

TRESTLE BOARD

Give Thanks



MERRITT ISLAND LODGE, No. 353

Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered April 28, 1966

STATED COMMUNICATION: 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month
Supper starts at 6:30 P.M. and meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

RITUAL PRACTICE: Every Thursday of the Month
Fellowship and Receipt of Petitions at 6:30 P.M. Practice begins at 7:00 P.M.



Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2: MASTERS AND WARDENS

NOVEMBER 4: STATED COMMUNICATION

NOVEMBER 6: OPEN BOOKS

NOVEMBER 18: STATED COMMUNICATION



2024 LODGE OFFICERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER	JASON B. ESTES	(321) 514-0911
SENIOR WARDEN	GEORGE GASPARD	(407) 615-0732
JUNIOR WARDEN	AUSTIN COWART	(321) 271-6219
TREASURER	ZACHARY WALTERS	(904) 891-6120
SECRETARY	W.: KELLY CORRIDAN	(321) 385-7679
CHAPLAIN	JAMES ZUHLKE	(321) 537-7210
SENIOR DEACON	EUGENE FILIPOWICZ	(321) 720-4258
JUNIOR DEACON	CHRIS LUSSIER	(727) 403-1337
SENIOR STEWARD	Kyle Gilliard	(321) 223-2934
JUNIOR STEWARD	TBD	
TYLER	R.:W.: THOMAS KRUSE	(321) 544-8440
MARSHALL	W.: JAMES HAWKINS	(732) 239-7271
MUSICIAN	JIM HOUGH	(321) 750-3520

2024 COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS: GEORGE GASPARD, AUSTIN COWART

BOARD OF RELIEF: W.: M.: JASON ESTES, JAMES ZUHLKE

CHARITY: W.: M.: JASON ESTES, JAMES ZUHLKE

COMMUNICATIONS: GEORGE GASPARD, JOHN CROSSER

FINANCE: GEORGE GASPARD, W.: JAMES CRAVENS

INVESTIGATION: W.: M.: JASON ESTES, AS NEEDED

LODGE PROPERTY: AUSTIN COWART, ALLEN COWART

MASONIC EDUCATION: W.: JAMES HAWKINS, EUGENE FILIPOWICZ

MEMBER WELL-BEING: JIM ZUHLKE, W.: JAMES HAWKINS

PETITIONS: AUSTIN COWART, R.: W.: TOM KRUSE

VIGILANCE: AUSTIN COWART, W.: JAMES HAWKINS

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: GEORGE GASPARD, AS NEEDED

PAST MASTERS

1966 LOUIS H. SCOTT
1967 DOUGLAS MCLAIN
1968 E.L. "LANK" GREEN (1)
1969 HARRY A. HENDRY (1)
1970 ALFRED N. KEE
1971 JESSIE L. ENGLISH
1972 CLINTON E. DUNN
1973 BERYL E. CLEMENTS
1974 J. LAMAR RICHARDSON
1975 ULMER CLELAND
1976 PERRY M. ROGERS
1977 VERNON G. HITCHCOCK
1978 JOHN C. ALEXANDER
1979 BORIS Y. SKORO
1980 A. ARNOLD WAGNER
1981 WILSON R. TIMMONS
1982 WILLIAM A. CLAUS
1983 CYRIL J. CHUPINA
1984 JEFFREY F. WHITE (1)
1985 VIRGIL P. BROWN
1986 CARL GOFF (1)
1987 WILLIAM JOE QUERRY
1988 LLOYD C. BLACKWOOD (1)
1989 JAMES D. RATCLIFFE
1990 JOHN C. SMITH (1, 2)
1991 WILLIAM G. ELLIS (1,2,3)
1992 WILLIAM L. SCHROEDER
1993 WILLIAM R. STOCKMAN
1994 MICHAEL D. HAWORTH
1995 RICHARD A. WOLFE (1,4)
1996 THOMAS W. STEWART
1997 PAUL D. AMOS

1998 ROBERT L. DUFF
1999 DANIEL E. FITCH
2000 FRANKLIN L. GLENN
2001 BARRY R. SCHAFER
2002 SABATO "SAM" DANIELE
2003 RAYMOND C. ASHMAN
2004 MICHAEL J. MCAFEE
2005 PATRICK KELLY CORRIDAN
2006 JOHN F. MILLHOUSE
2007 JAMES "JIM" STRICKLAND
2008 EUGENE C. "GENE" CRAWFORD
2009 STEVEN B. WALDEN (1,3,4)
2010 THOMAS R. KRUSE (1, 2)
2011 JAMES E. "JIMMY" HAWKINS
2012 MICHAEL L. ELLIOTT (1,2,4)
2013 JOHN MICHAEL BAUERNFEIND
2014 ALVIN "CHIP" GIPSON
2015 JOHN E. WINCHESTER, III
2016 MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER DAVIS
2017 JAMES K. CHARLAND
2018 MICHAEL J. OVENS
2019 EIRIK HOLBERT
2020 DONALD B. VARGAS
2021 DUSTIN A. CELESTIN
2022 RICHARD J. CRAVENS
2023 MICHAEL B. KELLY



(1) PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER (2) PAST DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR
(3) PAST GRAND LODGE OFFICER (4) GRAND REPRESENTATIVE

NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2: MASTERS AND WARDENS

HOSTED BY INDIAN RIVER LODGE, NO. 90

BREAKFAST STARTS AT 8:00A.M., MEETING STARTS AT 9:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 4: STATED COMMUNICATION

MASONIC EDUCATION BY TBD

SUPPER BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M., MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER 6: OPEN BOOKS

HOSTED BY HARBOR CITY LODGE, NO. 318 FROM 6:00 PM–9:00 PM

NOVEMBER 18: STATED COMMUNICATION

SUPPER BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M., MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 2024 EVENTS

DECEMBER 2: STATED COMMUNICATION

MASONIC EDUCATION BY TBD

SUPPER BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M., MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 4: OPEN BOOKS

HOSTED BY HARBOR CITY LODGE, NO.318 FROM 6:00 PM–9:00PM

DECEMBER 7: MASTERS AND WARDENS

HOSTED BY GATEWAY LODGE, NO. 384

BREAKFAST STARTS AT 8:00A.M., MEETING STARTS AT 9:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 14: MASTER MASON DEGREE

HELD AT MERRITT ISLAND LODGE FROM 10:00 AM– 12:00 PM

DECEMBER 16: STATED COMMUNICATION

SUPPER BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M., MEETING STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 20: HOLIDAY DINNER AND PARTY (TENTATIVE DATE)

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST BRETHREN,

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL FALL AND THIS YEAR IS REALLY FLYING BY. THERE ARE STILL A COUPLE OF WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN LODGE ACTIVITIES. IN DECEMBER WE WILL HAVE A MASTER MASON DEGREE AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEGREE TEAM, PLEASE LET US KNOW. RITUAL PRACTICES FOR THE DEGREE ARE EVERY THURSDAY STARTING AT 7:00PM.

WE ARE ALSO TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO HAVE OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER ON DECEMBER 20 WITH THE TIME TBA. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING, I AM TRULY THANKFUL FOR OUR LODGE, THE RELATIONSHIPS I'VE CREATED WITH MANY OF YOU ALL, AND THE HARD WORK EVERYONE HAS PUT IN TO MAKE THE YEAR SUCCESSFUL!

IN 1621, THE SETTLERS FROM THE MAYFLOWER CREATED A TRADITION THAT WOULD LAST FOR CENTURIES TO COME. THIS FEAST AND CELEBRATION WAS TO THANK GOD FOR THE HARVEST AND HIS MANY BLESSINGS.

IN 1789, PRESIDENT WASHINGTON DELIVERED THE PROCLAMATION OF 1789 THAT ASSIGNED NOVEMBER 26TH AS THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF THANKSGIVING. BRO. WASHINGTON REMARKED THAT "BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS HAVE, BY THEIR JOINT COMMITTEE REQUESTED ME TO RECOMMEND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER TO BE OBSERVED BY ACKNOWLEDGING WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS THE MANY FAVORS OF ALMIGHTY GOD..."

I WISH YOU EACH A SAFE AND RESTFUL THANKSGIVING WITH YOUR FAMILY!

FRATERNALLY,
W:. M.: JASON ESTES

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST

GREETINGS FROM THE WEST BRETHREN,

FALL IS FINALLY UPON US AND THE WEATHER IS FINALLY STARTING TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. WITH FALL COMES THE TIME FOR THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF YOUR OFFICERS, AND PREPARATION FOR THE VARIOUS HOLIDAY EVENTS UPCOMING. NOMINATIONS FOR ANY OF THE ELECTED STATIONS ARE DUE BEFORE THE DROP OF THE GAVEL AT THE FIRST MEETING OF NOVEMBER.

WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN PRACTICING FOR THE MASTER MASON DEGREE. PRACTICES REMAIN EVERY THURSDAY FROM 7PM UNTIL WE FINISH AND RETIRE FOR REFRESHMENT TOGETHER. TO THAT END, I AM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR PARTS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE DEGREE. IF YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC ROLE THAT YOU WISH TO FILL, PLEASE REACH OUT AND I WILL GLADLY WORK TO GET EVERYONE THE PARTS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE. FOR SCHEDULING PURPOSES, THE DEGREE IS SCHEDULED FOR **DECEMBER 14, 2024, BEGINNING PROMPTLY AT 10:00AM AT THE LODGE.**

WE ALSO HAVE THE MERRITT ISLAND CHRISTMAS PARADE (SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 8:30AM) AND OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER/PARTY (FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, TIME TBD) COMING UP IN DECEMBER.

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND YOUR TEAMREACH APP FOR COMMUNICATION OF LODGE EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATIVE CONTENT.

I AM SO THANKFUL FOR OUR GREAT FRATERNITY AND THE MEN WHO STRIVE DAILY TO MAKE IT GREAT. WISHING YOU ALL A HEART (AND STOMACH) FILLING THANKSGIVING!

FRATERNALLY YOURS,
GEORGE C. GASPARD
SENIOR WARDEN

MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH BROTHERS,

AS THE YEAR IS WINDING DOWN AND COMING TO AN END, I WANT TO REMIND YOU ALL THAT OUR LODGE IS NOT! WE ARE DILIGENTLY PRACTICING EVERY THURSDAY FOR OUR UPCOMING MASTER MASON DEGREE IN DECEMBER. ANY AND ALL PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED SO WE CAN CONTINUE GIVING SOME OF THE BEST DEGREE WORK IN OUR DISTRICT!

WE ALSO HAVE THE MERRITT ISLAND CHRISTMAS PARADE WHERE, AS ALWAYS, THE MORE BROTHERS PARTICIPATING THE MERRIER! OUR PRESENCE IS NOTED EVERY YEAR AND ITS A FUN TIME FOR ALL!

ON ANOTHER NOTE, SINCE WE HAD THE HURRICANES THIS LAST MONTH, OUR LODGE FAIRED WELL WITH NO OUTSTANDING DAMAGE. WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE.

DON'T FORGET OFFICER NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BEFORE THE DROP OF THE GAVEL AT OUR NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION!

UNTIL THEN, NOTHING FURTHER IN THE SOUTH.

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

AUSTIN COWART
JUNIOR WARDEN

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

BRO. J.: W.:S GRANDFATHER,
BRO. S.:W.:S MOTHER, AND
ALL THOSE THAT GO UNSPOKEN.

Brethren,

Remember that it is incumbent upon us to keep our sick or distressed brothers and sisters in our thoughts and prayers.

CHARITY

Brethren,

In contemplating that great moral charge of Charity, it is imperative that we remember that it is incumbent upon us to give as liberally as our brother's necessities require and our abilities permit.

PETITIONS & PROGRESS

NONE PENDING AT THIS TIME.

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

DONALD W. COWART
Grand Master

P.O. Box 1020
Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020
Mbl. 813-431-4923
Email: don.cowart@grandlodgefl.com

RULING AND DECISION NO. 3

October 17, 2024

The question has been raised concerning the use of social media platforms for the circulation of critical and controversial information. I refer you to Regulation 26.21 as follows:

Digest of Masonic Law Chapter 26 MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS, STATUS, AND DUTIES


“26.21 No Mason or Masons subject to the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida shall, by written or printed critical or controversial communications of any kind, circularize the Officers and members of any Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

It is the intent, spirit, and purpose of this Regulation to prevent the dissemination and circulation of critical and controversial communications between or concerning Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction. It is not the intent, spirit, or purpose to prohibit or interfere with official communications by Officers and members of the Grand Lodge, and by Officers and members of Particular Lodges, and by District Masonic Officers, necessarily carried on between Grand Communications for the orderly and regular conduct of the affairs of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, and such communications are specifically exempted from the provisions of this Regulation. Likewise, non-controversial Masonic bulletins and publications are specifically exempted.

Between Annual Grand Communications of the Grand Lodge, the enforcement of this Regulation is placed in the hands of the Grand Master and he shall have the power to issue such admonitions, reprimands, Executive Orders, and Edicts, as he may be advised, necessary to carry out the spirit, intent, and purpose of this Regulation. All of his acts and doings in the enforcement and administration of this Regulation shall be reported at the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge with his report for review by the Grand Lodge.”

Therefore, it is my Ruling and Decision that any Mason that endeavors to post on any online platform, including but not limited to social media, blogs, websites, forums, podcasts, and video sharing, any critical and/or controversial communications between or concerning Masons or any other derogatory Masonic information shall be in violation of Regulation 26.21 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida and shall be subject to Masonic discipline.

Fraternally,


Donald W. Cowart
Grand Master

“Leadership, Accountability, and Commitment”

PERPETUAL MEMBERS

PAUL AMOS
KEITH AMSDEN
RAYMOND ASHMAN
JAMES BLACKWOOD
LLOYD BLACKWOOD
VIRGIL BROWN JR
WALTER BRYAN II
WILLIAM CLAUS
PHILIP COHEN
NICOLAS COLTON SR.
RICHARD CRAVENS
EUGENE CRAWFORD
SABATO DANIELE
MICHAEL DAVIS
MICHAEL ELLIOTT
RICHARD ELLIS
WILLIAM ELLIS JR
ROBERT EZROW
GLEN FANNIN
CLINTON FARLEY
DANIEL FITCH
DENNIS FITCH
GEORGE C. GASPARD
MICHAEL GIBSON
ROSS GOODFELLOW
JAMES WILLIAM HAWKINS
JAMES EDWARD HAWKINS
ERIK HOLBERT
EDWARD HOPPER
JAMES HOUGH JR
OLIVER IRLAM

JACK JONES
JOEL KICKBUSCH
THOMAS KRUSE
JULIAN LEWIS III
KEITH MCGREGOR
BENJAMIN MILES
JOHN MILLHOUSE
DANIEL NEAD
EDMUND PERESLUHA II
C VIDYA REDDY
ARVIN ROBERSON
PERRY ROGERS
OLLIE ROSE
FRANK SENDER
RODNEY SMITH
JOHN SMITH
CLAYTON SOREY
GREGORY STEPHENS
JAMES STRICKLAND JR
JOHN SULLIVAN
MICHAEL SWEENEY
JOHN TOMME SR
JAMES TRAMMELL
STEVE WALDEN
BRIAN WELSH
JEFFREY WHITE
RALPH WILKIE
RICHARD WOLFE
JEFFREY WOLFE
JOHN ZHULKE

BIRTHDAYS

KENNETH ESQUE
GLENN FANNIN
CLINT FARLEY
TERRANCE HILL
ROBERT JIREL, JR
WILLIAM MEANS, II
MALCOLM PEREZ-RIOS

ARVIN ROBERSON
SEAN RUSSELL
RODNEY SMITH
CLAYTON SOREY
OLEN WOODHAM
JAMES ZUHLKE

