



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



TRESTLE BOARD

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

Masonic Education

THE THIRD DEGREE AND THE TROWEL



The Third Degree of Freemasonry cuts to the core of the Masonic life by conducting the candidate through a vicarious experience of tragedy to enable him to discover that the man of evil within a man can be neither trained nor educated out of existence, but must die, to the end that the good man in the man shall live. The evil will must perish utterly if ever the good will is to triumph. As a man in old age must lay down is natural life so must the candidate, if ever he is to become a Master Mason in reality, lay down the life of ignorance, of passions, and of the desire to do evil. This is the way of redemption – and the way of redemption is the

central theme of the Third Degree.

A Master Mason is one who has learned to become the master of himself. When is a man not master of himself? When his will is divided against itself: when the lower man proves more powerful than the higher man; when what he would he cannot do, and what he does he would not do. As long as this inner rebellion obtains, the mastership of one's self is impossible, and the state of such a man is like a nation surrendered into the hands of its enemies; power is lost because sovereignty is gone. The one way out – and it is a way of blood and tears – is for the rebelling self to die. He, who is master of himself, is not a divided self.

We very frequently one meets with men who seem to lack unity in their makeup; a spirit of disorganization is at work in them so that they seem to live at cross-purposes with themselves. What they know they should do they do not, and many things which they do they do against their own will. They may have personal force, but it is scattered and their lives never come to a focus. These men we say that they lack character and we say right. Character comes from a word that meant originally a graving tool; after long use the

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Trestle Board
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name of the tool came to be applied to the engraving itself, and thus the term has come to stand for a man whose actions give one an impression of definiteness and clear-cuttedness, like an engraving. A man who lacks character is a blur, a confused and self-contradictory mass of impulses and forces. The one salvation for such a man is to find some means of unifying himself, of using himself to some purpose so as to arrive at some goal.

What can a man use to unite his divided self? The Trowel! As the principal Working Tool of the Master Mason, the Trowel appears on the surface to bear

scant relation to the search of the candidate for the central truth in life, but when it is better understood, as an ideal, we at once discover its appropriateness.

In the more obvious Operative sense of it this appropriateness is plain: The entered Apprentice is set to give the stone its first rough, approximate shape after it has come in crude form from the quarry, and needs for that only the gauge and the gavel. The Fellow Craft's task is to give it a more perfect shape, to make it pure and finished, ready for the walls, and he needs the Plumb, Square, and Level.

It remains for the Master Mason to put it in its place in the walls, embedded in its cement, so that it is no longer a separate stone, but an integral and permanent part of the whole mass of the building. The symbolism is clear: what began as separate stones, scattered here and there, in the rough or in various stages of completion, all of them, when taken together without form or plan, have become through the instrumentality of the Trowel, united into a whole, an organized unity, a building beautiful in shape and useful in purpose.

SOURCES: Grand Lodge of Florida, "The Master Mason Degree," GL207; <http://grandlodgeofiowa.org/docs/Symbolism/TheTrowel.pdf>

Chair Chatter

From The EAST

My Brothers, I hope you are enjoying the summer. We had a very successful Fish Fry in June. It was very busy. We all need to thank R.:W.: Bell and Br. Valdez

for our success because they were the only brothers there at the start of the service. We also need to thank Sisters Olson, Long and another sister whose name escapes me now. They showed up for a great supper and ended up serving the food to our customers. As a side note, it was a real pleasure to see Cindy and hear she is well and doing fine. I was unable to get there until 6:00 p.m. and was very surprised at the lack of participation from the Lodge. We have a good thing going and I might have to shut it down because we can't get any other help. We as a Lodge can't keep asking the same people to do everything. This is a problem every organization has but I thought we were better. I guess all I can say to the Brothers who don't participate is thank you for your dues. I guess that is the least you can do. To those Brothers who show up and do what you can, I can't tell you how much I appreciate your help and support. Words can't do it justice. I look forward to your continued support of the Lodge.

Jeff Sklet, Worshipful Master

From The WEST

On Sunday, July 13th I received the sad news that R.:W.: Bob Alderson, the Grand Marshall of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida had passed to the Celestial Lodge in the sky. I had the good fortune of being "introduced" to Bob on February 27, 2010 when he was serving as the Senior Deacon that day for my Master Mason degree. Bob became a good friend and Brother to me. He was one of my Mentors for both the Blue Lodge and the Grotto and his broad smile and hearty laugh will be missed by all who had the good fortune to have met him. His

Memorial Service will be Sunday, August 13th at 3:00 PM the Scottish Rite Temple on Memorial Blvd here in Tampa.

The summer is almost over and a new school year starts the week of Aug. 18th for both Pasco and Hillsborough Counties so now is the time to start checking the sales ads for those school supplies. For several years now our Lodge has donated much needed school supplies to McKittrick Elementary School. Unfortunately there are a lot of children in our area that their parents cannot afford to provide them with all the supplies they need. Please be assured that our donations are greatly appreciated by the faculty and students and our donations go a long way toward filling this need. I humbly ask that you help us continue this gesture of goodwill with your donations of these school items.

As I write my article today (July 21st) for the August Trestle Board, I am starting to get excited about the upcoming Tri-State Degrees in Dothan, Alabama on Saturday, July 26th. I have not had the opportunity to attend the Tri-State Degrees until this year and I have been told by others it is an experience not to be missed. This year our Grand Lodge is responsible for putting on the EA Degree, the Grand Lodge of Georgia the FC Degree, and the Grand Lodge of Alabama the MM Degree. If W.: Sklet has no objection and we have room on the Agenda during the August 7th Stated Communication, I will share an overview of my weekend with our Brothers from Georgia and Alabama.

See you at Lodge!

Fraternally,

Brother Chuck Osborne, SW

From The SOUTH

My Brothers, on July 3, we had a Pre-Celebration of Independence Day. There was a nice spread of food, which the Brothers and Sisters seemed to enjoy. During the Lodge meeting, as Masonic Education, Past Master Ron Speaks (aka) Poppy, read the Declaration of Independence. Well done Poppy.

We were honored to have R.: H.: Mike Goldman present, who presented Brother Brian Stricker, our Junior Deacon, his Silver Card for proficiency in all three catechisms. Congratulations Brother, well deserved. We had representatives of other Lodges present, thank you Brothers, please join us here anytime.

Past Master Floyd Dozier was present and was gratefully acknowledged for his expert catechism instructional skills and mentoring, Brother Dozier, you have been sorely missed at the lodge. If you need a ride to and from the lodge, please call on me.

Brothers, we have a full schedule of activities this month and your participation would be welcomed. Our last Fish Fry went well, we had a good day. The people were friendly and enjoyed the food.

Brothers, school will start up again this month. I trust you all had a very pleasant vacation with your families. Now it back to work, "Come on Down" and tell us all about it.

Fraternally

Danny Valdez, Junior Warden

**Please See PAGE 4 for
UPCOMING LODGE
DATES and EVENTS**

From The SECRETARY'S DESK

My Brothers:

As I sit down to write this - I am sad to say that I am VERY disappointed at the helper turn-out we experienced for the Fish Fry this last Friday. If it had not been for some of the Ladies (NOT wives of our Members) we would not have had anyone to start serving the meal at 5:00 pm.

On a brighter note, the attendance was on the up side and we served more people and collected the more money than we have in the past few months. **THANK YOU** goes out to those of you who did show up to help.

Fraternally,

Donald R. Bell, Secretary

From FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER #209

Nothing From Friendship
Chapter This Month

Lodge News And Events

On August 21, 1993, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and thousands of Freemasons dedicated the Friend to Friend Masonic Monument in the cemetery in Gettysburg, commemorating acts of kindness between Freemasons who fought on opposite sides in the American Civil War.

Report on Petitions for the Three Symbolic Degrees



Mr. Derek Justin DeGain was elected to receive the Three Symbolic Degrees in Freemasonry and is awaiting his Entered Apprentice Degree.

Petitions for Plural Membership from **Bro.'s Kenneth Layne Tutor and Behram "Tony" Hedayat** of John Darling Lodge have been received and referred to Investigation Committees.



THE NEXT LODGE FISH FRY IS...

**Friday, August 15th
5PM - 8PM**

**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!*

Calendar of **IMPORTANT LODGE DATES**

AUGUST 2014

6th	District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge	7:00 pm
7th	Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner served at 6:30 pm, Lodge at	7:30 pm
8th	Monthly meeting of Masonic Park BOD at Tampa Lodge No. 240	7:00 pm
15th	Monthly Third Friday Fish Fry at Swartsel Lodge	Serving from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm
16th	Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge at Fellowship Lodge No.. 265	10:00 am
17th	Monthly meeting of Masonic Home Board of Trustees at the Home	11:00 am
21st	Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner served at 6:30 pm, Lodge at	7:30 pm
22nd	Monthly meeting of Master & Wardens Association at Fellowship Lodge	7:00 pm

2014 Lodge Officers

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Thank Your Individual Sponsors

R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley Ernest P. Sidlo
R.:W.: Donald R. Bell James F. Allison
Mark R. Lager

The Trestle Board will have a new editor
beginning with the September issue

Brother Stu Graff

Trestle Board comments and input should
be addressed to Brother Graff at

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