

J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard



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Stated Communications: 1st and 3rd Thursday - - Supper 6:30 – Meeting 7:30

The 5th Thursday night of the month is reserved for Family night

IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND....

Masonic Education: Chair Chatter; Lodge News & Events; Calendar of Important Events; Lodge Officers; Sponsors; Website Information
(www.ifswartsel251org.)

Masonic Education

Submitted by W.: Stuart Graff



Early in our Masonic travels we were told that we were seeking admission to a lodge, erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Sts. John. God, we know, for we had to state that we believed in God to be considered for membership. (Note that this belief was later elevated to the point of trust.) Who are these Sts. John? They were considered to be appropriate models for us. We have two days on which we recognize and remember them.

The first St. John, the Baptist, is recognized by a special day, June 24th. The other, St. John the Evangelist, or apostle, has been designated a day, December 27th. Why these dates were considered, I do not know. There is one line of thought that credits these dates as being related to the summer and winter solstices, which are on or about June 22nd. and Dec. 22nd. This description will center on John the Baptist.

As we turn to our Rule and Guide, we find that John the Baptist is verified by John the Evangelist. In the Gospel of John, 1:6, we find these words: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came to bear witness of the light that all men through him might believe." So at this point, we find the man and the mission; John was to tell of the Light to come.

In Luke 1:5, we find an account which gives the parents of John, Zacharias and Elizabeth, who were both righteous before God. That is, they found favor with God in the performance of their priestly duties. As Zacharias performed his duties, an angel of God told him he would have a son as his prayer had been heard and would be answered. He further stated that his name would be called John.

He was also told, "Many shall rejoice. He shall not drink strong wine, and he will make ready a people for the coming Messiah. He would also assume the vows of a Nazirite for life. (This was common but only for short periods of time, three months, six months, etc.) Only three people, according to scripture, took the vows for life; Samuel, Samson and John the Baptist. This vow simply stated "you would serve God with your entire being."



URGENT -- MY BROTHERS, THIS IS AN URGENT PLEA TO ALL OF MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF J.F. SWARTSEL LODGE. I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO KEEP YOUR TRESTLEBOARD UP TO DATE. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IN THE BEST MANNER POSSIBLE WE NEED YOUR HELP! IF YOU ARE EITHER A PROUD MEMBER OF THIS LODGE AND/OR A BUSINESS OWNER OF THIS LODGE, PLEASE CONSIDER ADVERTISING IN THIS PUBLICATION. YOU CAN CONSIDER IT A DONATION OR AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT TO DO BUSINESS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR LODGE -- EITHER WAY CONTACT R.:W.: BELL FOR OUR ADVERTISING RATES. IT WILL BE A TERRIFIC HELP TO OUR BUDGET AS WELL AS AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU.



An announcement of great importance:

Remember back to when you joined our Fraternity, when our lessons were fresh in your mind: Come to Lodge and renew those lessons, enjoy the fellowship and friendship of like-minded men and Masons. Do not worry if you haven't been to Lodge for a while and don't remember what to do. We are here to help you and ensure that you have a positive experience. Remember, we are all Brothers! We now have a learned brother that is willing and able to help you review and/or relearn your EA, FC and MM catechisms and ready you for your silver card. Please contact R.: W.: Bell for more information (i.e. name and phone number)



Chair Chatter

From the Secretary's desk R.:W.: Don Bell

Congratulations go out to Brother **WISSAM ITANI** on his being Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 17, 2015. It is really nice to see another Young Brother doing sooo well in his progression. Keep up the GOOD work, Younger Brother(s).

DDGM Joseph Gonzalez will be making his Second OFFICIAL visit to J. F. Swartsel Lodge on April 16, 2015. Wouldn't it be really nice to see about Twenty-Five of **OUR** Brothers on the sidelines to welcome him??? We have a NICE surprise planned for our DDGM, so, Make YOUR plans to attend and find out what the surprise really is. It will be really appreciated for some of the Brothers (IF they will attend).

Brothers - We are getting a **LOT** of Petitions for the Three Degrees in Freemasonry. NOW is the time to get involved and help confer these Degrees for our NEW Brothers (and those who are progressing through the Degrees, also). Please make your desires known to any of the Officers and I'm positive we can find a seat in the Degrees for you.

APRILS' IMPORTANT DATES :

1 st	District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge No. 154	7:00 pm
2 nd	Stated Meeting of Swartsel Lodge Dinner served at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at	7:30 pm
10 th	Masonic Park BOD monthly meeting at Tampa Lodge No. 240	7:00 pm
16 th	Stated Meeting of Swartsel Lodge Dinner served at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at	7:30 pm
DDGM OFFICIAL VISIT - Need <u>FULL HOUSE</u> of Brothers on the Sidelines		
17 th	Third Friday Fish Fry - EVERYONE welcome - Serving from 5:00 pm until	8:00 pm
18 th	Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No. 23 at Fellowship Lodge No 265	10:00 am
19 th	Monthly meeting of Masonic Home Board of Trustees at the Home	11:00 am
24 th	Masters & Wardens Meeting at Fellowship Lodge No. 265	7:00 pm
25 th	J. F. Swartsel FARMERS DEGREE - Coffee & Donuts at 8:30 am - Degree at	9:00 am

Farmer's Lunch after the Degree

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

01	William Boortz.	17	Brian Johnson, Sr.	24	James Lambert
02	David Hershman	20	Bahram Hedayat	25	Philip Eubank
	Joseph Fara, Jr.	21	David Docimo, Jr.		Jordan Pongase
06	Curtis Sutton	22	Christopher Tremble	28	Lawrence Ebanks
09	Charles Snow	23	Jeffrey Thompson		Clayton Eller
17	Weston Charlow, Jr.				

MASONIC ANNIVERSARYS

05	Albert Clay	27	Jerry Snell, Jr.	8	22	Christopher Tremble	1
	Phillip Estep	27	Robert Turner, Jr.	1	26	Donald Bell	29
	Malvin Hinsz, II	27	Richard Averitt	4		James Phillips	29
07	William Anton	28	Marvin Snyder	20	27	Johnny Harper	47
09	Aaron Allen	6	Ronald Stanley	65	28	Drew Keenan	10
14	James Cline	8					

From the East Brother Chuck Osborne, Worshipful Master

It's hard to believe that we are already into the 2nd quarter of the year, but what a fantastic year we have enjoyed so far. Seems like every stated communication we are receiving petitions, balloting on petitions, and/or hearing catechisms. Degrees are being conferred every month and there is definitely an enthusiastic atmosphere engulfing our Lodge. Let's keep it going!

This month we have two very important functions that need all our Brothers support. On Thursday, April 16th, R.:W.: Joseph Gonzalez, District Deputy Grand Master of the 22nd Masonic District will be making his 2nd and final official visit to our Lodge. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm and our meeting will start at 7:30 pm. Your Officers will be welcoming R.:W.:Gonzalez in our White Dinner Jackets and overalls. Please come out that night, enjoy some good food and fellowship and show your support for your Officers and DDGM. Then on Saturday morning, April 25th we will be raising several Brothers to the Degree of Master Mason in our Farmers Degree in honor of W.: Donald E. Belcher, Past Worshipful Master of this Lodge. Since this is a Farmers Degree, the Degree Team will be in overalls and sideline Brothers are encourage to wear either overalls or jeans. The Degree will start at 9:00 AM with lunch to follow.

Brothers, if you are not having a good time at YOUR Lodge, I can only assume you are not coming out to our various functions. Your Officers are trying to create plenty of diverse opportunities for you to come out and participate in the fun and fellowship that takes place at YOUR Lodge. I am always open to and welcome suggestions you might have for other activities. Please don't be shy. Remember this is Your Fraternity.

From the West Brother Danny Valdez, Senior Warden

My Brothers, We have had a really busy schedule this past month: District School at our Lodge, EA, FC and MM Degree practices and Degrees; as well as a funeral service for our departed 65 year member, Brother Macaluso. None of which would have been possible without your support, and I want to thank each of you.

Our Fish Fry went well, again a special thanks for your support. We have a Master Mason Degree on the 25th of this month. Let's be there for our new Master Mason Brothers. Remember, this is our Farmer's Degree so please dress in your finest coveralls. I want to send a special thank you, for our new Junior Warden; R.: W.: Sam Pesola and his side kick in the kitchen Brother Chris Tremble, who have both been doing a fantastic job providing us with great meals. Thank you my Brothers.

From the South ... J. W. – R.:W.: Sam Pesola

April, as well as spring, is upon us. Before you know it, it will be time for Grand Lodge and a new cast of GL officers, including a new District Deputy Grand Master and new District Instructor. Please come to Lodge when these new officers visit us to hear the Most Worshipful Grand Master's message to the Craft.

Your Lodge officers will be going to Grand Lodge to represent you! Prior to Grand Lodge, our Lodge will review the Legislation that will be voted upon at Grand Lodge. Please, make it a point to attend Lodge when we hold these legislative review sessions so you will know what is proposed, as well as letting your Lodge officers know how you wish them to vote on your behalf.

With the help of several Brothers, the pre-meeting meals have been enjoyable and plentiful. The kitchen crew, composed of new EAs, as well as seasoned Brothers, continues to serve delicious food. The assistance received in the kitchen makes my job immeasurably easier and more pleasant. Even if you cannot stay for Lodge, please join us for dinner at 6:30pm. Dinner is open to all, so feel free to bring your family and any friends who may be interested in Masonry. Good food, fun and fellowship are invaluable recruiting tools!

2015 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

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Junior Warden

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Treasurer

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Secretary

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Junior Steward

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Marshall

W.: David B. Lambert, II

Historian

W.: Ron Speaks
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Musician

John S. Nagy
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W.: Graff as W.:M.: for the Fellowcraft degree of Br. Wissam “Sam” Itani – March 17th, 2015



Brother S.W. Danny Valdez as Worshipful Master for the initiation of Brothers Scherer and Duhaime – February 26th, 2015