



Winter Park Lodge

No. 239



March 2026

The Trestle Board is your monthly newsletter brought to you by the Brothers of Winter Park Lodge No. 239. Stated Communications are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. Refreshment at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. 1495 Grand Road, Winter Park, Florida 32789. Phone 407-679-6800 for more information.

My Brothers,

February was strong in attendance, fellowship, and Masonic Education. Welcoming several Lodges through the Traveling Gavel reminded us that our labor extends far beyond our own walls—we are not alone in this work.

The momentum we are building is evident before, during, and between our meetings. A recent social outing with families reflected the culture we are shaping: unity, ritual devotion, service, and meaningful connection.

We now continue into this next phase with a renewed focus on strengthening our ritual practice and deepening Masonic Education through thoughtful dialogue, as together we pursue truth.



March Highlights and events ahead

Bro. JD Brandon Fornea — Mason of the Month - For his dedication to service and commitment to engaging our newer members.

W. ♂. Chet Tokar — Appointed District Deputy Grand Master - Leading our Proud 16th Masonic District with strength and vision for the ensuing masonic year.

March 7 – Masters & Wardens - Hosted by Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80

March 17 – Entered Apprentice Degree - Let us show up in force as we welcome new linkages into our immaterial collective temple. 6:00 PM Dinner | 7:00 PM Degree. First time Bro. SD Joshua Williams presides in the East

March 28 – Open Books - Winter Park Lodge No. 239 (Followed by the District School of Instruction)

April 18 – Spring Cookout - 11:00 AM through the evening - A unified gathering bringing together our Lodge, OES Pioneer Chapter 99, LOS Kismet Court 86 & Masonic Youth Groups.

To every Brother reading this message, consider this your formal notice

Our Lodge grows bigger with you in it. Come join us. See the great things that our Lodge is doing. Help us make it even better

Travel. Travel. Travel.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Juan Carrero,

Worshipful Master

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Brethren,

As we welcome the month of March, we are reminded that this season represents renewal, growth, and fresh opportunities for service in our Craft. There is much to celebrate and several important dates to mark on your calendars.

First and foremost, we proudly announce that our very own W.°. Chet Tokar has been selected to serve as District Deputy Grand Master. This is a well-deserved honor and a testament to his dedication, leadership, and faithful service to Freemasonry. Please join me in congratulating W.°. Tokar and offering him your full support as he undertakes this important responsibility.



We are also pleased to share that R.°.H.°. Billy Triplett will continue serving as our District Instructor. His steady guidance and commitment to ritual excellence strengthen not only our Lodge but the entire District. We are grateful for his continued leadership and instruction.

March will also be an active and meaningful month for our Lodge:

- **March 7th** – *Masters and Wardens Association Meeting at Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80. Memorial Lodge will Follow.*
- **March 17th** – *Entered Apprentice Degree*
- **March 28th** – *Open Books and District School of Instruction*

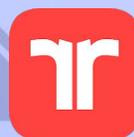
The Entered Apprentice Degree on March 17th is a particularly special occasion. Initiating a new Brother into our ancient and honorable fraternity is among the most important duties we perform. I encourage all Brothers to attend, support the degree team, and welcome our candidate as he begins his Masonic journey.

The Open Books and District School of Instruction on March 28th provide excellent opportunities for improvement in ritual and understanding. Whether you are an officer, a seasoned Past Master, or a newer Brother seeking light, your participation strengthens the Lodge and deepens your own Masonic knowledge.

Let us continue to labor together in harmony, uphold the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and support one another in all our endeavors.

Fraternally,

Bro. Marc M. Spittler
Senior Warden





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Greetings from the South, My Brothers,

March is already upon us, and if the first part of the year is any indication, 2026 is moving at full stride. An active Lodge is a healthy Lodge — and from the laughter in the dining hall to the fellowship at refreshment, we are very healthy indeed.

First, what a fantastic evening we had at High Tide Harry's! The food was outstanding, the fellowship even better, and it was a pleasure seeing Brothers enjoying time together outside the tiled Lodge room. If you joined us, don't forget — we have discount cards toward your next meal. Just see me and I'll make sure you get yours. If you missed it, we'll make sure there are more opportunities like this ahead.



Speaking of hospitality, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to three Brothers who have generously contributed to our Steward of Hospitality program. This fund directly supports the meals and experiences we provide for our guests and visiting Brethren — and it makes a real difference.

My sincere thanks to: W.·.M.·. Juan Carrero, W.·. Justin McDonald and Bro. Chris Parton

Your generosity embodies what we strive for in the South: warmth, welcome, and well-set tables. Thank you for leading by example.

As we move through March, we'll continue building on that spirit. Our dinners remain a cornerstone of fellowship — that time before the gavel drops where we reconnect, share stories, and strengthen the bonds that make this Lodge special. If you have ideas for upcoming meals, themes, or even a dish you'd like to sponsor, I'm always open. The South runs best when it runs together.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Open Books later this month, and be sure to stay engaged with all the education and fellowship opportunities that follow.

The more you put into this Lodge, the more you'll find it gives back. I look forward to seeing each of you at refreshment — and in Lodge — as we continue doing great things together

Fraternally,

Eric Hudson LeGrow

Junior Warden





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Treasurer

My Brothers,

I want to thank the Brothers of Winter Park Masonic Lodge No. 239 for electing me as Treasurer for a fourth year. It is an honor and privilege to serve the Craft. I look forward to another great year and continuing to serve. If we have not met, I will make every effort to meet you.

I want to thank the craft for approving the 2026 Budget for the Operating Fund, Building Fund and Charity Fund. Two months into the budget year and we are into a good start for a successful financial year.

After our 2025 Audit, our financials were submitted to our CPA in order to file our 2025 990 tax return. I would like to inform the craft that our 2025 990 tax return has been file with the IRS.

The goals for the month of March is:

- 1) Continue working on the next steps of finding a financial institution to help manage our two investments accounts.
- 2) Provide the 2025 990 Tax Return confirmation to the Grand Lodge.
- 3) Begin working on our annual filing with the Department of Agriculture.

If you have any questions associated with the lodge financials, please contact me at treasurer@winterparklodge.org.

Fraternally,
Greg Seavers, PM
Treasurer
(407) 375-6243





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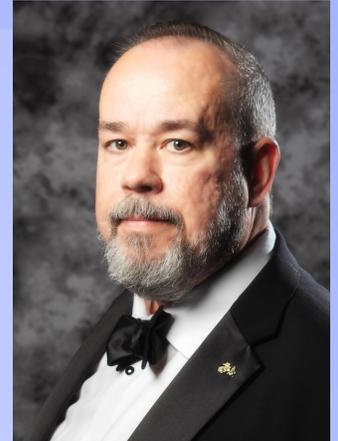
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In December of each year, the Lodge suspends any Brother who has not yet paid his dues for that year. In early January, I send out letters notifying the Brothers that have been suspended for Non-Payment of Dues. During the months of January and February, I am usually contacted by at least a couple of those Brothers asking what they need to do to be reinstated. I wanted to explain the process so that everyone understands what happens when a member doesn't pay their dues and what the steps are to be reinstated.

- Dues notices for the upcoming year are typically ordered from Grand Lodge in August and mailed out to the members between Sep-Nov.
- Payments are due by Dec 27th .
- Delinquency notices are mailed after 6 months to all members who haven't paid by June 28.
- If dues remain unpaid three months after the delinquency notice, a summons is mailed instructing the Brother to appear at the Stated Communication listed in the summons.
- At the Stated Communication listed in the summons, a hearing will be held to determine if the delinquent members have given satisfactory excuse for non-payment. If not, the craft votes whether or not to suspend them.



At that time (or the date specified in the motion), the members are suspended. Any member wishing to be reinstated must fill out a Petition for Reinstatement (GL-605) and a Background Waiver. All fees due must be submitted with the petition and it must follow the same course as a petition for the Degrees. To be reinstated, a favorable vote of three-fourths of the members present by ball ballot or written secret vote is necessary. A rejected petition may be renewed at the end of three months from the date of rejection. This is directly from Chapter 4 of our By-Laws. Each of the notices that are sent out state that any Brother who is struggling to meet his financial obligation to our Lodge needs to reach out to the Worshipful Master or Secretary and let them know. If a member is unable to pay dues because of bodily infirmities or misfortune, they can be placed on the Emeritus List by written recommendation of the elective officers and by a majority vote of the craft. A Lodge can also vote to waive a portion or all of a Brothers dues without placing him on Emeritus.

In that case, Grand Lodge Per Capita would still be due. As you can see, there is a lot of communication being sent via postal mail to every Brother each year. This is why it is so important for you to notify us any time your address changes. Along with the delinquency letters, I also send out email reminders a month or two before the first delinquency notices are mailed. If your current email address is not listed in your Masonic Record, please let me know so I can update it. This time last year, nearly 50% of our Dues Paying members had not paid. This year, that number is approximately 33%, although our total number of dues-paying members has decreased.

Finally, I would like to point out that of the Brothers who have paid their dues, about 80% included the LYPMGC contribution to help support our Masonic Home. Also, for our Perpetual and 50-year Exempt Brothers, several of you have also contributed to both the LYPMGC and Building Funds. Thank you for your generosity. If you have not yet contributed and would like to, you can contribute via cash or check as always, but you can also pay online. Simply go to the Members section on the lodge website, winterparklodge.org and select "Pay Your Dues". At the bottom of the dues payment page, there is a link for Perpetual Members to support both LYPMGC and the Building Fund.

Fraternally,
John Halter, PM
Secretary



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Pay your dues here

<https://winterparklodge.org/pay-your-dues/>

Has your contact information changed? New address? New phone?
Email secretary@winterparklodge.org so we can keep your records up to date

Attentive Ears & Instructive Tongues

Petitions Received

James McCord
Aaron Thude

Entered Apprentice

Robert Patton
Davide M Bisso
Garrett D Marlowe

Fellow Craft

Master Mason

Hector Diaz II
Ellison Riley



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My Brothers,



I am honored to be appointed for the second year as the Chairman of the Lodge Property Committee.

I would like to continue to thank all Brothers and Appended bodies for utilizing the Building Committee e-mail for requesting the lodge for use, as well as bringing any facility issues to our attention. This helps with documenting any request and supports what we put onto the lodge calendar. I continue to request all Brothers and Appended Bodies to use the email address and not request lodge usage via phone call or text. Reminder that for Building Usage requests, the Building Committee respectfully request a 30-45 days advance notice.

The address for the building committee is building239@winterparklodge.org

We have completed the lodge calendar for 2026 and is updated accordingly on the lodge website calendar. If you have any requests for dates, please contact me via the above e-mail address.

We have several goals for the month of March.

- Finalize our agreement with Action Church.
- Sign the usage agreement with the Scottish Rite.
- Finalize drafting the updates to our agreement with LOS. This is formality and to ensure that the agreements stay up to date.
- Install our newly procured budget approved water fountain. The water fountain has a standard filtered fountain as well as a bottle filling station. It will be installed in the first week of March. I want to sincerely thank W.·M.· Juan Carrero and Bro. Gabor Andradi for volunteering to install the water fountain. By this selfless action, these Brothers are saving us over \$1,800. Thanks my Brothers!
- Begin repairs to the outside lighting.

If you have any questions or would like to support these goals, please reach out to me.

If you have any questions associated with the lodge building, please contact me at building239@winterparklodge.org

In the event of an emergency, please call or text my cell phone at (407) 375-6243.

Fraternally,
Greg Seavers, PM
Chairman, Building Committee
(407) 375-6243



Your 2026 Officers

Worshipful Master: Juan Carrero (Mariana)
321.444.0667 juancarrero123@gmail.com

Junior Deacon: Brandon Fornea (Kim)
brandonfornea@gmail.com

Senior Warden: Marc Spittler (Erin)
407.803.3286 fenian117@gmail.com

Chaplain: Raymond Brunkow (Tracy)
404-734-1219

Junior Warden: Eric LeGrow (Patricia)
954.683.2582 ericlegrow@hotmail.com

Musician: Mike Seeley (Nancie)
407.461.1770 mike102400@aol.com

Treasurer: Greg Seavers, PM (Victoria)
407.375.6243 treasurer@winterparklodge.org

Senior Steward: Tyler Mitchell
561.240.253 tyler.mitchell1224@gmail.com

Secretary: John Halter, PM (Dawn)
321.345.0331 secretary@winterparklodge.org

Junior Steward: Gabor Andrasi (Yasemin)
678.983.1805 gabor.andrasi@icloud.com

Senior Deacon: Joshua Williams (Valinda)
joshuawilliams3152@yahoo.com

Marshall: Randall Safier, PM (Sara)
586.943.0605 rmsafier@live.com

Tyler: Brian Smith (Diane)
321.229.8553 aggie74@mpinet.net





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March Celebrations

Masonic Anniversaries

Brother	Years	Brother	Years
Benjamin Smith	71	Christopher Brown	25
Robert Kingsland	62	Harry Eisenberg	25
Gary Schmidt	61	George Petrie	25
Eugene Provan	60	Hobart Fisher II	21
Philip Bloom	58	Daniel Chule	19
Richard Drews	57	Sean Serrao	18
Harry Speer	50	Juan Sanchez Pontiles	17
Samuel Johnson Jr	48	Calix Ancion	14
Stephen Thomas	48	Ian Hwang	14
Allen Jenks	42	Daniel Sercombe	13
John Muroski	42	Gregory Seavers	12
William Thomas PGM	30		



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March Celebrations

March Birthdays

Brother	Date
Angel Lopez	1
Brendan Farwick	3
Wagner Nolasco	4
Ricardo Parente	7
Carlos Padilla	8
Harold Smothers	11
Ian Hwang	12
David Danzinger	15
George Reed	15
Juan Sanchez Pontilles	16
Jose Reyes	20
John Clary	23
Javier Mackey	25
Billy Hendrix II	26
Dennis Ardinger	27
Benjamin Ward Jr	27
Jeffrey Wroblewski	28
Carlton Lewis	31



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In 2010 R:W:. H. Glen Avery challenged each of us to contribute to the building fund each year on our birthday. This gift was to represent one dollar for each year of the birthday you are celebrating. Every dollar of your gift will be put into the building fund for use in managing our facilities and helping us to keep it in the pristine condition we have all come to appreciate. You can make your donation by check or credit card. Please see the Secretary or Treasurer for more information.

Charity of the Quarter

The Charity of the Quarter at Winter Park No. 239 will be International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Hope #82 - Rainbow Assembly Brethren, we all know that the future of our Masonic family resides in our youth. At Hope Assembly #82, our girls are learning that service to others is the brightest color in the spectrum of life. I invite you to join their cause with a donation today. Help us ensure that the light of Hope continues to shine brightly in their Assembly. Your support is the greatest example we can give them of what true fraternity looks like.





Important News from the Proud 16th Masonic District

Open Books and District School of Instruction

Led by R.:H.: Billy Triplett
Books open from 8 am-12 pm
School of Instruction 12:30 pm-2 pm
Saturday, March 28 at Winter Park No. 239



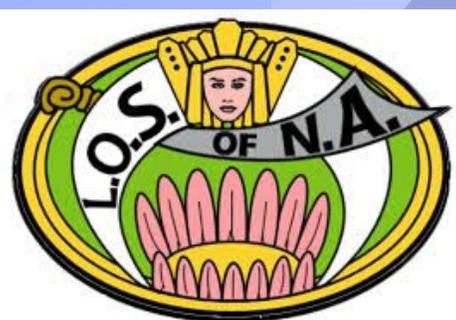
Scottish Rite Valley of Orlando

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is commonly known as the Scottish Rite. It is one of several groups that are part of the worldwide fraternity known as Freemasonry. The Scottish Rite is the largest and most widely practiced Masonic Rite in the world and employs a Lodge system. It is our mission to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country. The Scottish Rite Valley of Orlando meets every 4th Friday at the Winter Park Masonic Center. For more information, please contact Ill. Keith Albright, General Secretary at 407-657-4550.



Order of the Eastern Star Pioneer Chapter 99

The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated women and men who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good. It gives them the opportunity to give a part of their time to many projects that benefit mankind. Our lessons are scriptural, our purposes are beneficent, and our teachings are moral. OES Pioneer Chapter is looking for new members from the Masonic community. Masons & their wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters all qualify. For more information, please call Beth Perrell, Secretary at 407-592-7487. Pioneer Chapter meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month at 7:30pm at Winter Park Lodge building.



Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America

LOS Kismet Court #86 meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm with dinner starting at 6pm. If you are interested in getting more information on LOS Kismet Court No. 86, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/KismetCourt86/>

For more information contact our recorder, Kim Kilmartin, at kismetrecorder@gmail.com. Ladies do not have to be related to a Mason to join. Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America raises money for the Shriner's Hospital for Children and Special Projects for the hospitals.



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March 2026

SUN Mar 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
		6:30 Lodge officer Meeting 7:30 Lodge Ritual Practice				Orange Blossom 80 Masters & Wardens 8AM - Breakfast 9 AM - Meeting Memorial Lodge Follows
8	9	10 7:30 - Stated Communication	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 6:00 Dinner 7:00 EA Degree	18	19	20 7PM - Game Night	21
22	23	24 7:30 Stated Communication	25	26	27	28 8AM Open Books 12:30 PM - School of Instruction
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4

Lodge Social - After every Stated Meeting at Gator's Dockside on Red Bug Lake Rd

Cigars & Conversation on the Lodge Patio Prior to our Regular Meetings



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Winter Park Past Masters

- 1916 - Benjamin W. Stone* (UD)
- 1917 - Benjamin W. Stone*
- 1918 - Homer S. Hope*
- 1919 - J. Otis Hale*
- 1920 - Walter H. Schultz*
- 1921 - Frank J. Lindergreen*
- 1922 - Raymond W. Green*
- 1923 - William G. Hoffman*
- 1924 - James E. Harper*
- 1925 - Adolphus A. Wesson*
- 1926 - H. Earl Cole*
- 1927 - J.A. Podmore*
- 1928 - George C. Dolive*
- 1929 - Warren M. Ingram*
- 1930 - Willis J. Johnson*
- 1931 - Willis J. Johnson*
- 1932 - Milton A. Perch*
- 1933 - Forrest B. Stone*
- 1934 - J.C. Russell*
- 1935 - Guy F. Colado*
- 1936 - Milton A. Perch*
- 1937 - Webber B. Haines*
- 1938 - Eziel D. Cook*
- 1939 - Huland W. McCord*
- 1940 - William A. Gilbert*
- 1941 - John G. Graylee*
- 1942 - Carroll L. Ward*
- 1943 - Lloyd H. King*
- 1944 - R.W. Fred L. Tuck*
- 1945 - J. Rex Holiday*
- 1946 - Willis J. Johnson*
- 1947 - Chester O. Cornwall*
- 1948 - B. Roy Sloniger*
- 1949 - George C. Russell*
- 1950 - M.:W.: George L. Myers, PGM*
- 1951 - James T. Pegrarn*
- 1952 - Charles O. Kummer*
- 1953 - Roscoe E. Sloniger*
- 1954 - Robert F. McCord*
- 1955 - Thomas W. Tope*
- 1956 - James M. Rhiner*
- 1957 - R.:W.: Morris D. Parker*
- 1958 - Robert F. Edwards*
- 1959 - Dallas L. Bishop*
- 1960 - Albert L. Mashburn*
- 1961 - Charles W. Hostetler*
- 1962 - M.:W.: Harvey Eddy, PGM*
- 1963 - R.:W.: Eugene B. Taylor*
- 1964 - Walter J. Boyer*
- 1965 - Donald A. Nyholm*
- 1966 - Eugene R. Simpson*
- 1967 - Julius Blum*
- 1968 - Deane W. Hammond*
- 1969 - R.:W.: Robert D. Fiedler*
- 1970 - R.:W.: H. Glen Avery Jr. *

- 1971 - Daniel W. Hughes*
- 1972 - James E. Winne*
- 1973 - Norman T. Gore
- 1974 - George Ray Sloniger *
- 1975 - R.:W.: Charles C. Hayes*
- 1976 - Robert Kowalski*
- 1977 - Kenneth White*
- 1978 - R.:W.: Ernesto Fuste*
- 1979 - Wallace D. Myers*
- 1980 - David E. Smith*
- 1981 - Carl P. Kummer
- 1982 - Jesse W. Ridley*
- 1983 - William A. Boyland, Jr.*
- 1984 - Anthony J. Decanio*
- 1985 - G. Keith Gordon
- 1986 - R.:W.: Allen Fiedler
- 1987 - R.:W.: Michael G. Juett
- 1988 - R.:W.: Zeb E. Blanton Jr.
- 1989 - Fred E. Brooks*
- 1990 - R.:W.: Chester A. King
- 1991 - R.:W.: William B. Erd
- 1992 - Lewis S. Lawson Jr.
- 1993 - Walter R. Becker
- 1994 - Carl J. Moore +++
- 1995 - Jerry W. Spruiel
- 1996 - Phil Bloom
- 1997 - Bobby E. Granthum*
- 1998 - Hans Weinmann*
- 1999 - John H. Beatty*
- 2000 - John T. Scheidt*
- 2001 - John E. Devlin*
- 2002 - Warren T. Gillis
- 2003 - Cameron Lovett
- 2004 - Robert W. Jeffrey Sr*
- 2005 - Rodolfo T. Galvan
- 2006 - Michael A. Costa
- 2007 - Harry V. Eisenberg, M.D.
- 2008 - R.:H.: Alex A. Darwich
- 2009 - R.:H.: Bill Valentino
- 2010 - Mark A. Avery
- 2011 - Christopher P. Chag*
- 2012 - Allen N. Stearns Jr.
- 2013 - John D. Halter
- 2014 - Jeffrey B. Morgan
- 2015 - Justin S. McDonald
- 2016 - R.:W.: Michael S. Griffin
- 2017 - R.:W.: Jay M. Cebollero
- 2018 - Thomas Swonger
- 2019 - Jonathan O. Cotto
- 2020 - Chet Tokar
- 2021 - Luke Leonard
- 2022 - R.:H.: Billy Triplett
- 2023 - Russell Anderson
- 2024 - Preston Weis
- 2025 - Preston Weis

Affiliated Past Masters

- 2007 - Norman E. Hitchcock - St. Paul's No. 14 Middletown, RI
- 2007-8 - R.:W.: Carlos Lopez - Fenix Lodge No. 8 Venezuela
- 2010-11 - Ewerson Steigleder, ARLJ, Cavaleiros de São João 2903
- 2013 - Bennie Stevens - Venus No. 809, Venus, TX
- 2013 - Stuart Orgaz - Orange No. 36
- 2014-16 - M.:W.: William Thomas, PGM of NY
- 2018 - Randall Safier - Trelum No. 552, Troy, MI
- 2017 - R.:W.: Michael Catello - Mokanna No. 329
- 2017 - Michael Carlo - Warwick Lodge No. 544, Warwick, NY
- 2017, 19 - Jeff Battaglia - Orlando No. 69
- 2018 - Greg Seavers - Oviedo No. 243
- 2019 - Nelson Bonet - Eola No. 207
- 2021 - Jason Streit - Marion Lodge No. 6, Marion, IA

* Deceased
+++ Dimitted



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Chris Chag Memorial Food Drive



We are asking you to join us as we honor our Brother, W.: Chris Chag, by taking a few powerful action steps to help our Central Florida neighbors in need and honor him in the process. You can help your Lodge reach our goal of raising at least \$5000 by donating today.

Thank you for making a great difference for local children, seniors, low income families, and others who are struggling to put enough food on their tables this year.



DONATE \$10 NOW

DONATE ANY AMOUNT



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MASONIC EDUCATION

Jacob's Ladder and the Entered Apprentice

Jacob's Ladder, a profound biblical symbol originating from Genesis 28, holds significant metaphorical weight within Freemasonry, especially for the Entered Apprentice. This vision of a ladder connecting earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending, serves not merely as an ornament but as a potent allegorical guide for a Mason's spiritual and intellectual journey.



The account of Jacob's dream of the ladder is found in Genesis 28:10-22. It's a pivotal moment in the biblical narrative and the source of the profound Masonic symbol.

Jacob, fleeing from his brother Esau after deceiving him and their father Isaac to receive the birthright blessing, was on a journey from Beersheba to Haran. As the sun set, he stopped for the night, taking a stone to rest his head upon as a pillow.

During his sleep, Jacob had a remarkable dream:

- He saw a ladder (or stairway) set up on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven.
- Upon this ladder, angels of God were ascending and descending.
- The Lord stood above it (or beside him).



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MASONIC EDUCATION

In this vision, God reiterated the covenant promises made to Abraham and Isaac:

- He would give Jacob and his descendants the land on which he was lying.
- His descendants would be numerous, like the dust of the earth, spreading abroad in all directions.
- Through him and his offspring, all the families of the earth would be blessed.
- God promised to be with Jacob, to protect him wherever he went, and to bring him back to that land, never leaving him until he had fulfilled all that He had spoken.

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he was filled with awe and fear, exclaiming, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it!" He recognized the sanctity of the location. He named the place Bethel, meaning "house of God," and set up the stone he had used as a pillow as a pillar, anointing it with oil as a sacred monument. He also made a vow that if God would be with him, protect him, provide for him, and bring him back safely, then the Lord would be his God, and that tenth of everything would be given to God.

This dream provides the biblical foundation for the Masonic symbol of Jacob's Ladder, which connects the earthly with the divine, representing a path of communication, spiritual ascent, and the fulfillment of divine promise.

For the Entered Apprentice, Jacob's Ladder primarily represents the progressive nature of Masonic education and self-improvement. Just as the ladder has rungs, so too does the path to Masonic knowledge and moral perfection. The initial steps for the Entered Apprentice involve understanding foundational principles: the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square, and the Compasses, along with the cardinal virtues. Each rung ascended signifies a new revelation, a deeper understanding of oneself and one's duties to God, neighbor, and self.

The three principal rounds or staves of Jacob's Ladder are often interpreted as Faith, Hope, and Charity (or Love). These virtues are paramount to the Entered Apprentice. Faith in God, the Great Architect of the Universe, is the cornerstone upon which all Masonic belief rests. It encourages trust in a divine plan and guidance. Hope inspires the Mason to persevere through challenges, aspiring toward the promise of spiritual light and moral excellence. Charity, the greatest of these, teaches benevolence, universal brotherhood, and the selfless giving of oneself for the welfare of others, forming the bedrock of human connection.

Thus, Jacob's Ladder is a constant reminder to the Entered Apprentice that their journey has just begun. It instructs them to constantly strive upwards, guided by these virtues, towards that celestial Lodge above where the Grand Architect of the Universe presides. It transforms a simple vision into a blueprint for moral, ethical, and spiritual growth within the Craft.

Bill Thomas, PGM GLNY 2014-16

407-927-8400



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From our February 21st gathering at High Tide Harry's.
Great turnout with over 40 people in attendance



Here is a view from another angle





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New Member Portal – Master Mason Exams!

Great news! Since Circumscribe is no longer an active system, we have implemented a new Member Portal to take Master Mason Exams I, II, III and view your personal member profile! LINK TO MEMBER PORTAL: [Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons](https://members.gflmason.org)

(members.gflmason.org) (click CTRL on your keyboard as you click the link above and it will direct you to the member portal)

FIRST TIME USERS

Click on Request a New Account and enter your information in the designated fields and click submit.

Your email will be used as your username/account when signing into the Member Portal. Make sure the information you are typing in the fields matches your Masonic Record or the request will be denied and you will have to request a new account again.

Member Portal password requirements: Password length must be 8+ characters, use at least 1 upper, 1 lower, 1 digit and 1 special character (!@#\$%^*)

*Please note that the new account requests have to be approved and are checked multiple times a day. If you have any issues, comments, questions, concerns please direct them to Maegan maegan.dover@gflmason.org

PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST MORE THAN ONE ACCOUNT



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THE 5TH ANNUAL VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH RUN



Please join The Bunker as we ride to support our Military for Mental Health Awareness. All proceeds and donations will be given to Wellness Retreat Alliance. WRA is 501c3 non-profit corporation, and a long standing and ever-expanding network of resources for perseverance.

Most all combat veterans and first responders have experienced various levels of PTSD, depression, anxiety, sleeping disorders, etc. Medication and traditional psychotherapy are not always an effective one-size-fits-all. WRA is primarily a consulting and referral service connecting people from all walks of life with the setting and resources for perseverance that best fit their needs.

REGISTRATION: THE BUNKER

3400 TANNER ROAD

STOPS

21ST MARCH 2026

1. VFW POST 5405
WINTER SPRINGS
420 N EDGEMON AVE
2. VFW POST 10139
CHULUOTA
300 LAKE MILLS AVE
3. NAM KNIGHTS
BITHLO
1451 CR 13
4. THE BUNKER



LIVE MUSIC BY
AGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

POKER RUN
RAFFLES
SILENT AUCTIONS
50/50

REGISTRATION 9:00AM
KICKSTANDS UP 10:30AM

RIDERS \$15
PASSENGERS \$5

BREAKFAST \$5
LUNCH \$10



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[CLICK to view the Masonic Home donation page](#)
[CLICK to view the Amazon wish list](#)



Masonic Home *of Florida*

Corky's Cupboard Wish List *(New items only, please)*

Cologne or body spray (men & women)
Tissues (Large and Small Boxes)
Non-Alcohol Mouth Wash
Hair Spray
Ladies Long Feminine Pads (Poise)
Lipstick (Reds, Pink, Neutral)
Face Powder
Blush (Pinks, Neutrals)
Electric Razors
Nutter Butter Cookies
Fig Newton Cookies
Greeting Cards (no Blanks or Christmas)
Postage stamps
Cash donations
Gift Cards to: Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Target etc.

Send donations to: The Masonic Home of Florida
3201 1st St. N.E. St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Rev:07/17/24