



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

Lodge Stated Communications

DECEMBER 2015

Thursday December 3rd
Thursday December 17th

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

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Visit the J.F. Swartsel Lodge Website
www.jfswarsel251.com



Masonic Education

The Principle Working Tool of the Master Mason: The Trowel



In Masonic legend, the Trowel is that tool used in the building of King Solomon's Temple. The Apprentice prepared the rude stone materials using the gauge and the gavel to give them proper shape; the Fellow Craft place them in their proper position by means of the Plumb, Level, and Square, while the Master Mason, after having examined their correctness and proved them true and trusty, secured them permanently in their place by spreading – with the Trowel – the cement which irrevocably bound them together.

The Trowel, as the principal working tool of the Master Mason, appears on the surface to bear scant relation to the search of the candidate for the central truth in Masonry – much less in life itself. 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 requires for the task only the tools of a twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel. The Fellow Craft's duty is to give that stone a more perfect shape, to make it true and finished, ready for the walls. The Fellow Craft requires the Plumb, Square, and Level to accomplish this undertaking.

It remains for the Master Mason to place the perfected stone in the wall – 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, a building beautiful in shape and useful in purpose.

Master Mason are therefore imparted to spread the cement of affection and kindness which unites all members of the Masonic family – wherever dispersed over the globe – into one assemblage of companionship, fraternity, brotherly love and friendship.

Sources

Grand Lodge of Florida Masonic Education Pamphlet, GL207, 7.

Holy Bible, King James Version, Masonic Edition, Heirloom Bible Publisher, Wichita: KS, 1988, 61.

CHAIR CHATTER

From The EAST

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday and enjoyed their time with their families. We just completed another busy month with catechisms being given back, ballots received, another successful Fish Fry, a FC Degree and assisting Community Lodge with their EA Degree.

It is hard to believe that December is already here. Where has the year gone? With December comes our Lodge Elections, which are very important to the continued success of your Lodge. I hope you take your responsibility as a member of this Lodge very seriously and show up on December 3rd to cast your vote for the Brothers you believe will lead your Lodge in the direction you want. Remember, if you don't vote, you have no one to blame but yourself if you are not happy with the direction our Lodge is taking moving forward. I expect each and every one of our newly elected and appointed officers will continue to promote, support and improve the activities and policies we have enjoyed these past two years that have allowed our Lodge to grow.

Remember, 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!

See you in Lodge!

Brother Chuck Osborne, Worshipful Master

From the WEST

My Brothers, as our current Worshipful Master's term comes to an end, I want to congratulate Worshipful Master Charles Osborne on a job well done. He masterfully took control and made this a better Lodge with the help of his Officers and other members. This year we have recruited more new Brothers than I can ever recall in one year. As well, we have been successful in our fundraisers. The support by the Brothers for such events as Family Night and support got out

Fish Fry has been fantastic. Thank you, Worshipful Master.

We have elected new Officers for 2016. The Worshipful Master-elect has appointed Officers to the Chairs and is planning his year in office. Brothers, remember to get your dues paid on time and give your support to the new Worshipful Master and Officers for 2016. May our Heavenly Father guide the Officers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge #251 for 2016 with the Light of Truth and Justice.

Danilo (Danny) Valdez, 2015 Senior Warden

From the SOUTH

Brethren, Thursday, December 3rd, is our annual election of officers. It is up to you to determine the future of this Lodge.

This year, for the first time, Lodge officers will be nominated for their office. These nominations must be made prior to the start of the Lodge meeting on election night. There cannot be any nominations "from the floor." If you should wish to nominate a Brother for a particular office, the Secretary will help you with the necessary forms. A nominated Brother must agree, in writing, to accept the office if elected. If there is only one nomination for an office, the election can be done by acclamation, without a written ballot cast. Any votes cast for a non-nominated Brother will be null and void; only votes cast for nominated Brothers will be counted.

This is your Lodge. Please come out and support those Brothers who do the day to day work of the Lodge. We need your support. If you can, take the time to get active in the Lodge. At least come to dinner and enjoy the fellowship, fun and bonhomie of your Brothers. Help us make Swartsel Lodge the greatest in the State!

On a personal note - it has been an honor and pleasure serving you this year. At times the task was daunting, but with the help of my Brothers we prevailed. Hopefully, you will continue to support me and the Lodge as we travel together into the future. Thank you.

Charles (Sam) Pesola, Junior Warden

From the SECRETARY

GREETINGS MY BROTHERS,

It is that time of the year for our Annual ELECTION of Officers. As you should have heard by now - there has been a **MAJOR** change this year in the manner in which the Elections of Officers is to be done.

1. There **MAY** be a discussion (outside the Lodge Room) between Brothers as to whom they would like to see elected to ANY of the Five (5) Elected chairs. However, once inside the Lodge Room, there is to be NO DISCUSSION held.

2. In order for an Election to take place there MUST be a Nomination form submitted for each of the Five (5) Elected Positions. ANYONE may submit a Nomination Form to the Secretary and he MUST read those Nominations before any written ballot is conducted.

3. The Nomination Form **MUST** be signed by the Nominator and also contains a statement that affirms that the Nominator has talked with the Nominee and that the Nominee agrees to accept the position in the event he is elected. This statement **MUST** also be signed by the Nominator.

4. The Nomination Forms MUST be turned in **BEFORE** the Worshipful Master opens the Lodge. NONE will be accepted after the Lodge has opened. There will be **NO NOMINATIONS** from the floor during the Election process.

PISTOL RAFFLE

The sales of tickets for the Pistol Raffle has been going VERY well. If any of you have paid for tickets (for yourself or to sell to others) or sold tickets - and not yet turned in the Money and /or Stubs, you need to do so by December 15, 2015. The Drawing will be held **BEFORE** the meeting on December 17, 2015 and if the Stubs are not in the "POT", obviously, they will not be eligible to win. It is the custom of W.: David Lambert and myself to meet at the Lodge on Monday morning about 10:00 am and remain there until around 1:00 pm. That may be convenient for you to drop off the money and/or Stubs.



**The Next Lodge FISH FRY is
Friday, December 18th
5pm – 8pm**

Take Out \$8.00—Eat In \$10.00

Credit Cards Are Accepted

Join Us For Fun, Food, Fellowship and Great Food!



The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve **Toys for Tots Program** is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

BROTHERS the Lodge has a **Toys for Tots** collection box in our lobby...Please help out if you can!

Calendar of IMPORTANT LODGE DATES

December 2015

2nd	District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge #154	7:30 pm
3rd	Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner served at 6:30 pm, Lodge at opens at 7:30 pm	
ELECTION OF 2016 OFFICERS Be in attendance and help make the choices		
10th	Swartsel Lodge Entered Apprentice Degree - Dinner served at 6:30pm, Degree begins at 7:30pm	
11th	Monthly meeting of Masonic Park BOD at Tampa Lodge No. 240	7:00 pm
17th	Stated Meeting of JF Swartsel Lodge - Dinner served at 6:30 pm, Lodge at opens at 7:30 pm	
18th	Swartsel Monthly Third Friday Full Menu Fish Fry - Serving from 5:00pm until 8:00pm	
18th	Monthly meeting of Masters & wardens Association at John Darling Lodge #154	6:30pm
18th	Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge #23 at John Darling Lodge #154 (After the M & W meeting)	
20th	Monthly meeting of Masonic Home Board of Trustees at the Masonic Home	11:00 am

2015 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Charles C. Osborne

brotherchuckosborn@gmail.com

813-220-6126

Senior Warden

Danilo O. Valdez, Sr.

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Junior Warden

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Senior Deacon

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813-482-5236

Junior Deacon

Marty Grief

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Junior Steward

Brian Rubright

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Chaplain

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813-830-3436

Tyler

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Marshall

W.: David B. Lambert, II

Historian

W.: Ron Speaks

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813-365-0101

Musician

John S. Nagy

john2013@coach.net

813-949-0718

J.F. Swartsel Lodge Advertisers

Blitzkrieg Paintball Field

Office 813-971-4306

First Responders Financial

Jody Clayton, President

Direct 813-482-9415 Cell 813-294-3201

PESTEX Termite & Pest Control

Tony Hedayat – Inspection Specialist

1-888-4-PESTEX

REMAX

Ronald Zemetres

Office 813-961-6000/Cell 813-843-3474

Russell Adams Realty, Inc.

Russell Adams, Realtor – Broker

813-949-3600

Tasers 4 Me

Stu "The Taser Guy" Graff

813-924-3215

WZPH 96.7FM

Dr. Dr. Thayer

813-948-3629 Cell 813-995-0191

J.F. Swartsel Lodge Boosters

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