

The Florida Mason

Vol. 1 Issue 1

Above & Beyond



**YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION
TO BE BETTER**



**EVERY DAY
IN EVERY WAY**

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



Grand Master's Message

To all my Brothers and their families,

Lady Hollyn and I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. As we start to emerge from the post pandemic world, we sincerely hope that you were able to spend time with family and start to return to some version of normalcy during the holidays.

I can't believe that we are halfway through the Masonic Year already, time flies so fast. Over the past 6 months, I have had the great pleasure of visiting each District in our State, Fellowshiping with many great Brothers and their families.

I hope that every Lodge has had the opportunity to hear about how our Fraternity can benefit by harnessing the power of social media and how Grand Lodge can assist you. Since the program's inception in June, we have had over 20 Lodges take advantage of it and we are excited by the results. If your Lodge is interested in getting started, please contact your Membership Development Committeeman.

May God bless you and your families and I hope to see each of you as I continue to travel around the state. ✕

Fraternally yours,

M.: W.: Jeffrey S. Foster, Grand Master



Strength in Numbers; Power in Education



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GRAND MASTER

M.: W.: Jeffrey S. Foster
(St. Augustine)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.: W.: Robert J. Lambert
(Tampa)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Glen B. Bishop
(Clearwater)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Donald W. Cowart
(Valrico)

GRAND TREASURER

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

GRAND SECRETARY

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

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Above & Beyond

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provided here,
Do Not send text messages)



My Brothers,

As I sit here writing this message in middle of December most of the Lodges in the Jurisdiction have already had their elections. I would like to congratulate the Officers of every Lodge. For those who have been elected to Office, you have taken on a great responsibility to your

Brothers. The Brothers that have accepted an Appointed Office, remember your support is necessary for your Worshipful Master to complete and be successful in the Lodges programs.

This has been an interesting year with the slowdown of COVID and Lodges trying to get back to normal. I have witnessed many of

Deputy Grand Master's Message



My Brothers,

It is my honor and privilege to continue to serve the Craft as your Senior Grand Warden. The Masonic Home has a new website, and we are working with BrandMET-TLE (a marketing firm hired to help promote our Masonic Home) with Search Engine

Optimization (SEO) and Geo Fencing to better publicize our Masonic Home with the goal of bringing in more Residents to recover from the drastic decline due to COVID-19. Since the new website was put in place, I now have the ability to "see" the inquiries from the website, and they are, in fact, coming in. We have also fixed the donations page, you can now purchase a brick or plaque in the Memory Garden, a leaf on the Tree of Life, or donate to the Grand Master's Charity, First Lady's Project, Corky's Cupboard or donate to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. What a great way to honor yourself, your Lodge or the memory of a Brother or family member. Speaking of Corky's Cupboard there are wish lists from the Residents - if you choose to donate in other ways, please visit the Masonic Home's website. www.masonichomefl.com

Our Grand Lodge also has a new website, (www.grandlodgefl.com) and yes, the broken links are fixed. Best of all the staff at The Grand Lodge will be able to update the site themselves making it an ever-growing site. Speaking of growing the site we also have plans to update Master Mason Exams I, II, and III and continuing to have them online.

the Brothers coming up with many different ways to revitalize their Lodges. Together with the Marketing Reimbursement Program that the Grand Master has been promoting is proving to be successful in allowing men of character and faith to find us. We still need to fulfill the promises we make of community involvement and education.

With a new year I wish you and your families health and happiness and may the Great Architect of the Universe watch over and protect you and all of those who watch over our safety, freedom, and liberties where ever they maybe. ✕

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Robert Lambert, Deputy Grand Master

Senior Grand Warden's Message

Additionally, the Lodge Officer Training Courses (LOTG) are in the process of being rewritten/updated and will be available to be taken online as well. I have asked the Chairman for Masonic Leadership Training (MLT) to record the individual modules so that they will be available online to watch and with a random quiz at the end of each module you will be able fulfill your Masonic Educational needs online when you have time. We will not be doing away with the in-person lectures as we know Brothers learn differently in their own individual way.

This year the Legislation Meetings will be held on Zoom. There will be one online meeting that will be recorded, and made available in the Secretary Portal so that Lodges that miss the meeting can watch it online and present it to the Lodge so that your Delegates will know how to vote. The time and date of the Zoom meetings will be distributed by the Grand Secretary once it is scheduled.

The Grand Master's Membership Program is working for the Lodges that are following the Plan. If you need new Mason's in your Lodge, I encourage you to investigate the Program. I have it under good authority that it will be continued next year.

I look forward to seeing everyone at The Grand Lodge this year and pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe looks over you, your family, and your Lodge. ✕

Semper Fi,

R.: W.: Glen B. Bishop, Senior Grand Warden

For The Love of Our Brother



On October 9, 2021, the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden of Northside Lodge No. 283 (bringing Congratulations from the Lodge Brothers), had the distinguished honor and pleasure of presenting a 70-Year Masonic Award and Lapel Pin to Brother Harmon C. Carroll at his home in St. Petersburg.

Brother Carroll was also a Past Master at Northside Lodge No. 283 in 1959.

Brother W.: Harmon Carroll – 70-Years A Mason

The momentous Presentation could not be held within Northside Lodge with all of the Brothers present, but the significance of the truly amazing accomplishment was witnessed at his home with his son Richard. (who himself was a Past Master of Northside No. 283 in 1982)

We are extremely proud of Brother Carroll's accomplishment and wish to share it with of our Fraternity Brothers. ✕





Junior Grand Warden's Message

My Brothers,

I would like to start off by thanking each and every one of you for electing me as your Junior Grand Warden. What a great honor! It is hard to explain to each of you how excited I am in having the opportunity to work for the Craft as your newest Grand Lodge Officer. The first six months in traveling around the state have been exciting and a newly found learning experience. In traveling, it was great to meet so many Brothers and listen to their ideas and concerns about the future of this great Fraternity. I look forward to serving the Craft in the years to come.

While visiting many Lodges around the state it was discovered that many are thriving and achieving great success, others are lacking the tools necessary to achieve greatness, specifically "Leadership, Accountability, and Commitment". While working with a group of in-

formed Brothers from around the state we are working on a Leadership Seminar to assist the Lodges and Brothers in developing these important skills. A survey has been developed to determine the sentiment of the Brothers from around the State willing to take this Leadership Seminar. This survey should be out in the near future.

As the Chairman of the Endowment Procurement Committee, I would like to thank all of the Brothers who have chosen to support our Masonic Home through your LYPMGC donations. Just a reminder to all Secretaries that these LYPMGC donations should be sent to Grand Lodge on a quarterly basis and not retained in your Lodge.

As this Holiday season comes to a close, let us be thankful for the joy and happiness it has brought to each of us and our loved ones. May God bless you, your family, and may God bless the United States of America. ✕

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Don Cowart, Junior Grand Warden



Grand Secretary's Message

Brethren,

As we begin the New Year, we as Masons have so much to be thankful for. Our Families, Friends, and expressly our Brothers.

COVID has been very trying on our relationships on our Fraternal attachments. That said, the time has come to resume to our normal Masonic Activities.

The Grand Lodge Staff is to be commended for their efforts during the pandemic to stay healthy and continue their day-to-day tasks assuring the Grand Lodge Office stays focused in their commitment to the Lodges and the Craft. During the last several months there have been four Secretary-Treasurer Seminars across the East Coasts from Tallahassee to Miami. One was presented in Spanish to accommodate our Spanish Speaking Lodges. I am grateful for the dedication of these Brothers as forty-nine were in attendance. A special thanks to Most

Worshipful Jorge Aladro for his time and efforts to translate the PowerPoint and other documents to Spanish. There is a lot of valuable information contained in these seminars for all Masons.

The Seminars this year have been in person as well as on Zoom. It was necessary to have pre-registration for security reasons. Check the December Monthly Mail for upcoming Seminars on the West Coast which is available on the website.

I am so grateful for the privilege to serve the Craft as Grand Secretary. It is hard to imagine life without family and the Fraternity. The 14-years as Grand Secretary have passed with a flash.

I wish for all of you and your families a healthy and successful 2022.

God Bless you and your families. ✕

Sincerely and fraternally,

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



Grand Treasurer's Message

My Brothers,

Once again you have honored me by allowing me to serve the Craft as your Grand Treasurer an additional year. It has been a personally rewarding time this year.

As I have brought up recently before, the Masonic Museum here at Grand Lodge has been renovated by R.: W.: Leif Olsen of the Museum Committee and we have added new displays. 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.

I hope to be able to send to the publisher the updated versions of our Grand Lodge History books this year. They have not been updated since 1998. If your Lodge was Charted after this date and you have not

sent in a digital photo of your Lodge yet, you need to do so right away.

We need to always keep all our service men and women and our first responders in our thoughts and prayers, but especially now during this holiday season. It is very disheartening to be away from your family especially during the holidays. We owe them all so very much. If you see one out and about think about saying thanks to him or her for their service. If you know a service member deployed somewhere, why don't you 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 great staff know how much you appreciate all they do for the Craft. ✕

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Rudy Boatright, Grand Treasurer

Words of Wisdom... and Getting To Know Masonry

"Live as if you are living for the second time and had acted as wrongly the first time as you are about to act now." ~ Viktor Frankl

What Is The Meaning Of YOUR Existence?

Viktor Frankl, who was a psychoanalyst and a great thinker, was born in Germany. His wisdom came from experience during WWII when he was interred in a concentration camp and was suffering as he was treated worse than an animal and physically and mentally abused. In his book "Man's Search For Meaning", he described what he believed is a process each of us can use to determine the meaning of our existence. The meaning of life differs for each one of us and can vary from time to time. He wrote that our responsibilities are the essence of our human existence. Frankl believed we can discover the meaning of our life in three different ways: "by creating work or doing a deed; by experiencing something or encountering someone; and by the attitude we take toward suffering."

Our Masonic obligations include each of those ways and can help you discover the meaning of your life: being responsible, being industrious, doing good deeds, treating each other with Brotherly love, and confronting a Brother's and/or your own suffering. Brotherly love helps us to become more fully aware of our own existence as well as the essence of another Brother. Love enables us to see the features and essential traits of another

The Masonic Virtues Submitted by Bro. Oscar A. Ruiz Rico, Hiram's Daylight Lodge No. 407

Masons are driven by many different Virtues; everyone has to demonstrate these virtues to be accepted as a Mason. We know about *The Seven Virtues*.

1. **INTEGRITY**, the quality of being honest and having strong morals.
2. **TOLERANCE**, the ability to tolerate something, in particular the existence of opinions that one does not necessarily agree with.
3. **PATIENCE**, the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or sufferings without getting angry or upset.
4. **PERSONAL GROWTH**, the process by which a person recognizes himself and continually develops himself to reach his full potential.
5. **PHILANTHROPY**, the desire to promote the welfare of others, especially by generous donations to good causes.
6. **FAMILY**, the capacity to understand the love and support to another one, no matter in which circumstances are.
7. **FREEDOM**, the capacity to understand the power to act, speak, or think as one without restraint.

Also, we have additional Virtues, called the *The Four Cardinal Virtues*:

1. **TEMPERANCE**, as emotional restraint, or self-control, whoever is slow to anger has great understanding.

The Warmth of Masonry

It was a tale of Masonic Men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One older man listened patiently, and finally spoke up: "I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic Philosophers can in books." He then said: "Everybody stand up, and form a circle around the campfire." They did that. Then he said: "Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him." They did that, too.

"Now, what do you see, looking ahead?" he asked. They said: "The face of a Brother Mason through the flames." He then asked them: "What do you feel in front of you?" "The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night." They answered. "What do you feel at your side?" He asked. "The warm hand of a Brother," they said.

Brother and his potential which he has not yet achieved. Our Brotherly love may even help him to achieve that potential.

Frankl believed we can find meaning to life even when confronted with a hopeless situation. When it seems, the situation cannot be changed, sometimes we are able to turn our predicament into human achievement. When we can no longer change a situation, such as when we are confronted with an incurable illness, we are challenged to change ourselves. Instead of rebelling or giving up we can find new meaning in life. We can rise above our suffering and grow. For example, Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis at age 21. Despite his debilitating illness, he continued to do ground-breaking work in physics and cosmology and published several books which have helped to make science accessible to everyone.

Words to Live By: "When the clouds are full of water, it rains. When the wind blows down a tree, it lies where it falls. Do not sit there watching the wind. Do your own work. Do not stare at the clouds. Get on with your life." ✕ ~ Ecclesiastes 11:3-4, MSG

2. **FORTITUDE**, having strong will in the face of danger or pain.
3. **PRUDENCE**, the ability to govern and discipline one's self using reason.
4. **JUSTICE**, the quality of being just, clear, right, equal, or morally right. But three of the most important virtues are **FAITH**, **HOPE** and **CHARITY**. Masonic Teaching of these Virtues begin at the Candidate's first Initiation ceremony.

For an Initiate, Faith is synonymous with trust and confidence, especially in **GOD**, when **FAITH** can be demonstrated and once an individual has established Faith in God, he attains **HOPE**.

CHARITY is one of the most beautiful Masonic Virtues, a wonderful extension of grace, a gift that Brothers freely give to all that requires love and support.

Masons firmly believe in these past virtues and the practice of them.

These will be present on a higher moral standard in every moments of the life.

My Dear Brothers, during our daily lives we have to apply, or use these beautiful virtues, this is when we understand the beauty of our Brotherhood, and by the Grace of God, Our Lord will bless us. ✕

Then he said: "OK! Now, drop the hands, and turn around." They did so. Then he said: "Now, what do you see, looking ahead?" They said: "Complete darkness." Then he asked: "What do you feel, looking ahead?" They said: "A sense of loneliness, of being alienated." He then asked them: "What do you feel at your side?" "Nothing at all," they replied. They he asked: "What do you feel on your backside?" "The warmth of the fire," they said.

Then he said: "So it is with Masonry. In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic Interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of a Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you." ✕

Words of Wisdom... and Getting To Know Masonry

The Dew Of Hermon ~Author Unknown

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: For there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

The oil spoken of is the anointing oil, which the Bible gives specific ingredients and quantities to be used. This oil was not imitated nor poured upon any flesh. All the ingredients in that oil were used for the anointing of people in the ministry and the vessels of the sanctuary.

Like the Dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion. Hermon was a mountain, which flourished because of the heavy dew that rested upon it, a fruitful place. The mountains of Zion tended to be barren and lifeless, so the first message in this picture displays one that unity makes the barren and lifeless place fruitful.

I wonder if we are able to catch all what these words are attempting to impart. These are words filled with extremely deep meaning. These words need to be heard in the society in which we live. Today, our society and our world are in desperate need of the message given in these three short verses. The profound message should go deep within the recesses of our being and assist us in finding a better understanding of what unity is all about.

Here we have two wonderful illustrations of unity among Brethren. It is like the ointment descending from the head of the high priest to the skirts of his garments and it is like the dew descending in refreshing power, from Hermon's snowy top. It is one thing to talk about unity, and another thing altogether to dwell in it. We may profess to hold "the unity of the body, and "the unity of the spirit," the most precious and glorious truths, and all the while be really full of selfish pride, party spirit, and sectarian feeling, all of which are entirely destructive of practical unity. If Brethren dwell together in unity, they must be receiving the ointment from the refreshing showers from the true Hermon.

See the proof of the excellence of Brotherly Love, where Brethren dwell together in unity and the Lord commands the blessing. If we could persuade all people to live together in peace, it would be wonderful. Most of the time our experience in life tends to be a life where there is everything but harmony. Our fast-pace, more or less, demands that we seek to achieve or climb a ladder. When this becomes the norm in life, there are too many occasions when we do not take the time to understand what others are thinking or feeling.

We are always looking over our shoulder wondering who is creeping up on us, trying to by-pass us, or perhaps trying to push us out of

line for something we seek. It is important that, when we come to this point in life, we take time to know who we are, and what we are.

We must examine our lives and feel the goodness that can be there when all is harmonious. I am sure there have been times in our lives when we have known this feeling of tranquility, peace, or calm. Perhaps it has come when the kids are finally in bed and settled down. All is quiet, and for a few moments, you can sit back and enjoy the peace of life.

The writer is saying that it is this kind of feeling that is great, and should be the norm in our lives. How good and how pleasant it is when we can dwell in unity. It is good for our honor and comfort and brings constant delight to those who do live in unity.

The pleasantness of this is like the holy anointing oil. It is profitable as well as pleasing. It cools the scorching heat of men's passions, just as the dews cool the air and refresh the earth. It moistens the heart, and makes it fit to receive the good seed of the word, and to make it fruitful.

During our lifetimes, we have witnessed all too often, when people disagree on issues, it is not just a difference of opinion, but it is like a wedge that separates and divides. People state their side of an issue and then immediately shut off their hearing. There does not seem to be any willingness to attempt to hear what the other person is trying to say, nor, is there an effort made to try to find a way where things can be worked out in agreement between the parties.

Somehow, there must come a moment when we take the initiative and become the person who is willing to listen and seek to dwell in unity. We are living in a time when there is great discord in our society. People are running here and there, each doing their own thing, not being mindful of others, and are determined to be there first. By dwelling together, we confirm ourselves as Brothers united together in our search for truth. During that gathering, we invigorate each other by having the attentive ear listen to the instructive tongue of a Brother, as he exercises that instructive tongue to impart wisdom and speak from the heart. Finally, we use the faithful breast as a repository, not only for the secrets of Freemasonry, but also for the confidence entrusted to us, by our Brethren.

So, remember my Brothers, strive to be in unison with another, upon the level, with love, helping your Brother.

"Behold, How Good And How Pleasant It Is For Brethren To Dwell Together In Unity"

Historical note: Mount Hermon's summit is on the border between Syria and Lebanon and stands 9,232 feet high. The southern slopes have been in Israeli control since the six - day war in 1967. Mount Hermon supplies the bulk of the Jordan's river water, and is Israel's only ski resort. ❖



Mount Hermon's Summit

International Fellowship

Submitted by Ernest William Catsulis, Jr.

Grand Master Attends Grand Lodge of Zacatecas, Mexico

At the personal invitation of Most Worshipful Augustin Miranda, Grand Master of Masons of Zacatecas Mexico, Most Worshipful Jeffrey S. Foster, his wife Hollyn, R.: W.: Haskel Vest, W.: Grand Marshal, and his wife Joyce, R.: W.: Ernest W.: Catsulis, Jr., W.: Grand Orator, R.: W.: Ben Schwartz, W.: Grand Junior Deacon, and his wife Beverly; R.: W.: Glen Garner, his wife Lizzette, and R.: W.: Phil Slack, all traveled to represent Florida Masonry internationally attending their



Grand Lodge Communication on June 19, 2021.

Zacatecas is one of 32 Mexican States, located North/Central of the Country and is also the Capital City. It is notable that it sits at over 8,000 ft above sea level (higher than Denver Colorado).

The group was afforded the most spectacular hospitality both Fraternally and personally, with every courtesy rendered. From the initial greeting at the airport to the tearful farewell embrace. The delegation enjoyed fantastic conversation, outstanding culinary delights, locally fermented spirits, wonderful historical presentations, beautiful architecture, comradery, laughs, and Fraternal Bonding and at every turn, a lifetime of friendships were formed.

We were constantly told "this is your home." Unfortunately, there is not enough space in the whole of this publication to express the entirety of our visit. At a mere 73 hours and 41 minutes touch-down to departure "whirlwind" would be an understatement, "tornado" would be more apropos, a lifetime of fantastic memories.

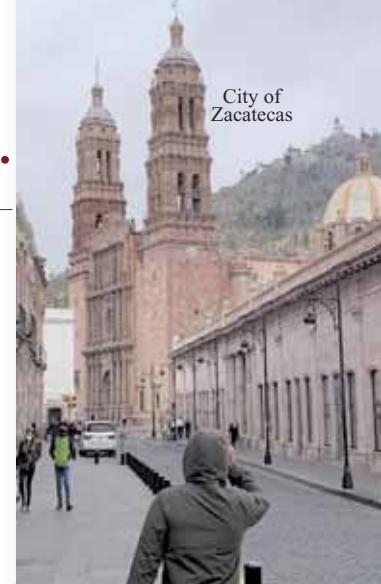


I tried to write about the first day and realized that it was a fruitless task. I will concentrate on the reason for the visit as we each have our own highlight(s) but this one is shared, I am sure.

The Grand Lodge of Zacatecas, was attended by over 300 Delegates from the 32 States, the Federation of Mexican States, Brazil, Paraguay, Baha Mexico, Chile and many others. The United States was honored with the presentation of our Flag and National Anthem during the opening ceremonies. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master was honored as the last to be received, to sit in the Grand East next to M.: W.: Augustin Miranda, Grand Master of Masons of Zacatecas Mexico. The Florida Masons were presented West of the Altar for the Presentation of Honorary Memberships to the Grand Lodge of Zacatecas.

R.: W.: Glen Lee Garner was made the Grand Representative from The Grand Lodge Florida to Grand Lodge Zacatecas. A Table Lodge was also held during the communication with toasts offered by the Elected Grand Line of Zacatecas. A most impressive display of heartfelt Freemasonry, eloquently and passionately displayed through words of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. This feeling permeated the assembled in the building and was palpable, the feeling of agreeable communication between those who despite the language barrier, had the same feelings in our hearts and minds speaking volumes of our shared mission as Freemasons and the recognition of our Jurisdictions (all of them not just Florida and Zacatecas). Many were openly emotional at the enormous revelation of what was taking place throughout the event that we were honored to be a part of.

It cannot be stated enough that this was an epic and historical trip for those in attendance, both Masonically as the First Grand Communication attended in the Country of Mexico by a sitting Grand Master of Florida, the bridge that is being built by the hard work of M.: W.: Aladro and M.: W.: Lynn from that recognition and personally for the friendships we have all gained forever. ❖



City of Zacatecas



Leadership is about pulling not pushing...
In order to lead by example, we must first hold ourselves
to a higher standard as a leader.

It's obviously not all push or pull when it comes to leading a group of people. Experience will show what I've learned is that you don't lead by pointing your finger, you lead by moving your feet.

For example; imagine a chain composed of thick metal rings, all interlocked and laid out so that it was in a straight line - this would represent each individual member as part of a team. The leader's goal is then to move the chain forward from point A to point B.

If the leader tries to "push" the chain forward, the links bump into each other, clink left and right and ultimately end up moving in every which direction except forward. This is what tends to happen when you have a leader who yells at their followers to do something as they sit back and watch from behind.

If a person that can influence another to take particular course of action, then they are a leader. No Question! If you are a follower though, nothing makes it easier to follow a person than one who leads by example.

A few quotes:

- 1. "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest." ~ Mark Twain
- 2. "People may teach what they know, but they reproduce what they are." ~ John C. Maxwell
- 3. "What you are speaks so loudly, I can't hear what you are saying." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
- 4. "The three most important ways to lead people are... by example ... by example ... by example." ~ Albert Schweitzer
- 5. "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." ~ Billy Graham
- 6. "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." ~ John Quincy Adam
- 7. "Nothing speaks like results. If you want to build the kind of credibility that connects with people, then deliver results before you deliver a message. Get out and do what you advise others to do. Communicate from experience." ~ John C. Maxwell

The following comes directly from The Grand Lodge of Florida Leadership Training Manuel: Developed by Most Worshipful Jorge Aladro, P.G.M. - "Masonic Leadership Training Manual" The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden of the Florida Lodges must complete this training course prior to being installed to office.

The Masonic Leadership Training Program now begins its 12th Year in Florida, and can be taken viva Zoom on a local basis, and takes several days to complete the 15 sections.

Pertinent Advice To The Master

There are certain general standards you should be careful to establish for yourself and endeavor to follow.

They are not inflexible, but you should know them and how they should be applied to your work. The following suggestions should help you to establish these standards for yourself.

You should have already made plans for your year as Worshipful Master. Continually check your calendar to be sure that the programs and activities that you wish to accomplish are scheduled and be determined to meet them. Do not leave it to the "eleventh-hour rush."

Hold meetings with your Officers, not only to familiarize them with the scheduled work of the Lodge, but also that you might benefit from their viewpoints and suggestions. In doing so, you will find that these Officers will be working with you as a team because you have included them in the operation of the Lodge. Your position is one of great responsibility. Therefore, if you are in doubt about a particular issue, seek the advice of experienced Brethren before proceeding. If competent advice is not immediately available, postpone the action until a later date. Be sure you are right before you go ahead.

In your position of authority, you are to be kind, and gentle, yet firm. You are not to rule in an arbitrary or dictatorial manner, yet you are to rule. Be dignified without being arrogant, courteous, without being subservient, and firm, without being oppressive. Keep your attitude on a friendly, and brotherly basis, while observing proper dignity and decorum. Promptness and punctuality are essential to success.

It is imperative that the Worshipful Master and other Officers are early to every meeting. Be sure that the Lodge is always opened at the designated time. After you have opened the Lodge, conduct the business with proper dignity, decorum, and dispatch, so that you can avoid lengthy and boring meetings. Do not let your meetings drag. Lackadaisical habits by you will produce similar traits in your Officers and Members. An early closing will allow time for social activities after Lodge for those who wish to stay.

Make your meetings sufficiently interesting and diversified so that your Members will enjoy attending. You will soon discover that more of your Members will be at your meetings. It takes more than the transaction of routine business and the Conferring of the Degrees to keep your Members coming to Lodge.

Create as much activity as possible in your Lodge, and call upon as many Members as you can to engage in these endeavors. The more Members you have working, the more interest and activity there will be in your Lodge. In addition to wisdom and discretion, a Worshipful Master needs to use a certain amount of imagination if he is to attain the greatest amount of success.

The admission of new Members into your Lodge is very important because it keeps the Lodge from drying up and withering on the vine. It is a mistake, however, to devote all of the Lodge Meetings for the Conferring of the Degrees to the neglect of your older Members.

The Lodge does not gain by taking in new Members if the older Members become bored and lose interest in attending Lodge. Holding the interest of one tried and true Mason, who is already a Member of the Lodge, is worth more than the admission of two new and untried men.

In Conferring the Degrees, you should be exceedingly careful to see that no Candidate suffers any embarrassment or humiliation. Make no exceptions to the rule that "real Masonry requires of no man anything to which any gentlemen cannot honorably, and without feeling humiliated, submit."



Set up the necessary committees in your Lodge and use "The Lodge System of Masonic Education." By so doing, you will find that the percentage of Candidates who become active Members of the Lodge will be greatly increased. Educate your Officers and Members. As the shepherd of the flock, you must lead by example. Encourage them to attend with you the schools of Masonic Education and Masonic Leadership Training. Further, encourage reading the Digest of Masonic Law and other Grand Lodge Educational Material.

Throughout your term of office, you will be addressed as "Worshipful Master." Do you know what that means? It is one of the archaic terms we use, attesting to the age of our Order. The Standard Dictionary defines it as "worthy of honor by reason of character or position." In Masonry, the title is given not only because of position attained, but because the character is supposed to have justified the position. In the Old Charges of Masonry, we are told, "All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real Worth and personal Merit only." From the word "Worth" in the Old Charges comes the term "Worshipful" as we use it. See that you justify the title you now bear by your own life and work. Be worthy of the honor which your Brethren have conferred upon you.

How To Be A Good Leader

INTRODUCTION - You have been told that the honor, reputation and usefulness of your Lodge depend on your ability to manage its concerns. Are you prepared? Your picture hanging in the Anteroom calls to mind the work of a leader or the memory of an incompetent caretaker. You have this one opportunity to leave an example for others to follow. The choice is yours. Keep in mind that your Lodge is not governed by a textbook: only the Master possesses such authority, and that person is you. Make each moment count and everyone around you a success. This is your year. How will it be remembered?

Management Principles to Remember

Organizations, large and small, government and private, fraternal and corporate, successfully operate only by paying strict attention to the needs, aspirations and concerns of people. Successful organizations, either fraternal or private, can trace their success directly to the amount of concern that they exhibit for the people they serve. When was the last time you returned to a restaurant that provided poor service, or served you a substandard meal for the high price you paid? When did you return to a store that exhibited a lack of concern for your business or sold you an inferior product? The same holds true for your Lodge. The amount of attention you pay to "customer service" for your Membership, their families and the Community will dictate the success or failure of your term.

- 1. Are your refreshments and meals well prepared, attractive and served promptly?
 - 2. Is your Lodge clean and orderly and reflective of the beauty which our Ritual dictates?
 - 3. Are every Brother and his family greeted in a manner which reflects the Brotherly Love of our Fraternity?
 - 4. Are you and your Lodge fulfilling the needs and aspirations of every Member?
- If the answer is no, then you are not providing that important "Customer Service" aspect of every successful organization. You are

now the proprietor of a long-established business. Think for a moment, what are the services that you and your Lodge provide that will maintain presence and attract future customers back into your store?

We often forget that people make organizations. It is not the required paperwork, the beautiful Ritual, the fancy organizational charts, or elaborate trestleboards. The management principles in this chapter will assist you in administering your Lodge by properly managing people.

Authority vs. Leadership

There is only one Worshipful Master in a Lodge, only one authority and only one leader. The Constitution and Regulations of The Grand Lodge of Florida expressly delegate full authority to the Worshipful Master to govern the Lodge in accordance with those laws. In plain terms, my Brother, you are the boss, the leader and the manager. BUT WAIT!

By Masonic Law and custom, we grant the Worshipful Master unusual authority and great deference. The wise Worshipful Master does not let that go to his head. He knows that he cannot use his gavel arbitrarily, but must constantly work to inspire, and encourage his team to unite them in a common goal, and to help them achieve that goal. Leadership exists in every Lodge. In some cases the leadership is exercised by the Worshipful Master.

In other cases, regrettably, leadership is not exercised, and the Worshipful Master stands back allowing others, such as Past Masters or Secretaries, to wield an unseen gavel. In successful Lodges the Worshipful Master takes charge. In unsuccessful Lodges the vacuum is filled by others. How will it be during your year? Will you be in charge or will you sit regally in the East, wield a hollow gavel and allow others to assume the legitimate authority you have abandoned? The emblem of power is in your hands. Wield it with discretion, courtesy and above all, Brotherly Love.

Never forget that the opportunity to lead the Brethren of your Lodge and to manage its affairs has been given to you. How well you take advantage of this opportunity will determine the success or failure of your year in the East. There is no excuse for allowing a leadership vacuum to occur.

The buck stops with you, Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri and 33rd President of the United States of America proudly displayed a sign on his desk in the Oval Office which succinctly described the term Responsibility. It read "The Buck Stops Here." That world-famous sign, in symbolic form, is forever displayed to all the Brethren, silently resting upon the Master's Podium, in front of the Oriental Chair. You cannot escape it; it cannot be thrown away; it cannot be destroyed, or placed into another Brother's Hands. No matter how hard you may try to avoid it, "The Buck Stops Here" is that proverbial shadow which will never fade away. It is yours and yours alone. Everyone will take credit for increased Membership, excellent Ritual, a beautiful Lodge and good participation by the Membership at all functions. Few will share responsibility for failure.

You, as Master, will not be able to escape the responsibility for what occurs during your year. The Brethren know this. They long to hear a Worshipful Master say, "I wish to thank the Brethren for the confidence they have reposed in me. The authority of the Oriental Chair is now in my hands for this Masonic year. I assume that responsibility for the leadership and management of this Lodge. I will give credit to everyone for the things that go well, and I will carry the burden of blame." ✖

Our Children = Our Future

Mokanna Lodge No. 329 Provides Local School Backpacks

Mokanna Lodge No. 329 purchased, filled, and delivered 476 backpacks for the students of Lockhart Elementary School. Mokanna Lodge No. 329 has a rich history of helping the local Community, especially helping local schools and their students. ✖



L-R:
Worshipful Rocky Williams;
R.: W.: Ed Sexton;
Brother William Wagner;
Brother Calvin Woolfolk



Northside Lodge No. 283 Makes Local School Donation

Northside Lodge No. 283 Brothers made their yearly school supply donation to their neighbor, 'North Shore Elementary School' on October 12th this year. Dealing with local on and off Covid Virus restrictions, resulted in this year's delayed donation date.



We are always proud to help assist North Shore Elementary School with additional supplies each year and hear how much they appreciate it.

A special thank you to Brother Wayne Smith, who provided a large portion of the supplies and transportation getting them there. ✖

L to R: W.: M.: Robert E Guthrie; Ms. Beshanna Seay, and Ms. Kathryn Stone, school administration

Boynton Lodge No. 236 Donates a "Buddy Bench"

On September 10th, Worshipful Master Scott Schwartzberg, Senior Deacon Steve Rappaport, and 50-Year Member John Morris represented Boynton Lodge No. 236 at the presentation of a "Buddy Bench," an anti-bullying program, at Plumosa Elementary School of the Arts in Boynton Beach. ✖



Okaloosa Lodge No. 312 Adopts-A-Teacher



Okaloosa Lodge No. 312, located in Niceville, FL, adopted its second 1st Year teacher at Lewis Elementary. The Masons in co-ordination with the local Elementary School select first time teachers to provide them a small donation to assist in setting up their classrooms. ✖

L to R: Jordan Berry, Asst Principal; W.: Robert Anderson, Past Master; Kelly Brown; W.: Donald Pardue, Master; Amy Pendleton; Asst Principal

Florida Masonic Youth Charity Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc.

The Grand Lodge of Florida has always supported of all forms of Masonic Youth Programs. Donations to the Florida Masonic Youth Charity are deposited into the Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc., Fund, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable account, and used to support Masonic Youth Programs that are dedicated to education and the principles that will help build strong leaders for our future.

A separate and special account has been set up by the Grand Secretary to ensure that all donations are properly distributed to our youth and proper records maintained. ✖



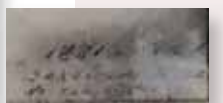
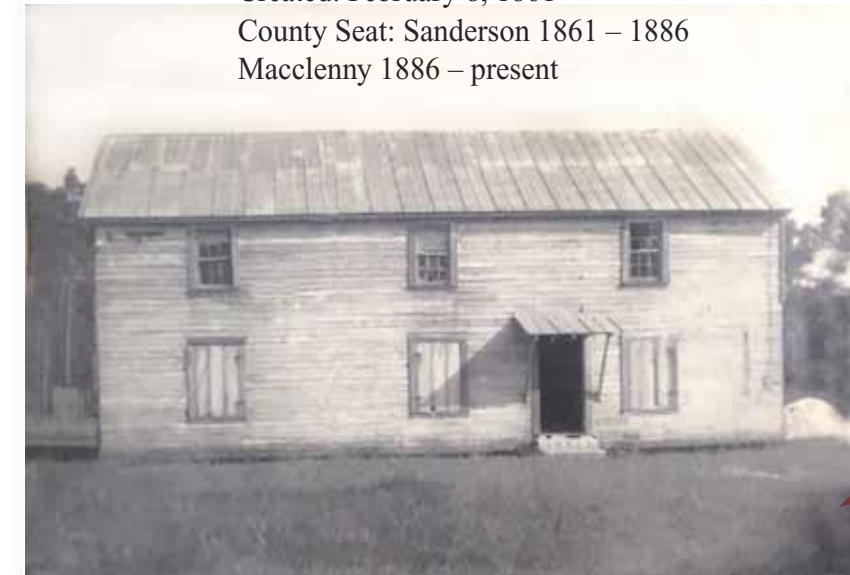
A Little History...

Early history of Dawkins and Sanderson Lodge's Baker County is named for James McNair Baker, who was a Judge and a Confederate States' Senator.

Created: February 8, 1861

County Seat: Sanderson 1861 – 1886

Macclenny 1886 – present



HISTORY: The first courthouse was a wood frame structure built in Sanderson after 1861. The building burned in 1877. In 1886, the County seat was moved to Macclenny. The second courthouse was constructed in 1908 to 1909 at a cost of \$19,985 and is still standing. The third and present courthouse was constructed in 1940 to 1948.

(This info from: <http://www.courthouses.co/us-states/states-a-g/florida/bakercounty/>)

Here is some of what I have learned in doing this merger. The following is done to the best of my knowledge and memory of what was told to me.

When Dawkins Lodge was Chartered in Feb. 17, 1871, (150 years old in 2021) the Lodge Building, by 1881, (a two-story wood frame building), was directly north, across the railroad tracks, and road of the present day Sanderson Lodge Building. The first Baker County courthouse was a wood frame structure, built in Sanderson after 1861. The building burned in 1877, (the first deed was presumably burned & lost too). Then in 1886, the County seat was move to Macclenny. Dawkins Lodge also moved to Macclenny sometime between 1886 & 1891. Macclenny was first called Darbyville because most of the land of this area was owned by the Darby family. Carr Bowers McClenny married into the Darby family, and then bought most of this land in the late 19th Century. He intended to harvest it for timber. Darbyville became known as McClenny.

This info about Darbyville/Macclenny came from:

<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/macclenny-florida.html>

In Jan. 22, 1891, Sanderson Lodge was Chartered (130 years old in 2021) and got Dawkins' building (*see reason why 1984 deed was re-recorded; next column). The Members of Sanderson Lodge then took the building apart and re-built it on the present-day lot next to the Member who donated the lot to Sanderson Lodge. Sometime in 1961, the Members of Sanderson Lodge again took the building down and built the current two-story CB Building. *As I understand it, in 1984 by the direction The Grand Lodge, the deed from 1891, needed

to be re-recorded to update/correct it, so the deed would read "Between Master Wardens & Members of Sanderson Lodge No. 122" and "Members of Sanderson Lodge No. 122 F & AM." The Deed from 1891 is supposed to be in the paperwork of Sanderson Lodge. I believe that I have seen it, BUT, did not realize what I was looking at was from 1891! The deed in 1984 is the first of two deeds that are now recorded in the current courthouse of Baker County. The second deed in 2015 was for Lot 7, Block 22, Town of Sanderson, the lot directly behind the current building.

Therefore, Sanderson Lodge No. 122 is going away and Dawkins Lodge No. 60 is going Home in Sanderson.

See the picture (above, very difficult to read, but it is there) of Dawkins/Sanderson Lodge & written in lower-right hand corner "1881-1961 Sanderson Lodge No. 122". (1881 is 10 years AFTER Dawkins was Chartered and 10 years BEFORE Sanderson was Chartered.)

After being the Secretary of Dawkins Lodge No. 60 in Sanderson for 10 years, and 50+ years as a Mason, the time has come for me to pass down the Secretary position to younger Members of the Lodge. (Frankly, the briefcase has become too heavy for me to tote!) In addition, to quote M.: W.: Elmer Coffman, "in 12 yrs I'll be 90!" Now it is my turn to say that!!

Thank you so much for all the amazing experiences we have shared, I look forward to the next chapter in my Masonic Journey. ✖

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Larry Scott

The Masonic Home of Florida

The Lady's Project for the 2021-22 Masonic Year



This year, Lady Hollyn Foster, wife of M.: W.: Jeffrey S. Foster, Grand Master, has selected for her project at the Masonic Home of Florida, the renovation of the first floor bathrooms and courtyards of the Masonic Home of Florida.

The first floor bathrooms are dated and in need of a new layout, the courtyards are in need of improvement as years of Residents and their families use and various functions have taken a toll.

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 other 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. ✕

Pineland Lodge "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" Fundraiser



In early June, Pineland held a "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" Fundraiser Dinner for the First Lady's Charity. The event was an overwhelming success with over 130 Brothers and their families visiting from across the state.

After dinner, R.: W.: Ken Hinton served as the auctioneer for a spirited dessert auction. This is an annual event that was started by Lady Rita Arrington and continues in her memory. The result of this event was realized at the July meeting of the 11th Masonic District where W.: Kent Warman was



proud to present a check for \$8,300 to First Lady Hollyn Foster. As with any fundraiser, this event took a lot of work by a lot of people behind the scenes. Special thanks to all those who took part either by working, attending, or donating. ✕

L to R:
First Lady Hollyn Foster and
W.: Kent Warman.

The Masonic Home of Florida St. Petersburg, Florida • Visit our Website: www.MasonicHomeFL.com



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.

Every day we are aware of the many ways our extended Community works to help us keep our Residents safe, healthy, and happy. It takes all of us, and each one of us contributes in our own way. If you are interested in strengthening the Masonic Home of

Florida through a tax-deductible donation, there are many options such as our Tree of Life, Memory Garden and Brick Courtyard.



TREE OF LIFE - In two locations inside our building we display a Tree of Life with brass leaves that honor or remember special people in our lives. Purchase a gold leaf for \$100 to recognize someone important and your donation will support the Masonic Home and our Residents.



MEMORY GARDEN - Our Memory Garden is an open, tranquil courtyard accessible by Residents and visitors. Along the southwest corner of the garden is a beautiful granite wall where we honor and remember family members, Residents, Lodges, Brothers, and Sisters. Purchase a granite plaque for a \$150 donation, and we will engrave it with your special message.



BRICK COURTYARD - The brick pathway in our Memory Garden is decorated with personalized bricks in honor or memory of the special people in our lives. Purchase a brick for a \$50 donation and we will engrave it and place it along our permanent pathway. ✕



CONTACT US:



3201 1st Street NE
St. Petersburg FL 33704
Phone: (727) 822-3499
Fax: (727) 821-6775
masonichomefl.com

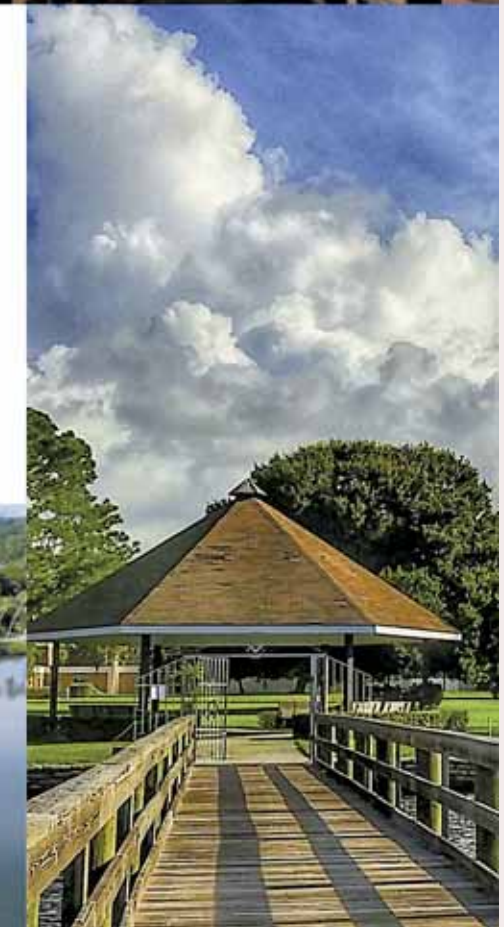


Masonic Home of Florida

ASSISTED LIVING AND SKILLED NURSING COMMUNITY



Individuals or couples, assisted living or skilled nursing, Masons or non-members, we have admissions options to meet your needs. Let our team help you through the process.





3201 1st Street N.E.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704
(727) 822-3499 • Toll Free: 866-868-6749

Our Website: www.MasonicHomeFL.com

Charitable Gifts & Considerations

Additional ways to support
The Masonic Home of Florida

Wills and Gifts

One of the most satisfying things we can do is to leave a legacy for something we care about. Please consider including a charitable provision in your will. The Grand Lodge has a list of attorneys within the Fraternity who are willing to assist in you. You may also want to consider making direct cash donation to the Masonic Home of Florida. This can include a one-time gift or ongoing donation to the Home.

Masonic Home Endowment Fund Inc.

Proceeds from this tax-deductible fund provides income to fulfill our mission to provide charitable care and services as well as other on going expenses required to maintain the Home.

Charitable Gift Annuity

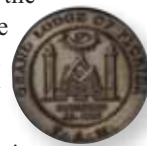
Gift annuities provide income for the rest of your life and may have tax advantages. The Grand Lodge has literature available which describes the Charitable Gift Annuity Program and the advantages of utility this gifting strategy.

Resident Treat Fund

Funding for our treat fund allows for extra special programs and activities than cannot be supported by the Home's annual budget such as ball games, show tickets, fishing trips, etc.

Grand Master Coins

Each year, the Grand Lodge of Florida strikes brass and silver coins with the Most Worshipful Grand Master's likeness on the obverse side, and The Grand Lodge of Florida seal on the reverse side. These coins are presented in every District by the Chairman of Masonic Youth Coins for purchase by the Craft.



The proceeds from the sale of the Grand Master's Coins contributes directly the Florida Masonic Youth Charities, a non-profit organization under the Grand Lodge of Florida, the sole purpose of which is to fund all Masonic Youth activities within the Grand Jurisdiction. Masonic Youth groups are the future of our Fraternity, and depend on these contributions to fund such youth activities as installations, group meetings, group social events, and general expenses of particular Chapter. ✕

Step Up To The Plate

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. ✕



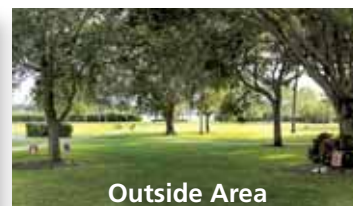
Ice Cream Parlor



Board Room



Chapel



Outside Area

Just a small sampling of completed First Lady's Projects at The Masonic Home

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STOP BY OUR BOOTH TO LEARN ABOUT...

THE
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Giving Back To Our Community

Building Beds for Needy Children

John Darling Lodge No. 154 sponsored several build-a-beds for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" (www.shpbeds.org) a non-profit organization. Several Members, including W.:M.: Roger Turgeon, W.: Joe Kennedy, W.: Jim Blum, Brother Herb Atwood, volunteered in May, July, and September, 2021. To date, there are 12 chapters in Florida.



Helping Children In Need Of Sleep Better.

We fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. We're a national organization answering the call to a national problem.

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Idaho and across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed - or even a pillow - to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their health and happiness.

That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Our organization has grown steadily over time, and we're working on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people. ✖
No kid sleeps on the floor in our town®.

Orange Lodge No. 36 Supports Local Police Department

The Brothers of Orange Lodge No. 36 had the pleasure of presenting a check to Deputy Chief Jerome Miller and our very own Worshipful Stephan Brick in support of the Apopka Police Department summer camp program. ✖



L-R: Brother Patrick Tessier; Brother John Christie; Brother Craig Butler; Brother Rolando Vargas; Deputy Chief Jerome Miller; Worshipful Stepan Brick



Royal Palm Lodge No. 100 & Widows Sons Eastward Riders Feeding the Needy

Royal Palm Lodge No.100 & Widows Sons Eastward Riders are distributing food boxes to the Community once a week on Thursdays.

Pictures shown left of volunteers organizing and distributing boxes of food to be distributed.

If any other Lodges are interested in doing the same, they can contact Brother Francisco Moc F&M Utility Group Inc. at 305-304-5360 to get help with signing up with the State.

Today we had a great turnout of Brothers helping distribute food boxes to the Community. Thanks again to all the Brothers that helped and those that helped make this happen.

W.: Luis Gonzalez, W.: Kelvin Justice, Widow Son President Christopher Wadsworth, Widow Son V.P. George Lima, Brother Javier Correa, Brother Luis A. Morales, Brother Lazaro Moreira, W.: Daniel Kring. ✖

@Florida Keys Lodge No.336

@Royal Palm Lodge No.100,

@Eastward Riders Widows Sons



Masonic Lodge Brings Holiday Cheer



Gulf Beach Lodge No. 291, located in Madeira Beach, took part in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program for the thirteenth consecutive year at Tyrone Mall. The Angel Tree Program, is designed to provide holiday gifts for needy children in the Community. Over twenty-five Members of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge took turns manning the Angel Tree booth at the Mall on November 27th.

It was a very moving experience for the Masons to see how the Community came together to bring joy to the hearts of children this time of year, even during a pandemic. Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge is appreciative of the Salvation Army for allowing them to take part in this worthy program, and encourages other organizations and individuals to take part in this event in the future.

Gulf Beach Lodge takes part in providing holiday food baskets to the needy; sponsoring a "Bikes for Books" Program at local elementary schools; an annual \$2,000.00 scholarship to a deserving high school senior; and many more charitable activities. ✖

Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 Supports First Responders

Orange Blossom Lodge No.80 served refreshments and food to the first responders that protected our Community during the annual Kissimmee Lakefront 4th of July celebration. This year, Firehouse Subs partnered with us to make this 4th of July event especially memorable.

It was our honor to present Firehouse Subs with this plaque as a token of our appreciation for their continued partnership in these endeavors. ✖



L-R: Brother Sam Ashley, Brother Ivan Becerra, Worshipful Wendel Tomimbang

Searching For A Brother Submitted by W.: Dennis Wind, P.M. - Winter Haven Lodge No.186

Has anyone else looked for a needle in a haystack? Or, in this case, a missing Mason among thousands of others. That exactly describes my search for the Masonic Record of Brother James Beason Brown. Brother Brown was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 18, 1917, and served in the United States Air Force during WWII, in the Jacksonville, Florida, area.

He then moved to the Miami, Florida, area in 1947, for several years before settling in Winter Haven, Florida, in 1964. At some point in his travels, he became a Master Mason. His Son Richard, a close friend of mine, knowing that I am a Mason in the Lodge his Dad attended, asked me about his Father's Masonic History. "No problem," I said, "I'll just peek into our records." And I found... nothing.

This started a four-year search that has yet to end. From Jacksonville to Miami, Alabama to Georgia, the record of Brother Brown is nowhere to be found. Every Winter Haven Lodge Minute Book and Meeting Log-in Book from 1962, until his death on February 15, 1993, has been gone through with no mention of him, not even his funeral at which Winter Haven Lodge No. 186 Officiated. His prayer card and newspaper obituary state he was a Mason and there is even a sculpted Square and Compass on his headstone. But his record as a Mason is nowhere to be found.

Florida Masons Lay Wreath At The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier

Since 2016, Grand Masters of Florida accompanied by Florida Masons have traveled to Washington D.C., and layed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. M.:W.: Jeffrey S. Foster wrote of his experience at this trip.

"I arrived home this afternoon from one of the most memorable trips of my life. I traveled with 45 other Florida Masons and three Brothers from Zacatecas, Mexico, to Washington, DC.

Friday morning, we traveled to Arlington National Cemetery, and I could feel the weight of the sacrifice that the rows of white head markers represented the moment we walked through the gates. Being a veteran, it was truly a solemn feeling knowing that these men and women paid the ultimate price and sacrificed their lives protecting our great Country. I had the honor and privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, an honor that I will cherish forever. I had to say to myself over and over as we walked the wreath to the tomb, 'don't cry, don't cry, don't cry.'

We then traveled to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for a tour. Tyler, our tour guide did a great job touring us through the Memorial, after which we held a Called Communication of Ornan Lodge in their Lodge Room. We had a presentation of the George Washington Gavel during the meeting and the Grand Historian did a wonderful job explaining its history.

We had a catered supper at Almas Shrine Temple and the Grand Master, and Senior Grand Warden from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia joined us. After supper, we stopped by the Lincoln Memorial for a little sightseeing.

For an entire year, during the pandemic, I have made a personal project of looking at, and scanning every Petition for Initiation or Affiliation, Dimit in or out, transfer in or out, Special Dispensation or Direct Order from the Grand Master to make certain that this never happens in our Lodge again.

Well, over 340 hours later, I have documented over 900 Masons that are not listed in the Grand Lodge Website as having been Winter Haven Lodge No. 186 Masons.

A call to the Grand Secretary's Office revealed that electronic records started in the mid 1960's, and if a Mason was not active at that time, he was not likely to be in the database. However, that does not excuse us from not having locally complete, reliable records.

Although, I did not find Brother Brown in this search, I did find an extraordinarily rich history of Winter Haven and surrounding area Masons, names that shaped our Community, and, although now long deceased, continue to affect our lives today.

The challenge my Brothers, is that you look at your old records, documenting, and digitally preserving your Lodge Members before the paper starts to crumble. Who knows what amazing history is stored within your filing cabinets? ✖

To stand before President Lincoln's statue was awe inspiring. Then I stood where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his 'I have a Dream' speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. We were also able to tour the Vietnam Veterans Wall and pay our respects before heading back to the hotel.

Saturday morning, we toured the 'The House of the Temple of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.' Our tour guide Daniel, did a great job showing us all around and gave us so much information, and history, I was truly impressed by his knowledge and memory.

Saturday afternoon we attended the Installation of Officers at Potomac Lodge No. 5, after which several of our Florida Brothers went to a holiday party while the rest of use returned to the hotel and ate locally. I am wore out, but I wouldn't have traded this weekend for the world." ✖



Boynton Lodge Visits USS New Jersey for Master Mason Degree



Junior Warden Eugenio Rosado, Senior Warden Steve Otto, and Worshipful Master Scott Schwartzberg took a trip to New Jersey and visited the Battleship New Jersey Museum, on the most decorated Battleship in US Naval history, as USS New Jersey Lodge No. 62 presented a Master Mason Degree, Raising three Brothers as Master Masons on the deck of the ship, set-up as a Lodge and Tyled to keep off prying eyes.

The Degree was observed by many, including the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Most Worshipful Robert V. Monacelli who was presented a Battleship New Jersey cap from a Brother who had served on the ship, and he greeted the Delegation of Master Masons from Florida with pleasure and invited the Brothers back for a future visit. ✖

Oviedo Lodge No. 243 Supports American Legion

Oviedo Lodge No. 243 proudly supported Oviedo's American Legion Post No. 243 Veterans Day Celebration! Our very own R.:W.: Paul Miller (D.D.G.M. 1979) was honored as a World War II Veteran! Many thanks to Brother James Nelson for coordinating with Post No. 243! ✖



Through the Eyes of Our Grand Orator

Submitted by R.:W.: Antonio C. Chavez; W.: Grand Orator 2020 - 2021

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Distinguish East, Guests, and My Brethren:

Good afternoon!

FIRST, I would like to thank you, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Thomas L. Turlington, Jr., for the honor and the privilege you have bestowed upon me as the Grand Orator and to serve the Craft under your Grand Mastership and the opportunity and the experience to travel with you throughout the State; further advancing your theme of UNITY, COM-

It's been almost 51 years since I first left the Pacific Islands of the Philippines at a very young age to join and serve in the United States Navy; and I vividly recall what my parents told me on that memorable and poignant day I left the place of my birth; that as long I have faith; and believe in myself; with conscious; deliberate; and determined effort; anything is possible! Be cognizant that the decisions I make will shape my future. Make a meaningful contribution to society in effecting positive change. Do good and be kind to others, especially to the less fortunate, without any expectation of return. To have good manners at all times and practice the "golden rule;" to not be so quick to judge others. Treat everyone

MUNICATION, and ACCOUNTABILITY. I thank you.

SECONDLY, I'd like to thank my family who are not here today due to current health guidelines. My oldest daughter, the wonderful and amazing Gina Chavez; her sister, the thoughtful and caring daughter, Alex, and her husband, my son in law, also a Brother, a Delegate, who was able to join us today, their little baby girl, my pride and joy, my 8-month old granddaughter, Yael Quinn, for their unwavering and continued support throughout my Masonic Journey and for their unconditional love and care. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I know their Mom is looking down so proud of them; I love them all so much.

equally with respect and dignity. Speak and fight for those who are unable to speak for themselves by standing up for what is lawfully, morally, and ethically right, even if I am standing alone. That my word is my honor. And those are a few of the many lessons they impressed upon me and why I am standing here before you today.

Today, you will have a unique experience. I will deliver this oration in my first language: English with my Irish-Filipino accent.

So hopefully, this afternoon I can effect positive change. And if I can't make this speech memorable, I will try to make it short.

Oration



Service. Humanity. Impact. Difference. Betterment. As Masons, these words comprise the total sum of our life's driven purpose and existence; because "Masonry is a way of life."

Each time we gather to celebrate this annual event, we bear witness to an association formed and perfected in so much union and harmony. And today, we, it's Members, greatly rejoice and reaffirm our dedication and continued commitment to strengthen our never ending endeavor of kindness and goodwill to mankind; a sincere wish of being serviceable to our fellow creatures; to demonstrate and pass on the great truths and wisdom of the ages and transmit them unimpaired to the latest posterity.

This week is our 192nd Annual Grand Communication. Today is a very special event to celebrate. As evident by the many Members who are present and traveled from afar, there is one common goal we share: to strengthen that harmony, love, and affection, uniting and bonding us as Friends and Brothers.

Today is also Memorial Day, a day for us to remember the men and women of the Armed Forces who died while serving our Country. Let us pause to recall to our remembrance those whose unselfish act of extraordinary courage made the ultimate sacrifice.

To all active military, past and present, and to my fellow Veterans, we are eternally grateful. I thank you for your service.

Continued on next page



"Recalling to our remembrance" the most sublime truths and wisdom of the ages passed on with pride and honor by our Brethren of ancient times. But how do we pass them on? How do we pass on and transmit the principal tenets of our profession, the inculcation and practice those truly commendable virtues: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth?

The answer is simple; it is found in the beginning of the Opening Charge:

"The ways of virtue are beautiful. Knowledge is attained by Degrees. Wisdom dwells in contemplation, therefore we should seek it. Let us then, Brethren, apply ourselves with becoming zeal, to the practice of the excellent principles inculcated by our Order. Let us remember that the great objects of our association are the restraints of improper passions, the cultivation of an active benevolence and the promotion of a correct knowledge of the duties we owe to God, our neighbor, and to ourselves. Let us be united and practice with diligence the sacred tenets of our Order".

"Knowledge is attained by Degrees". It is achieved when we possess a thorough and meaningful understanding of our Rituals, their profound significance, their practical application in the government of our conduct, not only in the Lodge but outside and when abroad in the world.

Our Rituals are what differentiate us from other organizations and Fraternities. They are the prime movers – they cement and support our Masonic thoughts. They are the stimulus of philosophical understanding of Masonic History. Ritual is the language of Freemasonry; the way we communicate. We must learn and understand these Rituals. Failure to do so, becomes an obstacle to living a "Masonic Life", and of being serviceable to our fellow creatures.

That's why it is incumbent upon us, especially to our new Masons, to truly understand the Fraternity that we have joined. The Degree Team must be thoroughly proficient in performing all parts of the ceremony. Prompting should be non-existent or minimal at best, thus being able to inform and convey to the candidate its profound significance and "symbolize that birth of intellectual light in the mind," without him getting lost in the translation. The inability to expertly understand and perform these rites would be to him, "mysterious and incomprehensible." The new Brother may have received the "rights and benefits," but little, if any "light?"

In short, my Brothers, the experience of a well performed Degree is important in the life of a new Mason. It is the spark that ignites their yearning, to learn and live in service. As well as it functions as the window into the strength, health, and soundness of that Lodge.

We cannot expect a new Brother to receive Masonic Light if the meaning of the Ritual is not studied and learned. My Brethren, it is our mission to mentor these newly Initiated, Passed, and Raised Brothers. We must guide and engage them in the meanings of those invaluable Ritual phrases and passages.

Excellent performance is the medium by which these meanings are delivered to the "attentive ear and discerning eye." Meaning can-

not be gained from observing poor performance or worse yet, indifference.

I am reminded of a story. When a Mason of a Lodge went to heaven, and after identifying himself as the Past Master of a Lodge, Saint Peter immediately took him to the Masonic Clock Room where, in puzzlement he observed the room was filled with clocks. Each clock had a Lodge's Name on a brass plate and strangely enough each clock was at a different time. He asked why, and he was informed that the clock hands only moved when someone in that Lodge made a mistake in the Ritual. Looking around and not finding his Lodge Clock, he asked Saint Peter where's his Lodge Clock as he couldn't see it. Saint Peter replied, "why... it's in the kitchen of course!" "The Kitchen?" said the Master. "Yes! You see, we needed a new fan!"

Joking aside, the proficient performance of Ritual and delivered meanings are the catalyst of Masonic Education. We Confer the Degrees, deliver the Lectures and Charges, explain the use and meaning of the Working Tools. We impress upon his mind, our Principal Tenets, the practice of those truly commendable Cardinal Virtues, the fulfillment of our Sacred Oaths and Obligations, and the subjects that are the heart and soul of our Fraternity. And with this knowledge, he is symbolically and metaphorically transformed from a good man, inspired, and made himself into a better man.

Thus, along this path of growth, and evolution, both he and the Institution are made stronger and more solidified. It is up to us to make ourselves better men by first learning and then applying the Tenets, Principles, and Lessons learned as illustrated in the Ritual.

In order for us to pursue such endeavors and goals, it is also imperative that we equip and familiarize ourselves with the necessary books, manuals, and aids; the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, the Books of Adopted Forms and Ceremonies, Master Mason Educational Courses, Classes, and Seminars, to name a few.

Improving our knowledge by taking Masonic Courses, seeking guidance, listening, and "COMMUNICATING well-informed Brethren" who have gone that way before us, and "who will always be as ready to give, as we will be to receive instruction," thus, it builds and strengthens our internal as well as our Fraternal Journeys.

In World War II, during the Japanese-American War in the Philippines, my father worked with the United States Army as a guerrilla scout doing advanced reconnaissance. He passed on to me a very important lesson he learned from observing soldiers and paratroopers. With his signature rationale, he explained that, if and when I find myself in a discussion with others, to never forget that "a mind is like a parachute; it does not function when it is not open." So true.

Likewise, no knowledge can be gained without study and examination of the aforementioned books and manuals. But first, they must be opened. When closed, they are, but a mute testimony to the ideas and wisdom of their pages.

Continued on next page

Through the Eyes of Our Grand Orator

Be mindful that possession of an encyclopedia of information and good ideas is no substitute. No substitute for implementation, even for the very least of those ideas, details, and particulars are put into actual practice.

Action is the essence of achievement and success. Not discussion no matter how intelligent or convincing the talk; because action generates creativity and success.

However, in so doing, we must all be accountable for our “thoughts, words, and actions.” In every endeavor we take, ACCOUNTABILITY is paramount. We cannot correct or cure any wrongdoings if we ignore them or pretend they do not exist. Consequently, it necessitates administration of corrective measure or appropriate Masonic Justice.

Over the years, I’ve gained and experienced the true meaning and profound significance of many Ritualistic questions and their subsequent answers. And many times over, in differing contexts the same questions propounded kept arising, specifically, “what do I expect to experience and gain from Masonry? Why and what is it worth to me?” In other words, “What I put in and what I get out of it?”

If Masonry causes me these resounding inquiries and repeatedly reinforces their existence in the recesses of my inner being, then I will have received in my lifetime, one of the greatest gifts the Fraternity can bestow. And as I reflect upon my answers, I am reminded of the ideals my parents taught me.

For in the process, I’ve learned to strengthen the core values they have instilled upon me and how to live in accord with them. And I realize that the many small and apparent inconsequential experiences and decisions that make up my days on this earth all add up and define who and why I am today and what I am becoming.

With their foundation, the knowledge shared with me in Brotherhood and my “travels” I came up with an acronym:

Hitch - **H.I.T.C.H.**, my constant daily reminder:

H - HONESTY

I - INTEGRITY

T - TRUTH

C - CHARACTER

H - HUMILITY

And to borrow a passage from a video clip titled, “A Charge to the Fraternity” by Benjamin Franklin, he states the very simple definition of Freemasonry:

“Freemasonry is the very measure of a man...the very measure of a man. Because Freemasonry believes that a man’s greatness can be measured, not by his wealth or his fame. But by his deeds, his character, his truth, his tolerance, his charity, his trust, his friendship, his love for his fellow creature. And to do good is the best way to glorify God.”

Our belief in our tenets and practice of those truly commendable virtues, “frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended,” in our Lodge. Brotherly Love and Relief is a duty incumbent upon all men, especially among us Masons. Not because we expect others to pay it forward or repay the deeds, but we must act without expectations; not only because we are Masons, but because it is the right thing to do, Mason or not.

We are taught to lead by example and the best example we can set, is one where we serve our community WITHOUT asking for recognition, expecting praise, or urging reciprocation. It is THAT dedication and anonymous service that WILL SERVE as the greatest form of inspiring others on their own volition to join the Order.

Expecting reciprocity diminishes the very value behind the deeds. Not a Masonic symbol on our shirts, hats, or rings nor a title on Masonic business cards, a Masonic decal or plates on our cars, COULD EVEN COME CLOSE to encapsulating the very Honor of being a Freemason.

We have an unconditional obligation to be serviceable to our fellow creatures. We must choose and act to be good stewards of humanity within our communities and the world and hope that our service ALONE, draws attention without imposition upon the objects of our good deeds. We must keep the values and principles of Freemasonry at the forefront of everything we do, including our efforts to inspire and attract new brothers.

So, we become “worthy and well qualified,” and so are the fruits of our labors as we “HITCH” to “follow our conductors” without fearing peril.

This is the real meaning of being a Mason. Align ourselves along the appropriate paths with Honesty, Integrity, Truth, Character, and Humility. Then and only then can we begin to appreciate the value of Ritual and symbol of our Work.

I commend all the members and those who are clothed with the authority to direct the affairs of this organization for your commitment and dedication to reach out to the 21st century and this ever-changing world.

Today, more than ever, we need leaders. Some of us must direct and marshal, so others must, of course, learn to submit and abide. Humility in both is an essential duty. Let us all work together in close harmony toward attaining fraternal excellence. This is essential to continually champion the UNITY of its members to have a voice in humanity through our “never ending quest for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements.”

So, let us all join together by making a difference in effecting positive impact to many and bringing joy and happiness in their lives. I, therefore, trust that we will have but one aim, to please each other, and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

“Together, our hearts and tongues will join in promoting each other’s welfare and rejoicing in each other’s prosperity”. May kindness and affection distinguish our conduct as men, Masons, and friends. Within your peaceful walls, may your children’s children celebrate with joy and gratitude the annual recurrence of this inspiring occasion.

And remember that line in the Closing Charge:

“let it not be supposed that you have here labored in vain and spent your strength for naught, for your work is with the Lord and your recompense with your God.”

So, I invite you my Brothers to soar high with me, to recall with gratitude the diligence, commitment, and devotion of those Brethren

Continued on next page

who came this way before us. Let us join together to choose hope over fear; unity of purpose over conflict and discord; and further cultivate, spread, and promote with pride and honor the knowledge of Masonry as a worthwhile way of life. Thus, making it known widely as an organization of excellence; an institution of service, effecting positive change, making an impact, BE the difference in the world.

Let us come together and grab this opportunity “*carpe diem*,” right now, “*seize the day*” to rededicate and recommit ourselves and this Institution to make progress and shape our future.

Let us, each of us, now embrace our sacred obligation and our solemn duty with awesome joy and gratitude the annual recurrence of this inspiring occasion with common effort and purpose, with passion and dedication, to answer the clarion call of history and carry into an uncertain future the precious light of humanity and transmit the tenets of our profession; pure and unimpaired for a better world for generations to come.

May Almighty God delight to dwell with, and bless us all, always. Thank you. ✖

Annual Grand Communications



193rd Annual Grand Communication of The Grand Lodge



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida will hold their 193rd Annual Grand Communication tentatively on Monday, May 30th thru Wednesday, June 1st, 2022. It will be held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, located at 9700 International Drive, Orlando, Florida, 32819. The schedule has not yet been released but will be updated as soon as it is finalized. ✖

Welcome to the new *Florida Mason Magazine: Above & Beyond*. As you can see a new format has been developed. This being the first of the new format there will be changes in the future based upon your input and comments. One goal is to include interesting articles not only for our current membership but to those non-Masons who may be interested in our Fraternity. To aid in this transition a “How To Write A News Article” is provided for your Lodge Public Relations and Publicity Director.

One goal is to move many Lodge Submissions to the Grand Lodge Facebook page. A “how to” is included in this section.

How to Write a News Article



Writing a news article is different from writing other articles or informative pieces because news articles present information in a specific way. It's important to be able to convey all the relevant information in a limited word count and give the facts to your target audience concisely. Knowing how to write a news article can help in a career, develop your writing skills and help you convey information clearly and concisely.

To begin writing a news article you need to research the topic you will be writing about extensively. In order to have a credible, well written, well-structured article, you must know the topic.

Begin by asking yourself the “5 W’s” (sometimes “6 W’s”)

- ✓ Who - who was involved?
- ✓ What - what happened?
- ✓ Where - where did it happen?
- ✓ Why - why did it happen?
- ✓ When - when did it happen?
- ✓ How - how did it happen?

Compile all your facts.

Once you can clearly answer the “5 W’s”, jot down a list of all the pertinent facts and information that needs to be included in the article. Organize your facts into three groups:

- ✓ 1) those that need to be included in the article.
- ✓ 2) those that are interesting but not vital.
- ✓ 3) those that are related but not important to the purpose of the article.

→ This fact list will help prevent you from leaving out any relevant information about the topic or story, and will also help you write a clean, succinct article.

→ Be as specific as possible when writing down all these facts. You can always trim down unnecessary information later, but it's easier to cut down than it is to have to beef up an article.

→ Now that you have your facts, decide what kind of article you're writing. Ask yourself whether this is an opinion article, an unbiased and straightforward relaying of information, or something in between.

→ **Photos:** Photos can add interest and appeal to your article. Before taking photos, make sure your camera is on a high resolution setting. Include names of all individuals, (left to right; if possible). And write a one or two line caption of photo. Include this information with your article, and cross-reference photo in article if you wish for it to be place in any particular location.

Create an article outline.

Your outline, and subsequently your article, should be structured like an inverted triangle. The inverted triangle allows you to build your story so that the most important information is at the top.

→ If you've ever heard the term “burying the lead”, that is in reference to the structure of your article. The “lead” is the first sentence of the article – the one you “lead” with. Not “burying the lead” simply means that you should not make your readers read several paragraphs before they get to the point of your article.

→ Whatever forum you're writing for, be it print or for the web, a lot of readers don't make it to the end of the article. When writing a news article, you should focus on giving your readers what they want as soon as possible.

Know your audience.

In order to write a great news article, you need to know exactly who you are writing for. Your audience will dictate the voice and tone of your article and help you to know what you should include.

→ Ask yourself the “5 W's” again, but this time in relation to your audience.

→ Questions like what is the average age you are writing for, where is this audience, local or national, why is this audience reading your article, and what does your audience want out of your article will inform you on how to write.

→ Once you know who you are writing for you can format an outline that will get the best information to the right audience as quickly as possible.

Find an angle.

Why is this article unique to you? What is your voice? These questions will help you to make your news article unique and something that only you could write.

→ Even if you are covering a popular story or topic that others are writing about, look for an angle that will make this one yours.

Start with the lead.

Begin with a strong leading sentence. News articles begin with a leading sentence that is meant to grab a reader's attention and interest them. This is one of the most important parts of the piece, so start with the good stuff when writing a news article. Remember the inverted triangle.

→ Your lead should be one sentence and should simply, but completely, state the topic of the article.

→ Remember when you had to write essays for school? Your lead is like your thesis statement.



→ Let your readers know what your news article is about, why it's important, and what the rest of the article will contain.

Give all the important details.

The next important step to writing news articles is including all the relevant facts and details that relate to your lead statement. Include the basics of what happened, where and when it took place, who is involved and why it's newsworthy.

→ These details are important, because they are the focal point of the article that fully informs the reader.

Follow up main the facts with additional information.

After you've listed all the primary facts in your news article, include any additional information that might help the reader learn more, such as contact information, additional facts about the topic or people involved, or quotes.

→ This additional information helps round out the article and can help you transition to new points as you move along.

→ A good news article will outline facts and information. A great news article will allow readers to engage on an emotional level.

→ To engage your readers, you should provide enough information that anyone reading your news article can make an informed opinion.

→ This also applies to a news article where you the author don't state your opinion but present it as an unbiased piece of information. Your readers should still be able to learn enough about your topic to form an opinion.

Conclude your article.

→ Make sure your news article is complete and finished by giving it a good concluding sentence. This is often a restatement of the leading statement or a statement indicating potential future developments relating to the article topic.

→ Read other news articles for ideas on how to best accomplish this.

Check facts before publishing.

Whether you're writing a news article, professionally or for a assignment, your article isn't complete until you've checked all your facts. Having incorrect facts will immediately discredit your article and could hinder you as a writer.

→ Be sure to double check all the facts in your news article before you submit it, including names, dates, and contact information or addresses. Writing accurately is one of the best ways to establish yourself as a competent news article writer.

Have someone read (proof) your article.

Even if you have gone through your story several times and think that everything is squared away, you should let another pair of eyes take a look at it. In addition to finding any spelling or grammatical errors, your editor will be able to help you trim down certain sections and simplify awkward sentences.

→ You shouldn't submit any news article for publication without first letting someone look at it. An extra pair of eyes can double check your facts and the information to ensure that what you have written is accurate.

How many people have phones or computers?

If we were to look at these numbers for the United States, about 50 percent of people use a desktop while 46 percent of the market share goes to mobile devices. Tablets make up 4 percent. In Florida, desktop computers, laptop computers and mobile devices exceeds the number of households. Meaning there are multiple devices in most Florida Homes.

How do I link a Facebook page to the Grand Lodge of Florida Facebook page?

1. Log in to your Lodge Facebook account/page and create your post
2. At the end of your post, Press the "@" symbol on your keyboard.
3. Type the name of the person or page you want to link to. www.facebook.com/flafreemasons or Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida
4. Type until the name of the person or page appears in the drop box below the text box.
5. Click on the name of the person or page that you want to link to.
6. Post the article you created ✕



The Florida Mason Newspaper... "Outstanding"!



M.:W.: Jeffrey S. Foster, Grand Master, proudly displays the prestigious award

The Masonic Renewal Committee of North America presents an annual "Outstanding Newsletter Award" in recognition for having the best composed newsletter in enhancing the channel of communications with the Masonic Fraternity through the Conference of Grand Masters. We are very excited to report that The Grand Lodge of Florida won the 2022 award for The Florida Mason Newsletter! ✖ **WAY TO GO FLORIDA!**



L to R: M.:W.: Jeffrey S. Foster, Grand Master, receiving the Outstanding Newsletter Award from M.:W.: Patton R. Hart, Chairman of the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America



We would like to send out a special "Thank You" to R.:W.: Larry Duff for his many years of service and dedication in preparing The Grand Lodge of Florida's award winning newsletter *The Florida Mason*. He has retired this position and this will be the last issue he is in charge of publishing. **Well Done Good And Faithful Servant!** ✖

Join Us As We Grow

The Florida Mason *Above & Beyond* Magazine

Winner of the "2022 Masonic Renewal Committee of North America Best Newsletter/Newspaper Award"

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- PDF or Tiff files (300 dpi) ONLY received via email.
- CMYK or B&W, High Resolution, (PDFs @300 dpi Printer Quality) (to actual size) embed all artwork and fonts.
- DO NOT USE REGISTRATION BLACK, Max density for black is 50c 40m 40y 100k no exceptions!

- **All media subject to the approval** of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Florida and MUST be emailed to: masonicpublications@grandlodgefl.com

SIZES:

Half page: 7.5" (w) x 4.9" (h)
 Full page: 7.5" (w) X 10" (h) (live area) ←
 Full page w/ bleed: 8.75" (w) X 11.25" (h)



The York Rite of Freemasonry

Fort Pierce York Rite Bodies

Joppa Chapter No. 28, Royal Arch Masons
 Tyrian Council No. 36, Royal & Select Masters
 St. Lucie Commandery No. 17, Knights Templar



Paul W. Friend, KYGCH
 P. O. Box 1766 Stuart, FL 34995
 Secretary-Recorder (772) 260-6404

THE M.: W.: RICHARD LYNN, P.G.M., CLASS

Dear Companions and Sir Knights:

The Fort Pierce York Rite Bodies are pleased to announce that we will host the 1st and 6th York Rite District Festival. This Festival will be held in honor of Most Worshipful Richard Lynn Past Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

The class will be held on Friday evening, April 1st & Saturday, April 2nd, 2022, at Acacia Lodge No. 163, F. & A.M., 20 SE Osceola Street, Stuart, Florida, 34994.

**This is the first of four Festivals to beheld, in M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn's, honor.
 The other three will be held after Grand Lodge.**

Friday Night

Roll Call6:00 p.m.
 Mark Master Degree 7:00 p.m.
 Past Master Degree.....8:15 p.m.
 Most Excellent Master Degree.....9:00 p.m.


Saturday Morning

Picture.....7:30 a.m.
 Royal Arch Degree8:00 am
 Royal Master Degree10:00 a.m.
 Select Master Degree11:00 a.m.
 Lunch12:00 p.m.
 Order of Red Cross.....1:00 p.m.
 Order of Malta2:00 p.m.
 Order of the Temple3:00 p.m.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and assistance in helping us to make this class a truly memorable one.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Friend, KYGCH
 Secretary-Recorder



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Grand Lodge Marketing Reimbursement Program

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jeffrey S. Foster, is asking that as many Lodges as possible take part in the Grand Lodge Marketing Reimbursement Program (GLMRP). Please get your Lodge Officers involved in these Meetings. Everyone is invited to take part. Zoom Meetings with information about this program are being held.



A few notes of the value of this program.

- **Make connections that matter and grow YOUR Lodge**
- **An estimated 2.7 billion people use Facebook every month** to connect with friends and family and to discover things that matter.
- **Find new potential members and build lasting relationships with them.** Facebook will automatically show your ads to people who are most likely to find your ads relevant. You can further target your ad delivery with three audience selection tools.



Core Audiences

- **Define an audience based on criteria like age, interests, geography and more.**
- **Custom Audiences** - Get back in touch with people who have engaged with your business, online or off.
- **Lookalike Audiences** - Reach new people whose interests are like those of your best customers.

Core Audiences

- **Define your audience for smarter targeting.** With Core Audiences, you set the rules for where your information is delivered. Adjust your target audience to be as broad or well-defined as you like, based on the following criteria.
- **Location** - Get your message to cities, communities, and organizations where you want to target for potential membership growth.
- **Demographics** - Choose your audience based on age, gender, education, job title and more. You can keep track of the types of people your are reaching, but Facebook will never share personally identifiable information about them.
- **Interests** - Add interests and hobbies of the people you want your information to reach from education, golf, fishing, and more – and make you targeted ads more relevant.
- **Behavior** - Target your information based on consumer behaviors such as prior purchases and device usage.
- **Connections** - Choose to include people who are connected to your Facebook Page or event or exclude them to find new audiences.

When someone likes a Page, they're showing support for the Page and that they want to see content from it. The Page will show up as being liked in the About section of that person's profile. When someone follows a Page, it means they may receive updates about the Page in their News Feed. ✖

What is Freemasonry?



No one knows with certainty how or when the Masonic Fraternity was formed. A widely accepted theory among Masonic Scholars is that it arose from the Stonemasons' Guilds during the Middle Ages. The language and symbols used in the Fraternity's Rituals come from this era. The oldest document that makes reference to Masons is the Regius Poem, printed about 1390, which was a copy of an earlier work. In 1717, four Lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England, and records from that point on are more complete.

Within thirty years, the Fraternity had spread throughout Europe and the American Colonies. Freemasonry became very popular in colonial America. George Washington was a Mason, Benjamin Franklin served as the head of the Fraternity in Pennsylvania, as did Paul Revere, and Joseph Warren in Massachusetts. Other well-known Masons involved with the founding of America included John Hancock, John Sullivan, Lafayette, Baron Fredrick von Stuben, Nathanael Greene, and John Paul Jones.

Source: <http://www.msana.com>

Another Mason, Chief Justice John Marshall, shaped the Supreme Court into its present form.

Over the centuries, Freemasonry has developed into a worldwide Fraternity, emphasizing personal study, self-improvement, and social betterment via individual involvement and philanthropy. During the late 1700s, it was one of the organizations most responsible for spreading the ideals of the Enlightenment: the dignity of man and the liberty of the individual, the right of all persons to worship as they choose, the formation of democratic governments, and the importance of public education. Masons supported the first public schools in both Europe and America.

During the 1800s, and early 1900s, Freemasonry grew dramatically. At that time, the government had provided no social "safety net." The Masonic Tradition of founding orphanages, homes for widows, and homes for the aged provided the only security many people knew.

Today in North America, the Masonic Fraternity continues this tradition by giving almost \$1.5 million each day to causes that range from operating children's hospitals, providing treatment for childhood language disorders, treating eye diseases, funding medical research, contributing to local community service, and providing care to Masons and their families at Masonic Homes.

The four million Masons worldwide continue to help men and women face the problems of the 21st century by building bridges of Brotherhood and instilling in the hearts of men ideals for a better tomorrow. ✖

2021 Grand Master's Charity



The Masonic Home of Florida

Over 18-acres of waterfront landscape and a 5-star living facility, the Masonic Home of Florida offers spectacular views, comfortable living, exceptional care and a family atmosphere for our residents.

With the support of our Brothers and our dedicated Staff, the Masonic Home of Florida has reinvented the art of graceful living. Masons and their wives/widows thrive in an atmosphere of home charm, yet are provided the most comprehensive health care regimens available in Florida today.

Geriatric physicians and specialists design personal care programs with the assistance of physical and occupational therapists, audiologists, podiatrists, speech therapists, ophthalmologists, dentists and psychosocial counselors. Emphasis is

placed on independence to preserve self reliance and a healthy self esteem. Even day to day routines have been generously peppered with choices to our residents which fosters a greater control over their daily lives.

The Masonic Home of Florida has been owned and operated by the Grand Lodge of Florida since the early 1900's. 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.

We must continue the good work of our many Brothers before us, and strive to live up to our obligations.

Join the Grand Master for this 2021 Masonic year in supporting the Masonic Home of Florida. ✖



M.: W.: Jeffrey S. Foster,
Grand Master 2021-2022



For additional information, or to make a donation to the Grand Master's Charity, please go to:

<https://www.grandlodgefl.com/grand-masters/>

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Above & Beyond

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Volume 1, Issue 1

2022 Grand Master And Appointed Grand Lodge Officers



Pictured left to right: **Front Row:** W.: Chester J. Tokar; R.:R.: Grand Chaplain; R.:W.: William P. Macken, W.: Senior Grand Steward; R.:W.: Harry H. Boyette, W.: Senior Grand Deacon; R.:W.: Haskell R. Vest, Jr., W.: Grand Marshal; M.:W.: Jeffrey S. Foster, Grand Master; R.:W.: Jack W. Hampton, Jr., W.: Junior Grand Deacon; R.:W.: Ben S. Schwartz, W.: Junior Grand Steward; R.:W.: Ernest W. Catsulis, Jr., W.: Grand Orator; R.:W.: Allen E. Wood, Jr., W.: Grand Tyler; **Second Row:** Brother Michael G. Seeley, W.: Grand Musician; R.:W.: John N. Dragneff, W.: Grand Standard Bearer; R.:W.: Michael R. Gambarrotti, W.: Grand Pursuivant; R.:W.: Howard C. Chase, III, W.: Grand Sword Bearer; R.:W.: Anthony A. De Angelo, W.: Grand Historian.

