

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

Chartered January 18, A.D. 1888, A.L. 5888

904-826-4086



May 2018



STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple

105 King Street

St. Augustine, FL

1ST & 3RD Thursdays

Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2nd & 4th Thursdays

CHARITY OF THE QUARTER

Rodehaver Boy's Ranch

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

First, I would like to apologize for any inconvenience that you might have been faced with concerning the rescheduling of our upcoming EA degree. Let it suffice to say that I had what I think were good reasons to delay it and we are excited to confer it next month.

I would like to address a troubling issue that has come to my attention. It appears that one of our number has chosen to reprimand guests to our Lodge, potential candidates for the three symbolic degrees, about their appearance. Let me be quite plain: as explained in the very first lecture we receive as Freemasons, OUR fraternity DOES NOT regard any man for his outward appearance or worldly wealth. It is the internal and not the external merits of any individual that prove his worth in our ranks. This is not to say that, as Masons, we should not strive to show our respect for the Craft in the way we dress for Lodge meetings, but to hold visitors to the same standard when they have not been instructed otherwise is wrong. Neither are we to make claims about ones fitness to become a Mason based on the way a guest looks ONE time. Take due

notice of my sentiments and govern yourselves accordingly, keeping in mind that for centuries young men have turned to us and our tenets as a rule and guide for self improvement and we should conduct ourselves as worthy recipients of that charge.

I'm sorry this note is not filled with levity but this one was important.

Some dates for the calendar:

May 10, we will have a Lodge Protocol practice on opening in the MM degree and stepping down to a lower degree. Please attend light dinner will be served at 6:30 pm practice to follow after dinner.

May 16, Our Junior Grand Warden, R.W. Tommy Turlington, will be at Palatka 34 to go over the proposed legislation going before the Craft at Grand Lodge this year. Light refreshments at 6:30 pm; meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Elected officers should try to attend.

May 17, the proposed legislation will be covered in our lodge meeting. Please attend and give our elected officers your opinion on how we should vote at GL.

May 24, as the meeting on the 17th will be primarily all business, we will have a family night on Thurs the 24th, bring friends, wives, and kids and enjoy a meal with us and an interesting program to follow. W.: Oscar Patterson will be giving us his lecture on 19th century medicine. If you have not seen this program you have to set aside some time to join us because it is incredible.

May 27-30 is the Grand Lodge Communication.

June 14, we will confer the EA degree upon 2 candidates. Dinner at 6:30 pm; Degree to follow promptly at 7:30 pm.

S&F
W. Bo

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Rainbow Dist. Inst. Middleburg 107 6:30 pm	3 STATED COMMUNI- CATION 6:30 PM	4	5
6	7 OES	8	9	10 LODGE PROTOCOL AND PRAC- TICE 6:30 PM	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 RAIN- BOW Legislative Mtg. Palatka 6:30 pm	17 STATED COMMUNI- CATION 6:30 PM	18	19
20	21	22 York Rite Chapter/ Council 6:30 pm	23 District Association Palatka 34 6:30	24 FAMILY NIGHT 6:30 PM	25	26
27	28 Grand Lodge	29 Grand Lodge York Rite Com- mandery 6:30 pm	30 Grand Lodge	31 Lodge Instruction 6:00 pm		

Masonic Funerals

Proper etiquette for Masonic Funerals is unusually strict. Decorum should be observed at all times: no smoking, laughter, loud talking, or joking. Proper clothing is a dark suit, white shirt, black tie with no adornment, white gloves, and white aprons. Lapels should be bereft of pins. Brothers should arrive at the funeral site sufficiently in advance of the service to prepare themselves to properly represent Freemasonry.

At the death of a Brother, the Worshipful Master *may* have the Altar draped for thirty days along with the Charter, gavels, columns, and rods.

All Brothers who participate in the service should have their parts well learned. The service should not be read but recited. If rendered properly, the Masonic Funeral Service is impressive to all who hear it and is one of the few times that the public is permitted to witness Masonic ritual.

While the funeral is under the jurisdiction of a Particular Lodge, all Master Masons in good standing may attend and, if properly attired, participate in the service as part of the procession.

The Particular Lodge should coordinate its activities with the funeral director with the understanding that the family of the deceased establishes location, date, and time.

Funeral Services for a departed Brother *may be conducted only at the expressed request of the family or next of kin*. If there is a disagreement within the family about having Masonic Rites for the departed, it is best not to do so.

If the coffin is draped with the US flag, the white apron is to be placed on top of the coffin and the Flag placed over both coffin and Flag.

Masonic Last Rites symbolize equality within our Craft and that death is the final and greatest leveler. Therefore, the Service should be given with proper dignity and expression to bring out its full meaning. It is to express warmth and comfort to the bereaved.

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 OES	5	6 Rain- bow District Inst. Cabul 6:30 pm	7 STATED COMMU- NICATION 6:30 PM	8	9 First La- dy's Fund- raiser Pine- land 6:00 pm
10	11	12	13	14 EA DEGREE 6:30 pm	15	16
17 Fa- ther's Day	18 OES	19 York Rite Chap- ter/Council 6:30 pm	20 Rain- bow	21 STAT- ED COM- MUNICATI ON 6:30 PM	22	23
24	25	26 York Rite Com- mandery 6:30 pm	27 District Association Lake 72 6:30 pm	28 Past Masters' Night 6:30 pm	29	30

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The allegory of the search for a lost word does not necessarily mean that the search is for a particular word. To the ancient mind, "the word" signified truth, particularly Divine Truth. The Gospel of John begins with the words "In the beginning was the Word." This was not a new doctrine. The search for *logos* (the word) had long been, as it still is, the search for the divine animating principle that pervades the Universe.

The Masonic search for the Word symbolizes that search for truth, more specifically Divine Truth. We must never allow prejudice, passions, or conflicts of interest to blind us from its discovery. We must keep our minds open. Hence Freemasons are devoted to freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of action.

Yet, for the wise there is also the lesson that the knowledge of the nature of God and man's relations to Him is Divine Truth and can never be fully acquired in this life. In Freemasonry, we are not invested with the true Word but with a substitute for it—a guide. This is to remind us that in this life we may approach an approximation of divine truth, but never attain it in perfection. The search is continuous; for not until we pass into a higher state of existence will Divine Truth be disclosed to us.

Inherent to the search for "the word" or "logos" is truth. The Square is a symbol of morality, truthfulness, and honesty. To "act on the square" is to act honestly and truthfully. The Compasses are a symbol not only of restraint but also of skill and knowledge—true knowledge.

Truthfulness and trustworthiness involve much more than not telling lies; they embody the overarching capacity to discern, value, and uphold truth itself. Without these qualities, neither individual nor social progress is possible.

Oscar Patterson III, P.M., Chaplain

Five Thoughts on Masonry

*Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania: Bro. William A. Carpenter,
Right Worshipful Past Grand Master,.*

OUR BASIC FUNCTION. The basic function of a Masonic Lodge is to make Master Masons. This does not mean the formality of raising candidates. It extends far beyond that period in the life of a Mason. The task of making Master Masons must be directed toward all of us, those who are Master Masons and those who are in the process of becoming Master Masons. The fruits of our efforts to teach and to learn about Freemasonry, the interest that we show the candidates as we welcome them into the new world of Freemasonry, will be evident in the years to come. If we sow well, we are bound to reap well.

BEING WELL AND DULY PREPARED. Being "Well and Duly Prepared" is a Masonic expression. Masons understand its significance in the Lodge Rooms. However, they may also interpret it outside the Lodge. No Mason enters even the ground floor of the Lodge unless he is "Well and Duly Prepared." So simple is his dress that it provokes no envy. He is dressed properly for the occasion, and everyone so dressed feels perfectly at ease among his Brethren. No place here for the rich to boast of fine raiment and resplendent jewels, nor for the poor to envy his more fortunate Brother or covet his wealth. Their clothing in each case symbolizes labor and innocence. With hand and brain, each is ready to serve his fellowman; with forbearance and toleration, each is willing to forgive the crude and ignorant everywhere. To carry the symbolism of Masonic investiture still further, every Mason should be clothed in the habiliments of truth. His wardrobe should contain the robe of justice, with which to protect those who, for any reason, have been deprived of their just rights; the mantle of charity, with which to comfort those made destitute, many times by no cause of their own; the tunic of toleration, with which to hide the weakness of the wayward, and help them to the road of recovery; the cloak of mercy, with which to cover the wounded and suffering in mind or body with unstinted sympathy and kindness. These garments are all of genius quality, measured and cut by a Master Tailor. They are serviceable and in good taste on every occasion. They, too, may be had without money and without price, and, the man who wears them is truly "properly clothed," and "Well and Duly Prepared" as a Master Mason.

FREEMASONRY IS MANY THINGS. Freemasonry is a Story of Life; with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly

things. Anyone can read it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observation. They are practiced in the light, and held up for all the world to see. Freemasonry is not practiced in the dark, neither are its teachings the dogma of some forbidden cult. We, as Freemasons, are required to reflect the light; to practice its teachings and love by their direction. No greater thing can be said of Freemasonry than that it is an ideal way of life. No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its Ritual or Work as does Freemasonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and hearts to accept. We can study Freemasonry for years, as we attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put into some word or act will make that passage live for us, and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended. Great men have devoted many years of study and meditation to the cause of Freemasonry and when their work is finished they realize that they have only begun to see the light and that they have only started to uncover the true meanings of the work. Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other, but it still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today. There must be something good and great in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its members and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study

Freemasonry frowns on advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who despair, wise counsel for those who err, and the joys and contentment of life to all.

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND. The making of a Freemason consists in a continued course of education, and of character forming. While it may be accepted that it is an innermost desire, followed by obligations that makes one a member of the Craft, yet in a truer form did better sense, a man is never a Freemason until he truthfully and loyally lives up to his obligations. And he cannot do that

until he understands them, and eventually knows their scope and real meaning. Freemasonry can very well be divided into many phases. Its landmarks, its customs, its constitution and its laws, just to mention a few, if studied and mastered, can provide a most interesting course for the Master Mason seeking Masonic knowledge. Its historical background can provide an interesting program of investigation to the member attracted to a desire for research. One peculiarity about Freemasonry is that it will stand investigation. The deeper the research, the more extensive the knowledge of its hidden art and mysteries, the more highly it is appreciated. A member of the Craft who merely takes his degrees in a listless, careless sort of manner, and then remains as just a spectator at Lodge meetings, may hold to the opinion that Freemasonry differs little from other societies. To the contrary, the Master Mason who delves deeply into Masonic literature, takes a lively interest in every part of the Ritualistic and lodge Work, and learns the origin, meaning and moral bearing of its symbols, cannot possibly fall into such an error. To him Freemasonry has a refining and elevating influence not to be found in the ordinary run of organizations. The philosophies of Freemasonry, when discovered and then accepted and practiced, provide that simple but profound solution to the problems of human relationships. May it be accepted that Freemasonry is a way of living to the Master Mason who is interested enough to appraise and value the wealth that is his, and his alone, by virtue of his Masonic Membership. The best informed Master Mason is the Master Mason who reads and studies. Consequently, if we want Freemasonry to be of practical usefulness and cultural attainment, we, as Freemasons, must not neglect our Masonic reading, our Masonic studying and our research for more Masonic Light.

NEEDED: A KNOWLEDGE OF FREEMASONRY. At no time in Masonic history has there been a greater need for understanding of what Freemasonry is and what it stands for than there is today. Much has been left undone in the education of Members of our Lodges. The first essential in Masonic education is that desire to become interested and enthused in Freemasonry followed by a thirst for knowledge as to what Freemasonry is all about. Here is where the instructors can serve well and can influence the candidate in a continuous search for more Masonic Light. The qualifications for instructing are less exciting than may be imagined. What is essential is a basic knowledge of Freemasonry by the instructor. In this day and age, with so many counter attractions, it becomes more evident that greater efforts must be put forth to instruct our new Members in the ideals and fundamentals of Freemasonry. Every Lodge should have a definite program along authentic Masonic educational lines. We must understand

what Freemasonry really is before we can practice Freemasonry in our lives. We must remember that Freemasonry is judged by the actions of its individual members. We must set an example to those outside the Craft at all times. The need for Masonic knowledge is often evidenced in our Lodges, This can be alleviated where dedicated members qualify as instructors and then serve in teaching the principles and fundamentals of Freemasonry to all who will listen.

What is Masonry?

It's not a sign or handshake, a hall where tilers sit, It's not a guarded building, where passwords will admit, It's not a place of symbols, which Wardens oft display, It's not a lodge of members, who meet in white array.

It is the home of justice, of liberty and truth, Of loyalty to country, of sympathy for youth, Of succor for a brother, of gentleness and cheer, Of tolerance for neighbors, whose life is often drear.