



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

Published monthly Volume MMXX Issue No. 5 –May 2020 AD, 6020 AL

**Per the order of our Grand Master, our Lodge meetings, practices,
and functions have been suspended for May**

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**During this trying time in particular, if you know of a Brother that is
in distress, please let us know.**

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

W^a Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W^a Stephen Edson – W^a Stuart J. Graff – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

DONATE \$\$\$ DONATE 🕒 = \$ DONATE 😊

The Lutz Fire Department TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56 BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12;
Lutz Lutz Little League Baseball Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County McKittrick Elementary “Helping
Paws Program” Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County) De Molay (Hillsborough County) Shriners’ Hospital Lifepath
Hospice Jobs’ Daughters Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

**Freemasonry will make you a better man... but it is up to
the efforts of men like us to make this a better Fraternity!**

A message from our Grand Master:

DIRECTIVE NO. 4

April 24, 2020

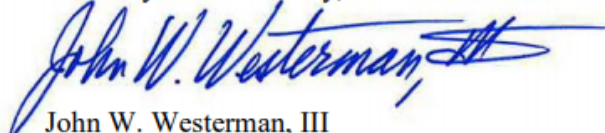
To: All Particular Lodges and Members of The Grand Lodge of Florida

In consequence of the ongoing orders set out by the Governor of the State of Florida concerning the coronavirus pandemic, as Grand Master, I hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT that effective immediately all Stated and Called Communications, Masonic meetings and events are suspended until at least June 1, 2020.** This suspension includes, but is not limited to, all Masonic Education/Masonic Leadership Training classes, Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars, Child ID Events, Social Gatherings, all Allied and Appendant Orders and Masonic Youth Groups that meet in any Lodge buildings, and Lodge building rentals. If a Brother is working with a candidate on catechisms outside the Lodge building, continuing to get together for instruction is up to the individuals; however, they should practice "social distancing" and following the guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control. This Directive should be forwarded to your Lodge membership and may be considered proper notification.

My Brothers, this situation continues to be fluid and moving very fast. The safety of our Brothers and their families shall be the priority and please use common sense and be safe.

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Sincerely and fraternally,



John W. Westerman, III
Grand Master

**A very special thank you to all of our Past Masters -
Without their guidance, we wouldn't be where we are today**

**The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel that are still with us today, and continue to carry the torch
of Light on behalf of Freemasonry**

1965 W •Thomas B. Daughtey - 1973 W •Stanley E. James - 1976 W •Phillip V. Getz -1981 W •Edward B. Wilson - 1985 W •Charles Inman - 1986 W •Gary F. Gentry - 1992 W •Floyd A. Dozier - 1995 R •W •Donald R. Bell, PDDGM - 1998 W •Gary A. Richey - 1999 W •David B. Lambert, Sr. - 2000 W •David B. Lambert, II - 2001 W •James R. Lambert - 2002 W •Gregory A. Lambert - 2003 W •Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2007 W •William L. Boortz - 2008 W •Gregory L. Savage - 2009 W •Drew M. Keenan - 2011 W •Richard D. Sego - 2012 W •Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2013 W •Gregory L. Savage - 2014 W •Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2015 R •W •Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM - 2016 W •Danilo O. Valdez . - 2017 R •W •Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2018 W •Martin A. Greif - 2019 W •Jerry M. Snell, Jr.

Your 2020 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master W : Adam Scott Feldman
Senior Warden Brother Samuel McPherson
Junior Warden Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci
Treasurer W : Stuart Jay Graff
Secretary W : David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain W : Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.
Marshall Brother William Joe Schmidt
Senior Deacon Brother Wade Edward Angel
Junior Deacon Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin
Senior Steward Brother Brian Andrew Reach
Junior Steward Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins
Tyler W : Danilo Orlando Valdez
Musician Brother John Nagy
Historian W : Jeffrey Thomas Sklet



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The link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213>



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 - Ernest P. Sidlow

Chair Chatter

From the Worshipful Master: Adam Feldman

My Brothers all,

Mike Tyson is quoted as saying, “Everyone has a plan, until they get punched in the mouth!” I planned my entire year in the East in advance, and was eager to put it on a newly-created digital calendar for the Lodge. The Officers resolved to have monthly Officer meetings, and there was seemingly an inspired exuberance in the air for the 2020 Masonic year... and then we got caught with a COVID right hook!

As mentioned earlier this issue, Directive 4 states that all Masonic activities are suspended until at least June 1st... but that doesn't mean our Brothers have been sitting on their hands ... Our Senior Deacon Br. Angel has been tackling projects at the Lodge, including painting the hallway leading up to the stairs in preparation for the installation of our Masonic wall of fame, and I greatly appreciate his efforts! I know Worshipful Lambert and Brother Penny are still stopping by to take care of our second home as well to make sure things don't fall by the wayside, and there are other Brothers working behind the scenes... as evident by changes I see when I come in. I appreciate everyone who has put effort into maintaining the Lodge, even if it's simply to get out of the house!

We've been getting quotes for new asphalt for the parking lot, received our Master Mason costumes, installed a Bluetooth adapter (so we can play music through the organ remotely), and awarded scholarships to three worthy graduating Seniors!

Many of our Officers have taken to calling Brothers periodically to check in on them, and I'm hoping this has inspired you to do the same. If you would like a Brother's number, let me know and I'm sure I'll be able to get it for you. I hope we're using this time to connect with your fellow man however possible, both Masonically and otherwise. I've made some house calls to check on Brothers over the last month, and intend to continue doing so (safely of course). As you all know, you can't change the cards you are dealt, but how you play your hand is entirely up to you!

Sometimes, you can't truly appreciate how much you enjoy something until you can no longer do it... I not only look forward to attending Lodge with each and every one of you as soon as we can safely do so, but appreciate Freemasonry for allowing our paths to cross. I hope this pandemic strengthen the bonds between us... and that the absence of meetings makes even our absentee Brothers long to rejoin the fellowship and Brotherhood that comes from being a part of the whole. I hope to see you all soon!

From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert

Brethren,

I would like to update you on W. Stewart Graff's condition, he is now in a rehab center in Zephyrhills and is doing much better than he was a few weeks ago. Hopefully, his condition will keep improving. Because of the corona virus he is not allowed to have any visitors but is excepting phone calls. I call him about every other day and let him know that the brethren are concerned about his condition and their prayers are with him. So please keep our Brother in your prayers.

Brothers, if there is anything that myself or the officers of J. F. Swartsel Lodge can do to help in these troubled times like picking up your meds or groceries and delivering them to your house, please give me a call. In times like these We need to take care of one another. Remember, please stay safe. And I look forward to seeing you in Lodge as soon as this pandemic is over, and things get back to normal.

Fraternally,
David B. Lambert, Secretary

From the Senior Warden: Brother Samuel McPherson

Hello, my Brothers! Coronavirus has everyone hostage at home and their various abodes you have become stir crazy just sitting around, because there are only so many steps walking from one room to the next! That person here in the house with me I discovered (after all this time) is my wife, significant other and roommate ... and I'm thankful to still have a lot in common, which is one of the reasons we are together in the first place. Sometime events happen that you thought was meant for evil, but you discover good came out of it that help you do what? Become a better man. but I am a mason... what can I do to keep my sanity? Well I could use this time to improve myself in Masonry.

Let us keep W: Graff in prayer and all our Brothers and family members who are recovering at this time. These are difficult times that we should be more aware of the needs of our brothers so that we can truly do as in our obligation help, aid, and assist. This is one of those times.

Question this month: Are you a traveling man in Masonry.... I am glad you asked.

In the ancient world of operative Masonry, the Masons were often required to move from job to job much as in our modern time. It was further explained that ancient Master Masons, just as 1st class masons of today were more likely to travel greater distances than those of lesser ranks (FC&EA). Due to their experience (and today usually a membership in the labor union representing the craft) they could move freely from job to job. Those doing so were normally members of a masonic guild, whose members would, if known, vouch for the qualifications of (or recommend) another 'traveling' Mason.

In speculative Masonry, we as Master Masons may freely move from Lodge to Lodge (either visiting or moving membership) and upon proper avouchment or by testing be found worthy to attend another Master Mason Lodge. This is much the same as moving from one job to another or from one ancient masonic guild to another.

Also, a Master Mason is a traveler from west to east, as east is where the sun comes up hence the source of light. This is why the Master sits in the East. Because it is the source of light. Thus, being a traveling man represents our journey from darkness to masonic light(enlightenment). We "traveled" symbolically when we were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Remember the words, "it will be necessary for you to travel" and the condition of the road we would have to travel.

In Masonry we are told to seek the light. Light in Masonry is knowledge and from that knowledge comes information and understanding. (Bro. Jeff Godwin)

From the Junior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Well it's May brothers and greetings from the South!! Things have not changed for us brothers since April. So I hope you all continue to be well. Stay safe and please pray for our first responders, military and medical personnel. In the interest of continuing to provide Masonic Education I thought I would share the following article written by Brother William R. Fischer. I think it provides us good food for thought, as well as an excellent template to use to improve ourselves as men and Masons.

BEHAVIOR by Bro. William R. Fischer

Masonic behavior is a subject, if taken into the Lodge for debate, could take up a lot of time. Behavior changes with attitude and the ever shifting social structure.

In the old charges behavior was divided into six sections:

1. Behavior in Lodge.
2. Behavior after Lodge with members who did not attend.
3. Behavior when brethren meet outside the Lodge.
4. Behavior in the presence of non-members.

5. Behavior at home and in your neighborhood.
6. Behavior toward a strange brother.

Behavior is generally affected by two means:

1. By those around you.
2. By age.

Normally, we are respectful of the people around us, more now than when we were younger. We also have much more tolerance, mainly because of those who tolerated and respected us.

Our behavior is a reflection of who we are and as a Mason this image either improves or taints our institution. To be a considerate member of the Lodge and our brethren is easy. To be a person of integrity to strange brothers, non-members, and even those who would seek to discredit the fraternity, is the most important act of brotherly love one could do for his Lodge and its members. A Lodge is only as good as its worst member; therefore strive to be a better person.

Am looking forward to seeing you all again.

Thank You
Brother Ray Ciunci

From the Senior Deacon: Brother Wade Angel

With May now upon us, we find ourselves still practicing “Safe at Home” practices. But we can still communicate with our Brothers. Call, text or e-mail each other. Prayers for our Brothers and their families are more than appropriate. We should also think about projects that we can do for others. Maybe we could do things like a drive through food drive for the community members who need assistance. Or maybe we can work on our own, each one of us supplying a neighbor with something they need. It could be accomplished while keeping social distance. There are things we can still do. We just need to figure out what that is. With the Grand Lodge closing all Stated Communications and other activities, we can check to see what we “CAN” do. Stay safe, stay Healthy, Stay in touch. I look forward to when we can all meet again at Lodge.

From the Junior Deacon: Brother Dennis Martin

My Brothers - I miss being in Lodge with you all and it looks as if we won't be back until June. I look forward to seeing you all again soon. I know that some of you have lost jobs because of the virus and that others of you are now overworked because of it - please remember, this too shall pass. May the Brotherhood be stronger because of this test.

Brother Dennis M. Martin, J.D.

From the Junior Steward: Brother Allan Jenkins

Brethren,

I hope this trestle board message finds everyone in good health and not struggling with lockdown fever. I know in these trying times it is more critical than ever that we all find a way to keep a routine. Routines give us somewhat of a pattern to look forward towards. It helps with all of our mental wellness. My hope is that everyone is staying healthy and happy during this time. Another hope that I have is that we will be meeting again in June and we will all get back to our regular lives.

I miss each and every one of you. My prayers are with you all every day.

Be well and stay safe.

Allan Arthur Jenkins, J.S.

Masonic Education – John Nagy



How do the Holy Saints John fit into Masonry?

I'll focus strictly upon the Masonic side and not the Freemasonic side of this question. When interpreting Ritual Masonically, I always default to how Allegory and Symbol support the Transformational Work that the Degrees point Brothers toward.

The First Degree Work is Development and Cultivation of the Heart—Bringing Order to the Chaos of the heart in its whole purpose. This clearly is alluded to... by Holy St. John the Baptist; he was a man of great passion. Research his life to get a feel for how this applies.


Likewise, the Second Degree Work is Development and Cultivation of the Head (Intellect)—Bringing Order to the Chaos of the head is its whole purpose. This clearly is alluded to by Holy St. John the Evangelist; he was a man of great intellect. Research his life to get a feel for how this applies.

Sure they collectively allude to 1) the Left and Right side of Masonry (Heart and Head), 2) the before and after (Alpha and Omega) and 3) the Solstices (Great Illumination versus Lesser Illumination), but the allusion to the Transformational work has ALWAYS taken priority for me – how else can the claim that, “Masonry makes good men better” be justified and supported?

If we don't keep the Transformative Work as our focus, then it's all just mental pleasuring. Not that this isn't fun, but nothing of significance occurs for any man without Work.



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