Jim Stanley, 50-Years; David Ward, 50-Years; Donald Ward, 50-Years; and Tony Odom, 25 Years.

Those not in attendance, but were honored, included: Tommy Beggs, 65-Years; Mike Dearing, 50-years; Jimmy Bunting, 50-Years; Ben Ebberson, 25-years; Chris Driggers, 25-Years; and Jerry Bland, 25-Years. These Masons will receive their Certificates and Pins at a later date. Tommy Beggs was honored on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Madison Rotary Club Meeting.

Both Johnson and Stanley, who received their 50-Year honors, received Grand Honors in a brief Closed Meeting after dinner.

Freemasonry has a long-standing role in the birth and traditions of America and the growth of Madison County. Dedicated to making "Good Men Better," the Fraternity is committed to supporting all great causes, especially the poor and distressed, as well as the elderly and children. Locally, Madison Masonic Lodge No. 11 continues to support these concerns, while also supporting the charities of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

Madison Masonic Lodge No. 11 meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month, with activities and social programs year-round. The Lodge is located at the corner of Range Avenue and Rutledge Street.



L to R: David Ward, Donald Ward, Sidney R. Johnson, Jim Stanley, Tony Odom and James O'Neal.

Boca-Delray Lodge No.171 - Highway Clean Up

Boca-Delray Lodge No.171, Brothers gathered for a Community service project by making sure Military Trail Road is keep clean rain or shine. Adopt-A-Highway is another way to be visible, help the community and enjoy the Fellowship of our Brother Masons. Thanks to all Brethren that helped.



“Honoring an Eagle” Wauchula Freemasons Honor An Eagle Scout Recipient

Since 1912, the Eagle Scout rank has represented a milestone of an accomplishment of a young man's life whose dedication and perseverance to those very ideals have earned him the coveted title he now holds. There are a few equals to this achievement that are recognized across the country and even the world but for a young man, this is one of the most memorable highlights of their young age.

Those who have earned the Eagle Scout rank count it among their most treasured achievements. Only about 4% of all Scouts ever earn this distinction and “Eagle Scout” is not just an award; it is a state of being. Those who earned it in their youth, continue to earn it every day as adults for the rest of their lives. That is why an Eagle Scout *IS* an Eagle Scout and never a “was.”

It is for this very reason and what Scouting embodies in it's creed, that Masons the world over so cherish, that the Wauchula Lodge No. 17 Master Masons choose to honor a young man, who has earned this distinction, on July 13, 2020 with The Grand Lodge of Florida Eagle Scout Award.

Eryk Chazares earned 32 badges and has held almost all if not every one of the leadership positions that he possibly could obtain within his troop. To this day, he continues to give back, share his knowledge and experience with up and coming newer scouts by being a mentor, a teacher, an instructor and a leader. He is also the first Eagle Scout to have had his Honor Court Ceremony in an outdoor setting and thus made history as being the first Eagle Scout in Tampa Bay to do so.

His future goals are to hopefully to be able to attend the University of Florida and major in either Agriculture or Biological Engineering. He also wants to keep mentoring the youth by impressing on them the need to read and learn everything they can.

By living the Scout Law, Code and Motto, Eryk



West Broward Lodge No. 253 & Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 “Helping at Feeding”

On July 11th, West Broward Lodge No. 253 had some friendly competition with Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 at the Feeding South Florida Distribution Center in Pembroke Park, FL.

Each Lodge was set up on an assembly line: Prepping



Chazares has earned the respect of the Freemasons of Florida, The Grand Lodge of Florida and Wauchula Lodge No. 17. We are proud to be able to acknowledge this young man by our small token of goodwill and we hope that he achieves all his goals in his life. Well Done Eagle Scout!!

Also honored for her humanitarian deed from some 40 years ago, that allowed this young man to reach the heights he has, was Dorthy Bell. Ms. Bell, as she is affectionately known to the Chazares family, took an interest in Cleto “Sundy” Charzares, Eryk's father, when he was just a young man. She helped him in school to learn a second language, became his mentor and eventually, his guardian and allowed him to flourish, graduate high school and even earn a degree in college. Her efforts all those years ago, her extreme act of kindness and applying her own convictions cultivated with Eryk being where he is today. She is living proof that one person CAN make a difference and she has with at least two generations of Chazares who love her unconditionally.

Finally, the elder Chazares, Cleto was also honored. His steadfast determination, perseverance, and dogged stubbornness to continue in life when everything was stacked against him and who could have easily turned to a life of crime, heeded the gentle voice of reason from Ms. Bell. He also contributed to Eryk's success by taking a vested interest in his son by becoming an Assistant Scout Master in Eryk's troop and helping his son achieve the success he had when he was young albeit in a different way.

These three individuals, whose lives are so intertwined with each other and for two of them, who come from complete opposite backgrounds, now refer to each other as family could be viewed as a movie version of a “Southern Blindside.”

It was the Mason's privilege and honor to recognize all three for their individual accomplishments and to wish them much success in their future endeavors.



Orange Lodge No. 36 Adopts Highways

Worshipful Master, David Higgins, of Orange Lodge No. 36 had a vision for our Lodge to get back out in our local Community and involve ourselves in improving the Community where we could.

On that directive, the Brothers of Orange Lodge No.36, approached the City of Apopka and asked for short-and long-term projects that the Masons of Apopka could help in. Their idea for the short-term was that our Lodge adopt a road in the Apopka Adopt-a-Road Program.

The Lodge adopted two roads and quickly came up with a schedule to clean these roads once a month even though the program says every 60 days. We, as Masons, should always go above and beyond any minimums.

We cleaned seven full bags the first month and three the second month so our efforts are making a difference.

Pictures are from the May 17th Road Cleanup. Orange Lodge No. 36 is the oldest Lodge in continuous use in the State of Florida.



Pineland Lodge No. 86 Newest Perpetual Member

Pineland Lodge No. 86 recently presented Brother Chad Bock with his Perpetual Membership Certificate and Lapel Pin. Brother Bock was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason last year and has become a welcomed Brother of Pineland Lodge.

Pineland Lodge No. 86 is located at 190 E. Peniel Road in Palatka. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month with supper at 6:30 pm and meeting at 7:30 pm.



L to R: Brother Chad Bock and W.:M.: Kent Warman.

West Broward Lodge No. 253 - School Supplies Gathering

With restrictions still in place in Broward County for July and August, W.:M.: Roman Maciag of West Broward Lodge No. 253 in Pembroke Pines, set up a Dockside Social Gathering for 10 Brothers or less. We kept social distancing and sat on the dockside of our Lodge, with the beautiful scenery of the water. This was a great opportunity for a few Brothers to get out of the house and have some Fellowship. Meanwhile, the admission for this gathering was \$20 per person which is going towards the school supplies for the kids under the Broward Education Foundation program. We were able to collect \$180.00

DeSoto Lodge No. 105 Hosts Primary Elections with Free Food

Desoto Lodge No. 105 in Riverview has been humbly active in the Community for decades. Located in voting Precinct No. 956, the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections has utilized the DeSoto Lodge Facility for over ten-years as an election day polling location and the Members of the Lodge like to take this opportunity to give back to the Riverview Community.

Every year on Election day, Desoto Members Volunteer and set up a stand outside the Lodge with all the fixings where they prepare and offer free hotdogs to family and friends of our voting Community or anyone that may want to stop in for a visit. This year was no exception.

This small token of Community appreciation was again well received as many voters took part and expressed their appreciation. Given the circumstances presented this year with the mandated closing of the Lodge, the Brothers of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 were itching to get active, so they again went to work on Election Day on 18 August.

As Masons, we are Proud of our Country and proud of our heritage. We believe every American should exercise their right to vote and have their voices heard. It is by free elections that we have this great nation that separates us from most of the world. This is simply one way for the Members of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 to celebrate our freedom with our community and give back in a small way.



West Broward Lodge No. 253 Donates to Homeless Shelter

West Broward Lodge No. 253 has a yearly tradition with visiting the Broward Outreach Center, which is a homeless shelter, on Thanksgiving morning. There, they have a huge gathering with live music, dancing, Thanksgiving food feast, and so on.

We would go there to aid in serving the food, with monetary and clothing donations. With the possibility that this event might be cancelled, the Brothers of West Broward Lodge No. 253 started early to assist in gathering up clothing donations.

On August 13th, Worshipful Master Roman Maciag, and Brothers Marcus Gutierrez and Anthony Van Steenkiste we went to the Broward Outreach Center with 12 large bags of clothing and towels.

We need to continue to work on charity and help our community as much as possible!



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 Community Project with Local Residents

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, sponsored a neighborhood cleanup which took place on July 12th. Members of the Lodge, along with local residents, collected over ten garbage bags of trash from the neighborhood adjacent to the Masonic Lodge off 140th Avenue in Madeira Beach.

Everyone involved wore masks and were socially distanced. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Lodge to give back to the Community and help in keeping our neighborhood clean. Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 will be volunteering at the Madeira Beach Trash Pirates Cleanup on Saturday, August 1st and encourages other organizations to take part in this, and other, Community activities.



L to R: Chip Cahall, Howard Feldman, David Neville, Patrick Lynch, Joe Sosa, Steve Johnson and David Ristine

Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291 was Chartered in 1950 and has been an active force on the Gulf Beaches for over 70-years. Its Members have included bankers, contractors, teachers, Congressmen, Soldiers, pharmacists, police, fire-fighters, and a myriad of men from all walks of life.

Freemasonry is open to men ages 18 and above and offers an opportunity to be proactive in the Community as well as to be a part of a Fraternity that dates back three hundred years. Some notable Freemasons were George Washington (and 15 other U.S. Presidents), Ben Franklin, Henry Ford, Red Skelton, and General Douglas MacArthur.

The Masonic Home of Florida



The Masonic Home of Florida is situated on 18 acres of lush landscaping on the shores of Coffee Pot Bayou. Named by Spanish explorers, this picturesque inlet off Old Tampa Bay is surrounded by the finest neighborhoods in the area and close to major shopping centers and dining in Downtown St. Petersburg.

This choice waterfront location has been owned and operated by the Grand Lodge of Florida since the early 1900's and shares a century old tradition with the City of St. Petersburg. The Home was originally set aside for children slowly turning over to the needs of senior Masons and their wives/widows as aging demographics changed.

A series of building expansions beginning in 1973 brought us to the present 150,000 square foot Home which can accommodate up to 187 Residents in a state-of-the-art setting. There are gracious lobbies, an elegant dining room overlooking the grounds and water, a 5,000 volume library, billiards and activities rooms, gift shop, community kitchenettes and lounges, a chapel, waterside pavilion and fishing pier plus a host of other amenities which make the Masonic Home one of the premiere facilities of its kind in Pinellas County.

Recently, the City of St. Petersburg presented The Masonic Home a Mayor's First Place Award for Building and Grounds Beautification.

You can get a Florida Specialty License Plate for the first time; switch your existing specialty license plate; switch outside of your registration period or choose to include your annual registration renewal. You can also personalize your license plate (choose the characters you want on it or keep your existing plate number). All proceeds go to OUR Masonic Home of Florida.

Step Up To The Plate



District 13 Traveling Gavel on The Move

At the June 2nd meeting of Sanford Lodge No. 62, New Smyrna Lodge No. 149 arrived with the required number of Members to take the District 13 Traveling Gavel.



L to R: R.:W.: Will Dishman and R.:W.: Don Tucker

Making A Mason At Sight

DeSoto Lodge No. 105 is proud to report our newest Master Mason, Brother Nowell Garcia. He was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on August 15, 2020. If you are thinking, what is newsworthy about that fact? Every Lodge has a Charter or Warrant that empowers them to fulfill their purpose of making Masons. By the time you read this article, doubtless hundreds of men will become Masons world-wide. The way Brother Garcia joins our Fraternity is somewhat rare, he was made a Master Mason at Sight by Most Worshipful Grand Master, Thomas L. Turlington, Jr.

One of the published Landmarks of Freemasonry is, “the prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight.” Brother Garcia joins the oldest and largest Fraternity, and a quick internet search found some famous names that joined in this manner too (perhaps the reader is curious enough to investigate).

Brother Garcia petitioned DeSoto Lodge No. 105 in the usual fashion. His petition followed the usual course and he passed the ballot box and was regularly Initiated an Entered Apprentice on February 25, 2020. Everything seemed normal, Brother Garcia was working on his Catechism, but a horrible medical diagnosis meant everything was not going to be normal. When Most Worshipful Grand Master, Thomas L. Turlington, Jr. was informed of the situation, he knew there was something that he could do.

The Brothers that attended the August ceremony were spread out and many wore masks due to the threat of the Corona virus. This Called Communication of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 began and Most Worshipful Grand Master



Turlington asked if the Members present approved. To discuss details further would be inappropriate, but the familiar ceremonies of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason were conducted.

Two Gold Card holders, R.:W.: Tony Chavez and W.: Don Campbell, delivered portions of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Lectures respectively. Dignitaries included the Grand Master, some Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, our Masonic District’s (20th) District Deputy Grand Master Joseph Severino, and District Instructor David Wenzel, and eight (8) Past Worshipful Masters of DeSoto Lodge No. 105.

The Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Robert Lambert remarked on the importance of the title of “Brother” and even exemplified how a plain white apron honorably worn is more important than gold collars and embellished paraphernalia.

The Brothers of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 are proud of our newest Master Mason. Most Worshipful Grand Master, Thomas L. Turlington, Jr. exercised his unique and unquestionable power to make Brother Nowell Garcia a Master Mason at Sight. While the manner he was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason is a rare occurrence, it is unfamiliar and mysterious to most Masons, and to some it may be just a curiosity, but as Brother Nowell says, “knowing I have so many Brothers by my side... I don’t have to fight this alone... it means the world to me.”

Playing Catch Up At Naval Lodge No. 24

Every Lodge in the Great State of Florida has struggled to find a way to maintain the Lodge Experience this year. How to keep newly Initiated, Passed or Raised Brothers involved and excited about Masonry.

COVID 19 has hit the entire world with a serious setback. Naval Lodge No. 24 is no exception. We used the telephone tree to keep in touch as well as Zoom virtual online meetings. All of this is fine but nothing like shaking hands and hugging those we do not see very often. Many Worshipful Masters have missed out on months of Lodge Functions and find themselves trying to play catch up.

Case in point, Worshipful Jacob V. Knight. He spent days/weeks preparing, planning, setting up his calendar, checking off the boxes, getting ready for the big day when he would become Master of Naval Lodge No. 24. His road has not been an easy one. As a Marine Vietnam Veteran, agent orange would take a toll with many tumors removed and other ongoing ailments. A horrible car accident would render him struggling with memory issues. Through all these problems he has persevered and taken over the reins.

On a Tuesday evening, he showed the strength of Naval Lodge No. 24 by hosting our



Youth and Teacher of the Year Awards. There were sixty-two in attendance. Checks were passed out to five youth groups. Two boy scout troops, two girl scout troops, and a church sponsored youth group. Our Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Tiffany Keever of Blue Angel Elementary. Tiffany has fourteen years experience as a teacher and is close friends with many of the Members and their families. Tiffany came with her POSSE! Many family and her extended family as she calls them, with several past recipients of teacher of the year.

We have quite the history with Blue Angel Elementary as Worshipful Jake dons his Santa outfit to participate in school programs every year. We also have held Child I.D. Programs there and hope to continue in the future. R.: W.: A.J. LaRose and the kitchen crew served up chicken and dumplings and pizza for the kids. How he got R.: W.: Dwight Wilson passing out pizza I’ll never figure out. Outstanding program and fun were had by all.



Masonic Lodges – A Fraternity And Somewhat Business By R.:W.: Mike Sinatra - Secretary Boca-Delray Lodge No. 171

This short article will not venture into discussing our Fraternal Aspect of Lodges or the esoteric nature of Freemasonry. What I will discuss is the Business part of the Order. This may sound strange to some that we have a business within the Lodge but ask any Secretary or Treasurer and you will find out that this is so.

On a quarterly basis, we remit sales tax payment to the State which is generated from collation income, the sale of Lodge Shirts or auto decals and rent, amongst other categories. Lodges tally and submit *Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents* moneys incurred during the period and mail a check to Grand Lodge. Rental agreements must be drawn up, income and financial ledgers maintained, and investments wisely chosen to invest funds accumulated over the years. The list goes on and on.

The purpose of this article is to enlighten Brethren on the business of “Marketing Their Lodge and Freemasonry.” Yes, market your Lodge. What I mean by this is simple; some Lodges are lacking in new Members, not letting the City or Community realize that you exist, having no exposure etc. Fact of the matter, any business that operates on the same principles it did in 1970 is doomed to failure. Any business that operates under the same principles it did in 2000 is doomed to failure as well. You must constantly “Re-Engineer” your corporation or business to fit the time, culture, economy, or trends. Try selling bell bottom pants today and see how much revenue and interest is drawn.

By Re-Engineering the Lodge, a committee of a few Brothers must be formed who are adapt at working the PC including Word, Excel, Power Point and creating a vibrant website. As well as those who are adapt at writing and who understand the Community in which the Lodge resides in. Understand in that they know the demographics, economic levels, and educations percentiles of various sections of the City. Not to sound rude, but we seek men who can pay their dues, and learn our Ritual as they in turn offer their skills and talents to the Craft.

A vibrant website is of the utmost importance so that those surfing the web can easily learn that there is a Lodge nearby. On that website a description of what Freemasonry is, a short history, what the requirements are and how to lean more in becoming a Mason. Offer open meet and greet evenings prior to a Stated Communication where in the collation room or Lodge, visitors can tour and ask questions. Introduce themselves as well as a lady he may invite. Having a gentleman bring a lady to the Lodge is particularly important. We can

demonstrate by our speech, acts and deeds that we are gentlemen who put the Holy Book of the Land on a pedestal. Remembering that Freemasonry may be unknown to this woman and she may undoubtedly have her doubts and suspicions. Interacting with Brethren can quell these ideas. It will reassure her that her man is going to be in the folds of respectability.

Zoom meetings can be set up to keep potential Members engaged. These meetings can offer a short Masonic History Talk. It can give the prospective candidates the opportunity to ask more follow up questions and learn who others are on this virtual meeting having similar interest as he. If by chance some petition together, they already have created a bond and that bond is most important as they progress through the Degrees and with the sideliners and Officers.

Venturing out of the Lodge offering services on road clean ups, assisting with parade crowd control, or a charitable endeavor while wearing a Lodge Shirt is again, marketing Freemasonry and your Lodge. I realize that one cannot implement all the above within a short period of time, but it is feasible to tackle one approach, fine tune it and have it in place, operational and working well within six months allowing the Lodge to venture into another phase of marketing their Lodge or the Craft.

If I were to suggest the first step it would be to assure yourselves that you either have an inviting website which draws one’s attention or updating your present one. I receive approximately eight inquiries a month from men wishing to learn more. Also, from those wishing to donate Masonic related items they acquired and no longer desire to keep, rental questions, or just to answer a question in general. The key word is EXPOSURE.

Once COVID-19 is in the past, invite a healthcare worker, first responder or teacher who conducted virtual online classes and ask these people to share their experiences. But, please put out an invitation for Community residents to participate. Exposing yourself. Some of these residents have seen our building for years and see men gathering there at the same time repeatedly but never understood who we are, what we do or represent. Form your committee and get working to increases our numbers and introduce us to the Community.

The most pleasing and self-rewarding achievement is to know that you are “*Making Good Men Better Men*”. They are out there waiting for this opportunity.

West Broward Lodge No. 253 conducts Degrees for 9 Brothers

In March, West Broward Lodge No. 253 had four Brothers scheduled to be Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. There were also five gentlemen ready to be Initiated in April. Then, for the safety of the Brethren and their families, the Lodges were closed.

On May 29th, 2020, our Grand Master submitted a letter opening our Lodges once again, as of June 1st. That is when the Brothers of West Broward Lodge sprang into action.



Immediately, a game plan was created on how to set safety protocols at the Lodge. Communications went out to all of the Craft about those safety protocols, and several Brothers assisted in prepping the Lodge.

With this, on June 18th, thirteen Past Masters of West Broward Lodge helped conduct a Master Mason Degree for our four Brothers. Then the following week, on June 25th, we Initiated five gentlemen into our fantastic Fraternity. This was a great tribute to patience, gratitude, safety, family, Fellowship, and Brotherly Love.

The nine Brothers are:

New Master Masons:
Brothers Anthony Pegg, Francisco Suarez, Yvens Fievre, and Mark Anthony Laudadio

New Entered Apprentices:
Brothers Medardo Cuevas, Anthony Van Steenkiste, Windy Augustin, Christian Perez, and Ivan Jovanovicks



Wauchula Masonic Lodge No. 17 Continuing Support Of The Local Schools

On August 5, 2020, the local Freemasons of Wauchula Masonic Lodge No. 17, once again showed their support to the local Junior and Senior High Schools by continuing their tradition of supplying the “Dynamic Freedom: Our Freedom Documents” and a copy of the Bill of Rights to the entire student body of both schools, in their third year to date, book donation. That’s roughly 3,000 copies of each source material broken down to 1,600 to the High School and 1,400 to the Middle School.

In 2018, the first year that the Masons administered this program to the schools, the Hardee Junior High School saw an impressive jump in the test scores within the Social Studies department that included the classes of World, State and National History and this jump earned them the distinction of being moved from the last ranked school to the number one ranked spot out of 16 Junior High Schools in a seven County consortium. By way of comparison, they went from the 49th percentile to the 61st percentile in just one year. An 11% increase.

For their part, the teachers loved this book and the accompanying Bill of Rights copy so much, both schools made it a mandatory part of each student’s binder that was made a part of the binder grade.

In an interview from late July of last year in 2019, the school Principal, Dr. Sheryl Mosley, asked the program administrator, Brother Danny Lackey, if they, the Freemasons, would be able to supply the school with the same amount of books to the school every year to once again give every student a copy of this material. Brother Lackey and the Wauchula Lodge No.17 Masons did not disappoint them.

They were able to supply not only every student but were able to supply every classroom of the Social Studies Department and the Library with a set of 30 copies each for the “just in case” moments. And the same was done for the High School.

Unfortunately, the last three months of the school year of 2019 was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and both schools shut down for the rest of the year. Had that not been the case, Dr. Mosley informs Brother Lackey that the test scores from the first year were on track to have been



increased to over the 70% mark, another 9% percent increase or more over the initial year this program was started in 2018 and Social Studies teacher Jacob Laughlin was quoted as saying, “I have no doubt that number would have been reached as these kids really knew the material well. I was really bummed out at not having the chance to test them to make it a reality.”

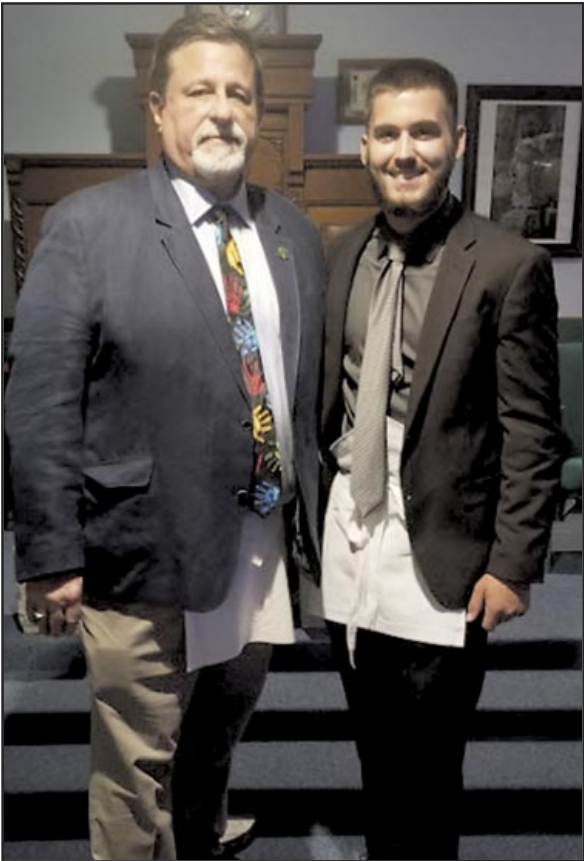
Undaunted, the Masons are back for a third time in continuing support of both the schools that reaches back to 1895. Regardless of how many students and their families have chosen to return to the school in a traditional setting or opted for either an online presence or a mixture of both, they have again supplied both schools as if they had a full student body to contend with. If nothing else, they will have plenty of spares for the following year and hopefully, the Junior High School will be able to reach that over 70% mark or maybe even do better than that. The teachers certainly are motivated to give it their best shot and the Masons will be there with you cheering them on every step of the way.

As for the Senior High School, the first year did not go so well and there has been no report on what could have been for last year. Hopefully, they will be able to post an increasing score as well for this year and thereby leave no doubt as to the validity of this program an it’s effectiveness. The old adage of “the third time is the charm” comes to mind on this one.

The Masons of Wauchula want to wish both schools much luck and success in obtaining your goals for this year. We are, and always have been ready to support you in any way we can. Now, GO GET ‘EM WILDCATS!!

West Broward Lodge No. 253 Father And Son Are Now Brothers

On June 25th, one of Brother John Van Steenkiste’s dreams came true. Having his son Initiated at his home Lodge and into the Fraternity. A proud moment for the Van Steenkiste family. Congratulations to Brother Anthony Van Steenkiste.



70-Years A DeMolay

The Brethren of Leesburg Lodge No. 58 extended their heartfelt congratulations to Worshipful James Angelos (PM 2013) on receiving recognition for 70-Years as a Member of the International Order of DeMolay. Worshipful Angelos received a Certificate and Pin for this accomplishment.

Worshipful Angelos is a 66-Year Master Mason. Worshipful Jim’s health has not been great lately, but he made it out to Leesburg Lodge’s July Monthly 1st Saturday Morning Breakfast where the presentation was made surrounded by several of his Masonic Brothers.



Pearl Of The West Lodge No. 146 Pays School Lunch Debt

Pearl of the West Lodge No. 146 in New Port Richey presented the Principal of Gulf Middle School Ms. Amy Riddle a check for \$500.00 towards the student lunch debt for 2019/2020. The presentation took place at Pearl of the West Lodge No. 146.



L to R: R.:H.: Scott Mitchell, Brother Craig Franklin, Principal Amy Riddle and W.:M.: Seneca (Ponytail) Beal.

DeSoto Lodge No. 105 and DeSoto Eastern Star Chapter No. 201 Donate Shoes

With 2020 ending, many Masonic organizations have found it difficult to not only conduct routine operations, but especially to conduct fund raising or community support events. DeSoto Lodge No. 105 and Chapter of The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) Chapter No. 201 found a way to conduct a successful event, even with the restrictions and limited participation due to COVID-19.

For the past three years DeSoto’s OES Chapter has conducted an annual children’s shoe drive event with over 650 pair of new shoes being donated. It is just one way that they like to provide a service to our local Community and DeSoto Lodge itself. This year, though participation and activity at the Lodge was low, they still managed to meet their goal of 100 pair of shoes.



The OES Chapter will donate ten pair to the Mary Martha House in Ruskin, Florida, and twenty-five pair to the Homeless Education Project Heart program.

The Mary Martha house provides emergency and transitional housing and support services to homeless women, victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. The mission of Project Heart program provides Manatee County students living in housing transition with support and resources to enroll, attend and succeed in school.

The OES Chapter donated the remaining sixty-five pair of shoes to DeSoto Lodge to donate to a local organization of their choice. This year, as in years past, DeSoto will donate the shoes to the Riverview Elementary School.

Lady Michelle “Mickey” Wise (L), Grand Conductress of the Grand Chapter of Florida and Lady Kim Ledford (R), Conductress of DeSoto Chapter No. 201 OES presented Worshipful Master Richard Vogt with sixty-five new pair of children’s shoes to donate to an organization of his choice, which is Riverview Elementary School.

Pineland Lodge No. 86 Presents Grand Master Honorary Membership

M.: W.: Tommy Turlington was presented an Honorary Membership to Pineland Lodge No. 86 by W.: M.: Kent Warman during the Grand Master’s Official Visit to the 11th Masonic District. Pictured also with First Lady Sandy.



Pineland Lodge No. 86 & 11th Masonic District Donate To Palatka PAL

At a meeting of the 11th Masonic District Association, Pineland Lodge No. 86, presented Captain Bobby Williams of the Palatka Police Department with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of dedicated Community Service.

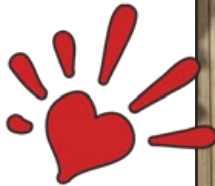
Captain Williams was a guest speaker of the association and spoke on the Palatka Police Athletic League program. After his presentation, Worshipful Master Kent Warman made the certificate presentation on behalf of Pineland Lodge No. 86 and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida. The Members of the association donated to Palatka PAL to sponsor a child for upcoming programs.



L to R: W.:M.: Marvin Thiele (Association President and W.:M.: Cabul No. 116), Cpt. Bobby Williams, W.:M.: Kent Warman (Worshipful Master Pineland No. 86)

Pineland Lodge No. 34 Donates To Assist Local Law Enforcement

Pineland Lodge No. 86 expresses our gratitude and appreciation for everything that the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office does for our Community. Pineland recently donated to the Putnam County “10-24 Foundation” to help those first responders in need. To learn more, visit. W.:M.: Kent Warman made the presentation to Col. Joe Wells, a Brother of Palatka Lodge No. 34.



2020 Worshipful Masters of District No. 26

COVID-19 has hit us all in different ways; Broward County being the last county in Florida to re-open its Masonic doors to its Brothers. The Worshipful Masters of District No. 26 became closer to each other and were in constant communication, helping & supporting each other in multiple ways. Our plans as Worshipful Masters for the year changed, but we all stepped up and did amazing work in helping our communities, each other, and the Brethren.



Shown in picture (L to R): W.:M.: Rafael Faro of Eureka North Shore Lodge No. 269 - W.:M.: Roman Maciag of West Broward Lodge No. 253 - W.:M.: Ramon Ramirez of J. Dewey Hawkins Lodge No. 331 - W.:M.: Jon Macedon of Doric Lodge No. 140 - WM.: Wayne Kissoondath of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299

Not in picture: W.:M.: Ivan Kraljevic of North Star Lodge No. 405 - W.:M.: Akili Nebiu of Coral Springs Lodge No. 373 - W.: Javier Hernandez of North Broward Lodge No. 404, who passed to the Celestial Lodge above on Sept 30th.

Wauchula Lodge No. 17 Expands "Dynamic Freedom: Our Freedom Documents" Program

Today was a historical day for our Lodge. Brothers Danny Lackey and Paul Crothers expanded our “Dynamic Freedom: our Freedom Documents” and a copy of the Bill of Rights Program to the Avon Park High School in Highlands County.

Soon we will add Sebring High School and hopefully Lake Placid High School and all the middle schools as well.

Eventually, and with the permission of the Peace Ricer Lodge No. 66, we will bring this program to DeSoto County and the DeSoto High and Middle School as well as continuing the program in our own Hardee County.



Pictured here are Educators (L to R) Ruthie Crothers (Brother Paul’s Lady) and Social Studies Department Head, Amy Love representing the entire Social Studies Department of Avon Park High School, and Brother Paul Crothers, and Brother Danny Lackey.

At that point, we will be serving approximately 13,000 students, five high schools and seven middle schools in three Counties. In the end, it’s all about the kids. They are the ones who benefit the most

from this, and we, the Freemasons of Wauchula Lodge No. 17, are all happy to be able to have the honor and privilege to bring this to them. It is only right and fitting that these kids learn what their duties, rights and responsibilities are under our form of Government. It was a pleasure for us as well.

Sarasota Lodge No. 147, Presents Second Annual First Responders Awards

Sarasota Lodge No. 147, presented its second annual first responders awards to a worthy deserving firefighter and police officer. The Sarasota County Fire Department First Responder of year was awarded to Officer Terrel Haisley.

This award is presented to the Sarasota County Fire Department named in honor of a deceased Brother of Sarasota Lodge No. 147, Brother William E. Kocur who had a career in the Sarasota Fire Department.

The Sarasota County Police Department award was presented to Officer Garrett Shaffer in the name of W Earl Parker, who had a career in the Sarasota Police Department and was a Past Master of Sarasota Lodge No. 147.

WM Petar Sibinkic, thanked all who attended the meeting and pledged his Lodge’s continued support and admiration for all of the police and first responders that risk their lives for the protection of the Citizens of Sarasota.

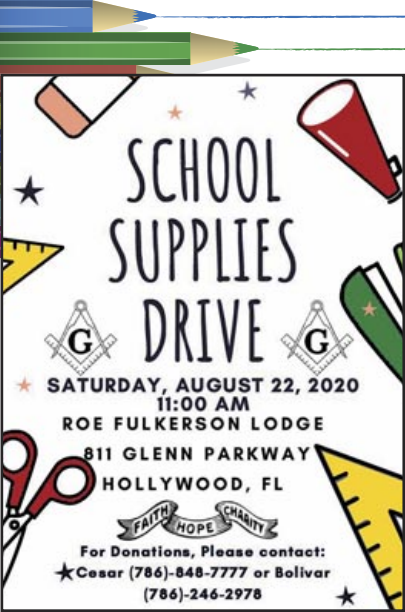
Anyone interested in Masonic activities is encouraged to visit the website of The Grand Lodge of Florida at www.grandlodgefl.com



Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 Hosts School Supply Distribution

The Brothers of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 hosted a successful School Supply Distribution event on Saturday, August 22nd. This event was funded exclusively through donations from the Members of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 and well wishers from the local Community. Due to the overwhelming response from Members of our Lodge and local organizations, we were able to provide over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in the local Community.

Our Members were quite pleased and happy to participate in this fulfilling activity for the benefit of the next generation.



Springs Masonic Lodge No. 378 Presented Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Brothers, Gary Cronau and Clifford McPhee, on behalf of Springs Masonic Lodge No. 378, Homosassa Springs, presented Twenty (20) Thanksgiving food baskets containing a turkey and all the trimmings to Twilla Sponholz of the Episcopal Children's Services.

Twilla works with families with children ages birth to three years old, which is Early Head Start. Episcopal Children Services is a home-based program which brings parents the support they need to nurture their young child's healthy environment.

Helping struggling families, especially during the holidays, has been a long-time practice of the local Masonic Lodge. Not only does the Fraternity help and assist Brothers of the Fraternity in need, we believe it is also our obligation to assist those in the Community who apply to us for help.

During these trying times, families are being stressed due to the pandemic and all its social impacts. Many families need a little extra assistance to make their daily lives and holidays more enjoyable. Happy Thanksgiving.



Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 Creates Memorial Star Artwork

On Thursday October 15th 2020, the Members of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299 hosted a special tribute to the memory of R.:W.: Bill Marti who laid down his working tools and passed to the Celestial Lodge on September 22, 2020.

R.:W.: Bill Marti was one of the most illustrious Members of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299, serving as its Worshipful Master in 1991, D.D.G.M. in 1992, and Lodge Secretary for many years.

At this special event, a new piece of artwork the R.:W.: William A. Marti Masonic Blazing Star Memorial was officially unveiled and dedicated to his memory.



R.:W.: Bill's widow Mrs. Monyette Marti officially turned on the lights of this beautiful star in the presence of her family and the Members of Roe Fulkerson Lodge No. 299.

Shown above is Mrs. Marti turning on the lights, and left is the illuminated memorial star.



What Makes A Mason?

What makes you a Mason, O Brother of mine?
It isn't the duegard, nor is it the sign;
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast;
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed;
It isn't the step, nor the token, nor grip;
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip;
Nor yet the posession of that mystic word,
On five points of Fellowship duly conferred.
Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O Brother of mine.

That you to your sworn obligations are true —
'Tis that, Brother mine, makes a Mason of you.
Secure in your heart you must safeguard your trust,
With Lodge and with Brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed,
support him who falters, with hope banish fear,
Ahron whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O Brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel to vices with courage apply;
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,
On the level, to bourne whence no travelers come;
The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide,
The compass your passions shut safely inside;
The stone which the Architect placed in your care,
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square.
And then you will meet with approval divine,
And you'll be a Mason, O Brother of mine.

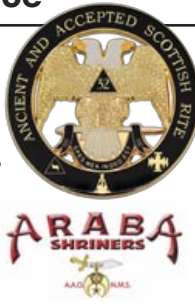
Pineland Lodge No. 34 "Adopts-A-Teacher"

Pineland Lodge No. 86 recently "Adopted A Teacher," Ms. Jessica Finch of Interlachen Elementary School in a presentation made at Lodge. Ms. Finch was welcomed by the Brothers and given a donation for her to use in her classroom. This was Ms. Finch's first interaction with Freemasonry, and she was impressed with our Craft and thankful for our support. Educating our youth is of great importance for our future and we are proud to support our educators and students!



Tropical Lodge No. 56 Honors Two Brothers For 50+ Years Of Service

Tropical Lodge No. 56 in Ft. Myers honored 50-year Members; Brothers Vernon Castelee Ellis and Verdon Aaron Ellis, who are also 50-year Members of the Scottish Rite Valley of Ft. Myers, Grotto and the Araba Shrine. Both Brothers are Korean War Veterans, Vernon 1951 and 1952, his Brother Verdon, 1952 and 1953. Vernon will be 90 and Verdon 88 years young.



They are joined in picture by their wives from left to right: Mary-Nan, Vernon Castelee, Helen Faye and Verdon Aaron both Brothers were born in Armathwaite, Tennessee Brother Vernon is a 33 Degree Master Mason as well as Past Personal Representative to the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of The Scottish Rite.



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Welcome To The Grand Lodge Of Florida

Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 Celebrates Founding Members 103rd Birthday

W.: Joel (Jack) Astor Helms, the last living Charter Member of Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, is joined by W.: M.: Pardue and other Lodge Members in celebrating his 103rd birthday on October 17, 2020.

*L to R: S.D. Wayne Pazies,
S.: W.: David York, Secretary
R.: W.: Ken Eichorn,
P.D.D.G.M., W.: Jack Helms,
W.: M.: Don Pardue,
Brother John Richardson,
Treasurer R.: W.: Oscar Ferrell, P.D.D.G.M.*



DeSoto Lodge No. 105 Presents a 65-Year Masonic Award



On 28 September 2020, the Worshipful Master of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 of Riverview had the distinguished honor of presenting a 65-Year Masonic Award and lapel pin to Brother Bruce Hancock at his home in Plant City.

Brother Hancock was Raised in Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 on 13 September 1955. In January of 1971 he joined the ranks of DeSoto Lodge No. 105 where he remains a proud Member to this day.

Though the Presentation of this momentous award could not take place within his Lodge in the presence of his Brothers, this in no way diminished the significance of such an accomplishment, nor did it dampen the excitement of both the recipient or presenter.

Brother Hancock immediately departed the room to retrieve his coat to proudly display his new lapel pin.

Congratulations Brother Bruce Hancock on a job well done by honorably serving our beloved Fraternity for 65–years.



Do You have A “Freemason” License Tag?

In October 2013, the Florida Legislature approved the issuance and purchase of the Florida Masonic License Plate. All funds received from the sale of these license plates benefit the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. Currently the State of Florida has 121 available specialty license tags (excluding personalized tags) the Freemasonry tag ranks 63rd in issuance with 6,891 tags issued as of the end of 2019. If you do not have one? Show your pride in being a Freemason while assisting our Masonic Home.

