



J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 F. &A.M



# *TRESTLE BOARD*



*Published Monthly*

Volume LXXXIX

Issue No. 4

April 2014

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**STATED COMMUNICATIONS: 1st & 3rd Thursdays Dinner 6:30 PM - Meeting 7:30PM**

## Lodge Stated Communications

For April 2014

Thursday April 3rd  
Thursday April 17th

Dinner at 6:30pm  
Stated Communication at  
7:30pm

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# Masonic Education

## MASONIC FUNERAL SERVICES

It is not our Masonic Law, but our actions and deeds that are of any real significance when the Great Architect of the Universe calls one of our Brothers to the Celestial Grand Lodge on High.

There are few occasions when Freemasons may perform their public ceremonies, e.g., cornerstone layings, open installation of officers, the periodic public educational program, and so on. By far, the most common is our Masonic Funeral Service.

It is at this time that most non-Masons are introduced to Freemasonry -- perhaps, for the very first time. It is at and during that somber service that most people present will form their opinion and perception of our Fraternity. Not being members of our Ancient Craft, and generally knowing very little about Freemasonry, they are very curious as to who we are, what we stand for, and what is it that we believe in as an organization.

The first thing any non-Mason will observe is the size of the turnout of a Memorial Service. If it is small, they may conclude

that his Lodge did not hold the deceased Brother in very high esteem. Or, even worse, that Freemasons are much too busy with their own private lives and interests to practice the tenets of Charity and Brotherly Love of which we so loudly boast. In other words, they may conclude that we do not practice what we preach. If the turnout is large, the non-Mason is likely to come away with a very different impression of both the Fraternity and the deceased Brother.

Always remember that a Masonic Funeral Service is the final tribute we can pay to our fallen Brother. That is the appropriate time to thank the Brother's family for allowing him to share his time on Earth with our Fraternity. No, you may not have known the Brother personally, but if he was a member of your Lodge, he certainly deserves your presence at his funeral service. If he was a Brother, then he is entitled to all of the "lights, rights and benefits" of being a Freemason -- and that certainly includes a well-attended Masonic Funeral Service.

Attending these services are, in many ways, just as important as attending Lodge meetings -- perhaps, even more so -- because, as we can do nothing more for our Brother. The Funeral Service is really for the benefit of the deceased Brother's

family and friends, and it exhibits our genuine care and concern for one of our own.

For those that may have forgotten, the Masonic Funeral Service is one of the most beautiful pieces of literature ever written. Simple, honest, and straight-forward, it offers each of us an opportunity to reflect upon our own mortality, and to reaffirm our individual faith in the Supreme Grand Master of Heaven and Earth.

Each of us will one day cross death's threshold. After spending years in the Masonic Fraternity, how would you feel if most of your Lodge Brothers were too occupied with their own self-interests to attend your Masonic Funeral Service? How will your loved ones feel about the organization you belonged to for so many years which cannot even muster more than a small handful of members to stand around your casket?

This is one obligation and commitment that each of us should earnestly strive to fulfill even if we cannot always attend Lodge meetings. Let us demonstrate before the world that we are men who practice Brotherly Love -- all the way to the grave's edge.

*Source: W.: Larry D. Duff  
Secretary, Memorial Lodge  
No. 18*

## THE CORNERSTONE OF FREEMASONRY

The principles of Freemasonry served as the cornerstone of Harry S. Truman's personal, military and political conduct, winning him the highest Masonic stations attainable and allowing him to shape the world in ways about which a boy from Lamar, Missouri could dream. Praising the Fraternity, Truman once said;

*"Although I hold the highest civil honor in the world, I have always regarded my rank and title as a Past Grand Master of Masons as the greatest honor that has ever come to me. I value it above all others."*

In his biography "Brother Truman: The Masonic Life and Philosophy of Harry S. Truman", author Allen E. Roberts offers a detailed portrait of the past Grand Master of Missouri's 63 years in Masonry. Roberts draws heavily from firsthand accounts and Truman's own correspondence to bolster the assertion that Truman "may well go down in history ... as the most important Freemason in this century."

*Source: Submitted by Donald R. Bell, Secretary, as Reprinted from the "THE CORNERSTONE"*

## CHAIR CHATTER

### From The EAST

Spring has sprung and the days are getting longer. It is a great time to year to be living in Florida. It is not yet too hot and it has not started raining and there is a lot going on.

There is a lot coming up at the Lodge. We have an EA degree on April 10<sup>th</sup> with dinner at 6:30. Brother Danny Valdez will be sitting in the East for this degree. Please show and support him, as well as, our candidate. We need to show our new Brother we are here for him.

Will be holding a Master Mason 1, 2 and 3 exams on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have refreshments at 8:30 and the exam will start at 9:00. It will be open to our newest Master Mason and any other Master Mason who wishes to brush up on the digest.

Our third Friday fish fry falls on Good Friday this year. Since this is a Holy time for most of us, **I am cancelling the Fish Fry for April**. We will be back at it in May. I hope, my Brothers, that you have a peaceful Easter. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

*Jeff Sklet, Worshipful  
Master*

### From The WEST

Well, Spring is here and we are blessed with beautiful weather once again. When I think of Spring I think of two things – spring cleaning and renewal.

Now is the time to get rid of all those things you have been holding onto, but never use. And it is a good time to do some personal house cleaning as well and take care of the that "personal baggage" you have been lugging around.

It is also a time of renewal. A time to renew our commitment to the Great Architect, to our Families, and to our Fraternity. I hope to see you at Lodge!

Fraternally,

*Chuck Osborne, Senior  
Warden*

### From The SOUTH

Brethren, I thank you for your continued support on my behalf, which has been gratefully appreciated.

I need your assistance in gathering Masonic education you have received in the first quarter of this year. Please submit any to me at danval842@hotmail .com. This information will be added to a quarterly report I must submit before the end of this month.

The Fish Fry went very well, we had plenty of

customers that were pleased with the food. Thank you to all the Brothers that were there, they all worked hard and did a great job.

I am planning to have Masonic Education in the very near future, with the help of some very knowledgeable Brothers in our Lodge. May Brotherly Love Prevail

Faternally,

*Danny Valdez, Junior  
Warden*

## **From The SECRETARY'S DESK**

Greetings,

We are now going into the Second Quarter of the New Year and there are quite a few of you who have not yet paid your 2014 Lodge Dues. It is about time to open the wallet, scare out the moths, take out some of those moldy greenbacks and pay your dues. The Lodge has to pay its' bills on time or suffer the consequences. Each of us should take the responsibility of paying our bills on time.

WM Sklet, Brothers Charles Osborne, Danilo Valdez and myself accompanied EA Bro.'s Bryan Navarro and Christopher Tremble to Fellowship Lodge on March 18, 2014, for the purpose of their being passed to the

Degree of Fellow Craft. The Degree went VERY well and was enjoyed by all. There was one visitor from Memphis, TN and another from Zephyr Lodge 198 (Zephyrhills, FL) in attendance.

The WORKERS attendance at our recent Fish Fry's has been VERY LACKING (barely enough help to serve the customers) during the recent events. Brothers **WE NEED YOUR HELP** starting NO LATER than 4:00 pm and continuing until we are finished. If your Cable Tow allows, PLEASE help out your Brothers for the betterment of **OUR LODGE.**

A **HUGE "THANK YOU"** to all the Brothers who came out to help with the Fish Fry on March 21st!

Faternally;

*Donald R. Bell, Secretary*

**Please See PAGE 8  
for other  
IMPORTANT APRIL  
LODGE DATES!**

## **From FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER #209**

Nothing From Friendship  
Lodge This Month

## **Lodge News and Events**



**The Fish Fry For APRIL  
Has Been **CANCELED!****

### **THE NEXT FISH FRY IS**

**Friday, May 16th  
5PM - 8PM**

Tender & Crispy Deep Fried Fish  
Golden French Fries  
Creamy Cole Slaw  
Fresh Hush Puppies  
Grits with Cheese & Butter  
A Variety of Desserts  
Iced Tea  
(Sweetened & Unsweetened)

**Take-Out \$8.00  
Eat-In (All You Can Eat) \$10**

*Tell Your Friends and Neighbors  
and Join Us for Fun, Fellowship  
and Great Food!*

**Report on Petitions for the Three  
Symbolic Degrees**



**GERALD ALLEN SAVOY**

Received and referred to  
Investigation Committee

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Saturday, April 12th**, JF Swartsel Lodge is giving the Master Mason  
1, 2, & 3 Exams beginning at 9am

**Saturday, May 17th**, at 9am is a workday at the Lodge. Please  
come out and help with the upkeep of your Lodge.

**APRIL  
Birthdays**



**1st** William Bortz  
**2nd** Lloyd Herbert  
John Fara  
**3rd** Billy Stopp  
**9th** Paul Smith  
Lynn Phelps  
**17th** Weston Charlow  
James Johnson  
**20th** Johnny Harper  
**21st** David Docimo  
**22nd** Roy Thornton  
**23rd** Dr. Thayer  
**24th** David Lambert

**APRIL  
Masonic  
Anniversaries**



<b>5th</b>	Gary Gentry	31
	Albert Clay	26
	Phillip Estep	26
	Malvin Hinsz	26
<b>7th</b>	William Anton	5
<b>9th</b>	Aaron Allen	7
<b>14th</b>	James Cline	7
	Jerry Snell, Jr.	7
<b>15th</b>	Robert Turner, Jr.	14
<b>18th</b>	Richard Avriett	40
<b>19th</b>	Marvin Snyder	19
<b>20th</b>	Ronald Stanley	64
<b>26th</b>	Donald Bell	28
	James Phillips	28
<b>27th</b>	Johnny Harper	46
<b>28th</b>	Drew Keenan	9



## J.F. Swartsel Lodge #251

### APRIL 2014 Events Calendar

- 2<sup>nd</sup>** District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge No. 154.....7:00 pm  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Stated meeting of Swartsel Lodge.....Dinner served at 6:30 pm/Lodge opens at 7:30 pm  
**10<sup>th</sup>** Entered Apprentice Degree at Swartsel Lodge.....Dinner 6:30 pm/Lodge opens at 7:30 pm  
**11<sup>th</sup>** Monthly meeting of Masonic Park BOD at Tampa Lodge 240.....7:00 pm  
**12<sup>th</sup>** Master Mason I, II, III Class at Swartsel Lodge.....Coffee 8:30 am, Class begins at 9:00 am  
**13<sup>th</sup>** Masonic Home BOT meeting at the Home...(CHANGED FOR THIS MONTH).....11:00 am  
**17<sup>th</sup>** Stated meeting of Swartsel Lodge.....Dinner served at 6:30 pm/Lodge opens at 7:30 pm  
**19<sup>th</sup>** Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge at Fellowship Lodge No. 265.....10:00 am  
**25<sup>th</sup>** Monthly meeting of Hillsborough Masters & Wardens at Fellowship Lodge No. 265...7:00 pm

### 2014 Lodge Officers

#### **Worshipful Master**

Jeffrey T. Sklet  
jtsklet@yahoo.com  
813-482-5236

#### **Senior Steward**

Marty Greif  
martin@privacypartners.com  
813-334-3867

#### **Senior Warden**

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brotherchuckosborne@gmail.com  
813-909-1618

#### **Junior Steward**

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#### **Junior Warden**

Danny Valdez  
Dannyyv842@hotmail.com  
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#### **Chaplain**

Frank E. Penny  
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813-830-3436

#### **Secretary**

W.: Donald R. Bell  
donaldbell@verizon.net  
813-932-5832

#### **Tyler**

Gregory L. Gough  
gregory.gough@yahoo.com  
478-955-2794

#### **Treasurer**

W.: David B. Lambert, Sr.  
Dlambert7907@gmail.com  
813-996-4001

#### **Marshall**

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jsnell@verizon.net  
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john2013@coach.net

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R.: W.: Donald R. Bell

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#### Trestle Board Editor

Brother Brian P. Stricker

**Do You Have Suggestions OR Would You Like To See  
Something Of Interest To The Brethren in the Online  
Trestle Board?**

Send Your Suggestions OR Contact Brother Stricker at  
bpstricker@gmail.com OR at 813-833-9630

# J. F. Swartsel Lodge #251

## PAST MASTERS

### 1925 - 1949

Marvin Roberts	1925-26*
Edward Roberts	1927-34*
E.W. Johnson	1929*
Stephen Tintel	1930*
W.M Wohlhutner	1931*
Edgar Hooker	1932*
Lewis Hatton	1933*
W.W. Saylor	1935-40*
R.E. Paterson	1936*
William Hatton	1937-39*
L.L. Harper	1938*
Henry T. Barlett	1941*
W.D. Gorden	1942*
Robert C. Martin	1942*
George M. Lewis	1944*
Barney Gay	1945*
Benjamin F. Huber	1946*
F. William Hiller	1947*
Charles Chesire	1948**
Charles S. Little	1949*

\* Deceased

\*\* Dimitted

\* \*\* Deceased/Dimitted (Served 23rd District)

### 1950 - 1974

Jake T. Hickman	1950*
J. William Davies	1951*
J. Alvin Dey	1952*
George T. Bareford	1953*
Robert Q. Coram	1954*
George T. Beutel, PDDGM	1955*
Robert Gupton	1956*
M. Randolph Dey	1957*
James Galloway, Jr.	1958*
Franklin G. Deane	1959*
C. Pierce Garrison, PDDGM	1960*
Roy C. Meade	1961*
Andrew W. Murdoch	1962*
James Edgar Brant	1963*
Hubert W. Johnson	1964*
Richard I. Puls, Sr.	1964*
Thomas B. Daughtey	1965*
James W. Bland	1966**
T. Craig Wheeler	1967*
Freddie E. Hughes	1968*
Clyde H. Smith	1969
Charles R. Murphy	1970*
James P. Plummer	1971*
William K. Thacker	1972*
Stanley E. James	1973*
Joseph Winchester	1974*

\* Deceased

\*\* Dimitted

\* \*\* Deceased/Dimitted (Served 23rd District)



Past  
Masters

Continue On The  
Next Page...

# J.F. Swartsel Lodge #251

## PAST MASTERS

### 1975 – 1999

V. Curtis Lovvorn	1975*
Phillip V. Getz	1976*
Frank T. Newsome	1977*
Clark W. Barlow	1978
John E. Adams	1979*
John D. Wilson	1980*
Edward B. Wilson	1981
Thomas L. Osborn	1982*
Edward Malinski	1983*
Lloyd D. Herbert	1984
Charles Inman	1985
Gary F. Gentry	1986
John T. Blanton, Jr. PDDGM	1987* **
Thomas J. Stewart, Jr.	1988*
Chester E. Wiese	1989*
John R. Hilton	1990*
Earl R. Shanks	1991**
Floyd A. Dozier	1992
Marion D. Luke	1993*
James W. Ulmsted, Jr.	1994**
Donald R. Bell, PDDGM	1995
Larry G. Padgett	1996*
M. Allen Richey	1997*
Gary A. Richey	1998
David B. Lambert	1999

\* Deceased

\*\* Dimitted

\* \*\* Deceased/Dimitted (Served 23rd District)

### 2000 – 2013

David B. Lambert, II	2000
James R. Lambert	2001
Gregory A. Lambert	2002
Joseph E. Fara, Sr.	2003
Bruce B. Vaughn	2004*
Donald E. Belcher	2005*
Joseph P. Wells	2006
William L. Bortz	2007
Gregory L. Savage	2008
Drew M. Keenan	2009
Donnel G. Cortright	2010
Richard D. Sego	2011
Jerry M. Snell, Jr.	2012
Gregory L. Savage	2013

\* Deceased

\*\* Dimitted

\* \*\* Deceased/Dimitted (Served 23rd District)

"Freemasonry is an organized  
society of men symbolically  
applying the  
principles of operative Masonry and  
architecture to the science and art  
of  
character building."