

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



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

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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.jfswartsel251org.](http://www.jfswartsel251org.))**

### Masonic Education

Submitted by W.: Stuart Graff



### 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 often 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. 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 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.

Special thanks to W:. Larry Duff, Secretary, Memorial Lodge No. 18; District 18



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 member in 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 please 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.



# Chair Chatter

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

How WONDERFUL it was to see Four (4) Brothers created on May 28, 2015. We really had a LARGE crowd and the Degree Team did a wonderful job. Congratulations go out to our NEW Brothers; **Nicholas Brems, William Fernandez, Craig Muth and Jason Myers**. That makes Eight (8) new Initiates this year.

DDGM Michael Goldman will be making his FIRAST Official visit to J. F. Swartsel on July 2, 2015. Lets fill ALL the seats and give him our customary WELCOME to Swartsel Lodge.

By the time you read this, our Grand Master will have made his Official Visit to the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Districts. Lets hope that we made a good showing and made him proud of these two Districts.

We have a Fellowcraft Degree scheduled for July 9, 2015. Please make plans to attend this Degree in support of the Candidates being "Passed" and welcome them into the next Degree.

Vacation time is here and so is the "HOT" weather. Don't let that slow you down from attending YOUR Lodge. We need the attendance now as much as ever. While outside (if you must) keep hydrated and stay in the shade as much as possible.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JULY

1 <sup>ST</sup> District School of Instruction at <b>JOHN DARLING LODGE No. 154</b>	7:00 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Stated meeting of Swartsel Lodge	Dinner served 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at 7:30 pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Fellowcraft Degree at Swartsel Lodge	Dinner served 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at 7:15 pm
10 <sup>th</sup> Masonic Park BOD meeting at Tampa Lodge No. 240	7:00 pm
16 <sup>th</sup> Stated meeting of Swartsel Lodge	Dinner served 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at 7:30 pm
18 <sup>th</sup> MLT Training Session at Fellowship Lodge No. 265	9:00 am to 12:00 N
18 <sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No. 23 at Fellowship Lodge	10:00 am
19 <sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting of Masonic Home BOT at the Home	11:00 am
24 <sup>th</sup> Masters & Wardens of Hillsborough County meeting at Fellowship Lodge No. 265	7:00 pm

### JULY BIRTHDAY'S:

5 <sup>th</sup> Gary Carver	9 <sup>th</sup> Norman Blankenship	25 <sup>th</sup> Ronald Smith
7 <sup>th</sup> Michael Crawford	11 <sup>th</sup> Reginald Causey	26 <sup>th</sup> Floyd Dozier
Patrick Osborne	15 <sup>th</sup> Derek DeGain	31 <sup>st</sup> James Dickerson
8 <sup>th</sup> Charles McBride, III		

### JULY MASONIC ANNIVERSARY'S:

1 <sup>st</sup> Otis Bass	35	11 <sup>th</sup> Granville Kinsman	58	22 <sup>nd</sup> William Baldwin	5
Lawrence Smith, Sr.	35	13 <sup>th</sup> Lloyd Herbert	33	Mark Campbell	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jeffrey Tetlow	30	Charles Inman	33	31 <sup>st</sup> Kenneth Clark	42
6 <sup>th</sup> Donald Brazil	43	17 <sup>th</sup> Floyd Dozier	31	Mark Lager	31
7 <sup>th</sup> Shawn Ferrell	28	19 <sup>th</sup> Stephen Crockett	42		

### **From the East .... Brother Chuck Osborne, Worshipful Master**

Summer is here which means the children are out of school and year is half over - but what a great time we have had so far this year. I just got back from attending the Grand Master's Official Visit to Districts 22 & 23 at the Tampa Scottish Rite and I am very pleased to report that your Lodge was well represented at the visit. I personally want to thank all the Brothers that came out to show your support for your Lodge and your Grand Master. After the meeting I had the pleasure of visiting with M:W:. Steven Boring for a few minutes and he is a very likeable and down to earth individual. I think we are in for a very interesting year!

With July comes our first Official Visit from our new DDGM, R:W:. Mike Goldman. He and his committeemen will be visiting our Lodge on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please plan on attending to show support for your Lodge. Then on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> R:W:. Sam Pesola our JW will be sitting in the East for a Fellowcraft Degree. We have three Brothers moving on to their next step in Masonry that night. Come out and support these Brothers. On Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> Amy and I will be hosting a Bowling Outing from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Royal Lanes in Land O Lakes. We have rented several lanes so please come, bring your Family and friends, and enjoy some air conditioned fun and cold beverages.

My Brothers, it is hard to believe that the year is already half over, but I guess time really does fly when you are having fun! Remember my Brothers, this is YOUR Fraternity. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to make our Lodge better, please don't be bashful. Get involved!

### **From the West .... Brother Danny Valdez, Senior Warden**

My Brothers, this past month has been a busy one for us and July promises be the same. I want to thank all of you who have given of their time for the Lodge. You are welcomed and very much appreciated. Our degree practices have been doing very well. The Grand Master's Official Visit was well represented by our members. We had the great pleasures of entertaining our widows at the Widows Luncheon where the food was excellent and we all had a great time.

For those Brothers that have never attended a District Instruction Class, you are missing a great opportunity of voicing your opinion and receiving answers to a lot of question you may have about this Great Institution of Masonry. Zone schools give you the opportunity to practice what you receive as Masonic Education.

We are doing well at our Fish Fries, the attendance has been much better and we are adding to our budget for fixing our roof. Thank you all.

We have family night coming up on the 30th. The attendance here has been very good, please keep it up Brothers. For those that haven't shared in the experience, "come on out", and join in on the fun. Share your dish with us.

My Brothers, I've heard the statement many times, "you get out of Masonry what you put into it". Profound statement and very true, lets show to all that J.F. Swartzel No. 251 is INDEED the "Friendly Lodge".

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

This year is literally flying by us. Through the work of our members we continue to receive petitions and initiate new members. The second quarter report has been filed with the District Chairman for Masonic Education and reminds me to urge all of you to avail yourselves of the Lodge, District and Zone educational opportunities. Remember, "An educated Mason is a dedicated Mason."

Through the help of dedicated Brothers, we are able to continue to serve good meals prior to the Lodge meetings. We are continuing our fish fry on the third Friday of each month. Come out and enjoy these meals and share in the brotherhood and bonhomie. Please bring friends and family to these meals. There is no better way to show the warmth and friendship of our Masonic fraternity than to bring a guest to dinner, or the fish fry. When others see how Masons love one another, they will clamor to join our ranks.

Finally Brothers, remember that you, in your workaday life, are someone's impression of what Masonry is. Please try and rule your life, and conduct, as did that celebrated artisan you represented upon your raising.

“Team Swartsel” is represented by: W:. Stuart Graff, Bro. Sam McPherson, R:. W:. Sam Pesola, W:. M:. Chuck Osborne, **M:. W:. Steven P. Boring and his lady Mary Jane**, W:. Jeff Sklet, Bro. Danny Valdez and Bro. Frank Penny.



It was our pleasure to present a check to the Grand Master for his “Grand Masters Charity and a check to his lady for “The First Lady’s Charity. Both checks will be put to excellent Masonic use. We thank the J.F. Swartsel brethren for their authorization for this donation. They were presented on your behalf by the W:.M:. at the Grand Masters Official Visit at the Scottish Rite building on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 AD; 6015 AL.



**From the Editors desk** - - My brothers; once again I want to take this time to thank you for the privilege and honor of being your Trestleboard editor. It provides me with a certain responsibility to you and to the lodge. It also allows us to get to know each other a bit better. I have asked for suggestions for a better Trestleboard in the past and have received many replies. Each has been taken into consideration for implementation and the results seem to be pleasing the majority of readers. A continuous evolvement is always welcome. Any brother that has any suggestion is welcome to send it\them to me and it\they will be taken seriously.

Thank you,

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Please remember your lodge boosters and thank them.

R.: W.: Ronald E. Stanley      R.: W.: Donald R. Bell      Mark L. Lager  
Daniel Allen      Brad Sollberger      James F. Allison      Ernest P. Sidlow

