

TRESTLE BOARD



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

- MARCH 2: MASTERS AND WARDENS
- MARCH 4: STATED COMMUNICATION
- MARCH 6: OPEN BOOKS
- MARCH 8: STEAK NIGHT
- MARCH 14: ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE
- MARCH 18: STATED COMMUNICATION

2024 LODGE OFFICERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER	JASON B. ESTES	(321) 591-9943
SENIOR WARDEN	GEORGE GASPARD	(407) 615-0732
JUNIOR WARDEN	AUSTIN COWART	(321) 271-6219
TREASURER	ZACHARY WALTERS	(904) 891-6120
SECRETARY	W.: KELLY CORRIDAN	
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

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	1998 ROBERT L. DUFF
1967 DOUGLAS McLAIN	1999 DANIEL E. FITCH
1968 E.L. "LANK" GREEN (1)	2000 FRANKLIN L. GLENN
1969 HARRY A. HENDRY (1)	2001 BARRY R. SCHAFFER
1970 ALFRED N. KEE	2002 SABATO "SAM" DANIELE
1971 CLINTON E. DUNN	2003 RAYMOND C. ASHMAN
1972 CLINTON E. DUNN	2004 MICHAEL J. MCAFEE
1973 BERYL E. CLEMENTS	2005 PATRICK KELLY CORRIDAN
1974 J. LAMAR RICHARDSON	2006 JOHN F. MILLHOUSE
1975 ULMER CLELAND	2007 JAMES "JIM" STRICKLAND
1976 PERRY M. ROGERS	2008 EUGENE C. "GENE" CRAWFORD
1977 VERNON G. HITCHCOCK	2009 STEVEN B. WALDEN (1,3,4)
1978 JOHN C. ALEXANDER	2010 THOMAS R. KRUSE (1, 2)
1979 BORIS Y. SKORO	2011 JAMES E. "JIMMY" HAWKINS
1980 A. ARNOLD WAGNER	2012 MICHAEL L. ELLIOTT (1,2,4)
1981 WILSON R. TIMMONS	2013 JOHN MICHAEL BAUERNFEIND
1982 WILLIAM A. CLAUS	2014 ALVIN "CHIP" GIPSON
1983 CYRIL J. CHUPINA	2015 JOHN E. WINCHESTER, III
1984 JEFFREY F. WHITE (1)	2016 MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER DAVIS
1985 VIRGIL P. BROWN	2017 JAMES K. CHARLAND
1986 CARL GOFF (1)	2018 MICHAEL J. OVENS
1987 WILLIAM JOE QUERRY	2019 EIRIK HOLBERT
1988 LLOYD C. BLACKWOOD (1)	2020 DONALD B. VARGAS
1989 JAMES D. RATCLIFFE	2021 DUSTIN A. CELESTIN
1990 JOHN C. SMITH (1, 2)	2022 RICHARD J. CRAVENS
1991 WILLIAM G. ELLIS (1,2,3)	2023 MICHAEL B. KELLY
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	

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



MARCH 2024 EVENTS

MARCH 2: MASTERS AND WARDENS

HOSTED BY HARBOR CITY LODGE, NO.318

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

MARCH 4: STATED COMMUNICATION

RECEPTION OF R.:W.: LOUIS K. FIELDS

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

MARCH 6: OPEN BOOKS

HOSTED BY HARBOR CITY LODGE, NO. 318 FROM 6:00 P.M. -9:00 P.M.

MARCH 8: STEAK NIGHT

DINNER SERVICE FROM 6:30 P.M.- 7:30 P.M. SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20 / PLATE

MARCH 14: ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

LODGE OPENS AT 6:00 P.M. GAVEL DROPS AT 7:00 P.M.

MARCH 18: STATED COMMUNICATION

MASONIC EDUCATION BY BRO. JOEL KICKBUSCH

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

APRIL 2024 EVENTS

APRIL 1: STATED COMMUNICATION

MASONIC EDUCATION BY BRO. EUGENE FILIPOWICZ

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

APRIL 3: OPEN BOOKS

HOSTED BY HARBOR CITY LODGE, NO. 318 FROM 6:00 P.M. -9:00 P.M.

APRIL 6: MASTERS AND WARDENS

HOSTED BY MERRITT ISLAND LODGE, NO. 353

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

APRIL 12: STEAK NIGHT

DINNER SERVICE FROM 6:30 P.M.- 7:30 P.M. SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20 / PLATE

APRIL 15: STATED COMMUNICATION

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

APRIL 27: MERRITT ISLAND LODGE SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST BRETHREN,

A PRODUCTIVE WINTER IS COMING TO A CLOSE AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A BUSY SPRING. WE WILL BEGIN BY HAVING THE DDGM'S OFFICIAL VISIT ON MONDAY MARCH 4TH. ALL OFFICERS PLEASE BE IN DARK SUITS AND TIES. IT WOULD BE NICE TO FILL THE LODGE ROOM ON THIS HONORED OCCASION. WE WILL BE CONFERRING THE E.A. DEGREE UPON MICHAEL LESTER ON MARCH 14TH, PLEASE COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS CANDIDATE AS HE BEGINS HIS JOURNEY AS A MASON. GRAND LODGE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, MAY 27TH- 29TH, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND PLEASE LET ONE OF THE SENIOR OFFICERS KNOW AND WE WILL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS.

IT WAS AN HONOR FOR THE MERRITT ISLAND LODGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNERAL OF ARVIN WAYNE ROBINSON ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024. SPECIAL THANKS TO R:W: LOU FIELDS FOR ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE. CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF THIS BROTHER.

ON APRIL 27TH WE ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING A FAMILY PICNIC, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ATTEND. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

THIS MONTH IN MASONIC HISTORY: IN MARCH OF 1797, GEORGE WASHINGTON WROTE A LETTER TO THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, IN WHICH HE SAID, "MY ATTACHMENT TO THE SOCIETY OF WHICH WE ARE MEMBERS WILL DISPOSE ME ALWAYS, TO CONTRIBUTE MY BEST ENDEAVORS, TO CONTRIBUTE THE HONOR AND INTEREST OF THE CRAFT."

AS GEORGE WASHINGTON SAID, IT IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO BE A PART OF OUR GREAT SOCIETY, AND I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU AND OUR LODGE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AROUND LODGE. AS ALWAYS, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME VIA EMAIL OR TEXT.

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

W: M: JASON ESTES
(321) 514-0911
JBESTES74@YAHOO.COM

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST

GREETINGS FROM THE WEST BRETHREN,

THIS YEAR HAS STARTED OUT STRONG AND ISN'T LOOKING TO LET UP ANYTIME SOON. WE HAVE THE HONOR OF HOSTING OUR R.W. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, LOUIS K. FIELDS, AND HIS PARTY, AT OUR FIRST STATED COMMUNICATION OF MARCH (MARCH 4, 2024). DRESS CODE FOR OFFICERS WILL BE DARK SUITS WITH CONSERVATIVE TIES. THIS IS THE FINAL OFFICIAL VISIT FOR R.W. FIELDS TO OUR LODGE AS DDGM AND PROVIDES A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR M.I. 353 TO SHOW HIM THE HOSPITALITY THAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR. PLEASE COME OUT TO SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND YOUR DDGM!

WE WILL BE CONFERRING THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE ON CANDIDATE MICHAEL EDWARD LESTER ON MARCH 14, 2024. THE LODGE WILL OPEN AT 6:00 P.M. AND THE GAVEL WILL DROP AT 7:00 P.M. MR. LESTER IS EXCITED TO BEGIN HIS JOURNEY IN MASONRY- I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AS WE WELCOME HIM TO THE 353 FAMILY.

LEADING UP TO THE ABOVE REFERENCED EVENTS, PRACTICES WILL CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED, EVERY THURSDAY, FOR THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE AND THE RECEPTION OF THE DDGM. THE LODGE OPENS AT 6:30 P.M. FOR FELLOWSHIP AND RECEIPT OF PETITIONS, AND PRACTICE BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 7:00 P.M.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED THE MERRITT ISLAND LODGE SPRING FAMILY PICNIC FOR APRIL 27, 2024. THE EVENT IS OPEN TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND WE HOPE TO SEE A GREAT TURNOUT! THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS AND KIDS ALIKE TO ENJOY! MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN THE APRIL EDITION OF THE TRESTLE BOARD.

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, MERRITT ISLAND LODGE NO. 353 F&AM AND YOUR TEXT MESSAGES FOR COMMUNICATION OF LODGE EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATIVE CONTENT.

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

GEORGE C. GASPARD
SENIOR WARDEN
GGASPARD353@GMAIL.COM

MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH BROTHERS,

IT HAS BEEN GREAT SEEING SO MANY RETURNING BROTHERS TO LODGE! I HOPE TO SEE MORE BROTHERS CONTINUE TO SHOW FOR MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS. HOPEFULLY WE CAN ALSO GET SOME MORE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS TO JOIN OUR WONDERFUL LODGE.

WE HAD A GREAT SHOWING FOR OUR FIRST STEAK NIGHT OF THE YEAR AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVEN MORE BROTHERS AND FAMILY AT OUR NEXT STEAK NIGHT ON MARCH 8, 2024! WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET A STEAK DINNER, SIDES, DESSERT, AND SERVICE WITH A SMILE ALL FOR A \$20.00 DONATION?!

WE WILL BE HOSTING MASTERS AND WARDENS ON APRIL 6TH. BREAKFAST BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M. SHARP(SO THE COOKING STARTS AROUND 6:00 A.M.). THIS IS A BIG EVENT FOR OUR LODGE AND I WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE FROM OUR BRETHREN IN THE PREPARATION OF THE LODGE FACILITIES AND OF THE FOOD.

FINALLY, WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED THE MERRITT ISLAND LODGE SPRING FAMILY PICNIC FOR APRIL 27TH. THIS WILL BE A FUN DAY SPENT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE WILL BE OFF LODGE PROPERTY SO ATTENDEES WILL NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN BEVERAGES. THE LODGE WILL PROVIDE HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS, AND I WILL HAVE A SIGN UP SHEET FOR SIDES AND DESSERTS. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE!

FRATERNALLY YOURS,

AUSTIN COWART, JUNIOR WARDEN



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

W.: M.: ESTES' BROTHER STEPHAN,
S.: W.: GASPARD'S FRIEND BRENDEN,
THE FAMILY OF BRO. GREGORY STEPHENS, 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

Candidate Michael Edward Lester has been elected to receive the three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry. He will be initiated into Merritt Island Lodge, No. 353, on March 14, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

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

GLEN B. BISHOP
GRAND MASTER

P.O. Box 1020
Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020
Mbl. (727) 224-6991
Email: glen.bishop@grandlodgefl.com

PROCLAMATION

TO: THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, OFFICERS, AND MEMBERS OF ALL THE PARTICULAR LODGES OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF FLORIDA

The greatest source of assurance for the future of our American Way of Life is our youth, the citizens and leaders of tomorrow; and

It is up to us, as Masons, to meet the challenge of helping prepare them for the years ahead by devoting some of our time and talents in conveying to them a knowledge of the high ideals and ideas which we cherish and hold so dear; and

If there was ever a time in the history of our Fraternity or of our Country when Masonry should be in close contact with the youth that time is TODAY, for the youth of today are going to accept and follow some type of leadership.

THEREFORE, I DO NOW PROCLAIM AND DIRECT:

That the month of March 2024 be designated as "MASONIC YOUTH MONTH" for all Masons in Florida, and do request that each Particular Lodge participate in a special project of supporting all of our youth organizations in every way possible, with special programs, visitation to their meetings and affairs, and timely assistance with expressions of encouragement; and

Such activity should include support to all the youth groups in our respective communities; and

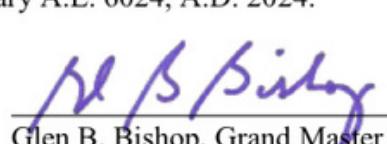
Brethren, you hold the torch for the hope of our future, let us keep the flame burning brightly to guide our youth in the right direction.

This Proclamation to be read at each Meeting of your Lodge through March.

Dated at Jacksonville, Florida, this 31st day of January A.L. 6024, A.D. 2024.

Attest:


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


Glen B. Bishop, Grand Master



"Stronger Together"

MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

PILGRIMAGE DAY

Come join the Grand Master, First Lady, the Residents and all your Masonic friends and family in celebrating the 2024 Annual Pilgrimage Day! There will be tours of the beautiful Masonic Home, a Bar-B-Que Lunch on the Lawn, vendor tables at the Bazaar on the Bayou, a Car Show and Chili Cook-Off, the presentation of the First Lady's Tree of Life Program, and FUN FUN FUN for the whole family.

ADMISSION
FREE



SAT
MARCH 16
2024
10
AM



A 104 YEAR OLD MASONIC TRADITION

3201 1ST STREET NE, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33704

Approved for Distribution by M.W. Glen B. Bishop, Grand Master, on February 1, 2024

727-822-3499

CALL RENEE VERRIER FOR INFO

***VENDOR TABLES STILL AVAILABLE FOR \$25**

****INQUIRE ABOUT ENTRIES FOR CAR /
MOTORCYCLE SHOW AND CHILI COOK-OFF**

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

RICHARD E. LYNN, P.G.M.
GRAND SECRETARY

GRAND LODGE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 1020
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32201-1020
PHONE: (904) 354-2339
FAX: (904) 632-3865

January 26, 2024

To: All Particular Lodges
Re: WITHDRAWAL OF FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Dear Brethren:

On January 20, 2024, the Grand Lodge of Florida withdrew relations from the following Grand Lodges, La Gran Logia de Bolivia, La Gran Logia de Chile, A.L. y A.M., La Gran Logia de Costa Rica, F. A. y A, La Gran Logia de la República Dominicana, La Grande Loge Nationale Française, La Gran Logia de Guatemala, A.L. y A.M, América Central, La Gran Logia de Honduras, A.L. y A.M., Soberana Gran Logia de Nicaragua, La Gran Logia de Panamá, Gran Logia de los A. L. y A.M., de la Republica del Perú, and La Grande Loja Legal de Portugal, because they presume to impose on a Grand Lodge who they can recognize, something that would violate our sovereignty.

Therefore, no Lodge in Florida may visit nor allow visitors or petitioners for affiliation or dual membership from any Lodge Chartered by the Grand Lodges listed above.

If you have a Dual Member, he will have to sign a letter of resignation from the Grand Lodge in question if he wishes to remain a member in Florida or vice versa.

Sincerely and fraternally,



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

REL/jla
Cc: Elected Grand Lodge Officers
Chairman, Jurisdiction Committee
Foreign Relations Sub-committee



THE BROTHERS OF MERRITT ISLAND
LODGE WELCOME YOU TO

STEAK NIGHT



Come & Join Us!

MARCH 8, 2024
6:30 - 7:30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION:
\$20 PER PERSON

MERRITT ISLAND LODGE NO. 353
247 S. TROPICAL TRAIL
MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32952

PERPETUAL MEMBERS

PAUL AMOS	JACK JONES
KEITH AMSDEN	JOEL KICKBUSCH
RAYMOND ASHMAN	THOMAS KRUSE
JAMES BLACKWOOD	JULIAN LEWIS III
LLOYD BLACKWOOD	KEITH MCGREGOR
VIRGIL BROWN JR	BENJAMIN MILES
WALTER BRYAN II	JOHN MILLHOUSE
WILLIAM CLAUS	DANIEL NEAD
PHILIP COHEN	EDMUND PERESLUHA II
NICOLAS COLTON SR.	C VIDYA REDDY
RICHARD CRAVENS	ARVIN ROBERSON
EUGENE CRAWFORD	PERRY ROGERS
SABATO DANIELE	OLLIE ROSE
MICHAEL DAVIS	FRANK SENDER
MICHAEL ELLIOTT	RODNEY SMITH
RICHARD ELLIS	JOHN SMITH
WILLIAM ELLIS JR	CLAYTON SOREY
ROBERT EZROW	GREGORY STEPHENS
GLEN FANNIN	JAMES STRICKLAND JR
CLINTON FARLEY	JOHN SULLIVAN
DANIEL FITCH	MICHAEL SWEENEY
DENNIS FITCH	JOHN TOMME SR
GEORGE C. GASPARD	JAMES TRAMMELL
MICHAEL GIBSON	STEVE WALDEN
ROSS GOODFELLOW	BRIAN WELSH
JAMES WILLIAMS HAWKINS	JEFFREY WHITE
JAMES EDWARD HAWKINS	RALPH WILKIE
ERIK HOLBERT	RICHARD WOLFE
EDWARD HOPPER	JEFFREY WOLFE
JAMES HOUGH JR	JOHN ZHULKE
OLIVER IRLAM	

BIRTHDAYS

WILLIAM BUCKLEY

STANLEY SMITH

WILLIAM ELLIS JR.

RICHARD STULLENBURGER

DENNIS FITCH

GERALD SVRCEK

ADAM GAINER

THOMAS TYCZKOWSKI

