



Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

904-826-4086



May 2017

STATED COMMUNICATIONS
Masonic Temple
105 King Street
St. Augustine, FL
1ST & 3RD Thursdays
Meal – 6:30 p.m.

DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE
2nd & 4th Thursdays

CHARITY OF THE QUARTER
FLORIDA SHERIFFS' YOUTH RANCH

FROM THE EAST

Brethren:

We have two initiatives ongoing at Ashlar Lodge No. 98: Membership Development and Visitation. Membership Development is not just gaining new members. It also involves encouraging our absent Brothers to attend and to do more within the Lodge to fulfill our mission—making good men better. This effort further involves keeping the Brethren and their families informed.

To accomplish a part of this, we will have a **Family and Friends Night on Thursday, May 4**, beginning with the meal at 6:30 pm. This event is open to all Brothers, their wives, families, and friends, as well as to those who are interested in our Great Fraternity and who wish more information.

I have asked our OES Chapter to be present and provide us with information about their organization. We will include in the program a video prepared by the Grand Lodge of Florida and we will be prepared to answer questions about Freemasonry within the limits of our obligation.

Please mark this date on you calendar and bring your wife, family, friends, and potential candi-

dates to be with us on **Thursday, May 4, 2017.**

The second initiative is **Lodge Visitation** under the direction of Bro. John Durrett. The intent of this program is to make sure that all sick and distressed Brothers and Widows are not forgotten and that there are Brethren prepared to visit, comfort, and encourage those in need.

M.W. Robert Harry and Bro. Bill Roberts have volunteered to visit homes, hospitals, and other facilities in St. Johns County to be with our Brothers. I will cover northern St. Johns and Duval Counties including Mayo Clinic, Beaches Baptist, and Baptist South.

Please contact Bro. Durrett and indicate your willingness to serve on this worthy committee.

Bro. Durrett is also working on name tags for all members. See the information about that effort in this issue.

On April 6 Rainbow Assembly No. 42 demonstrated some part of their work for us. On May 13, the Assembly will “initiate” R.W. Randy Bolen. The initiation begins at 5:00 pm. All Masons and their families are invited to this special event. Let us demonstrate our support for OUR RAINBOW GIRLS by being there.

On April 20th we recognized six JROTC cadets from St. Augustine High School, Bartram Trail High School, and Nease High School. These outstanding young men and women are our great nation’s future.

On June 15, 2017, we will Adopt Teachers for the coming academic year. Each teacher will receive a Grand Lodge Certificate and a check from Ashlar No. 98 in the amount of \$500 to provide supplies for their classrooms. Nomination information is in this issue. Send your nomination to me no later than June 1, 2017.

We are having outstanding Masonic Education at each Stated Communication and the fellowship is wonderful. Join us on each 1st and 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm as your Cable-Tow allows.

Oscar Patterson III

Worshipful Master



May 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 OES	2	3 RAINBOW DI Pineland & Open Book	4 FAMILY/ FRIENDS NIGHT 6:30 PM	5 Legislative Meeting Palatka 6 pm	6 MLT ASHLAR 9:00 AM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 RAINBOW DDGM INIT. 5 PM
14	15 OES	16 York Rite Chapter/ Council 6:30	17 RAINBOW	18 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	19 Lodge closed for carpet cleaning	20 Lodge Colsed for carpet cfeaning
21 Lodge closed for carpet cleaning	22	23 York Rite Commandery 6:30 pm	24 District Asso- ciation Cabul Lodge.	25 Lodge In- struction	26	27
28	29 Grand Lodge	30 Grand Lodge	31 Grand Lodge			

FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

As I reflect on the first quarter, I'm filled with joy. We have a lot to be thankful for. We are enjoying great attendance and fellowship at our stated communications, the officers and degree team continue to perform excellent work, and our recent class of EA's is the largest we have had in some time. Let's keep up the good work brothers, and continue to drive folks to and encourage people to show up to Lodge.

If you can only make it to one meeting in May, I would encourage you to come on he 18th. I will be relaying all the pertinent information regarding the upcoming legislation to be voted on at Grand Lodge. In the past, the Lodge votes to allow the principal officers to vote their conscience at GL, so please come listen to what's going and let your voice be heard on the meeting night before we vote.

Fellas, keep up he good work and I'll see you all at Lodge!!!

S&F
Bo, SW

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 STATED COMM 6:30 PM Adopt Teacher	2	3
4	5 OES	6	7 RAINBOW DI TBA	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 STATED COMMUNI- CATION 6:30 PM	16	17
18	19 OES	20 York Rite Chapter/ council 6:30	21 RAINBOW	22 Past Masters' Night Details TBA	23	24
25	26	27 York Rite Command- ery 6:30 pm	28 District Assn. Has- tings 183	29	30	

ADOPT-A-TEACHER

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 will adopt **two teachers or a teacher and a school** as part of our Grand Lodge's Adopt-A-Teacher/Adopt-A-School program. Each adoptee will receive a Grand Lodge certificate and a check from Ashlar Lodge No. 98 for \$500 to be used for classroom supplies and expenses.

Send your nominations for adoption to the Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 98 at opatters@comcast.net or mail it to the Lodge. Nominations must be received by **Midnight, June 1, 2017**.

Teachers should be employed in the public schools of St. Johns County. In your nomination, note their full name, school, and a brief justification for the nomination. We have received several good nominations already. Let us make this difficult for the Charity Committee by having many more worthy teachers nominated.

The presentations will be made on Thursday, June 15 at our regular Stated Communication.

GRAND LODGE

The 188th Grand Communication of The Grand Lodge of Florida will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 29, 30, and 31, 2017, at the Rosen Plaza Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Your Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden will be in attendance to represent Ashlar Lodge No. 98.

At the 188th Grand Communication the Craft will elect a Junior Grand Warden and a Grand Treasurer from among those Brothers nominated. A full list of nominees and their credentials may be found in the Grand Lodge Monthly Mail on the Grand Lodge web site.

Grand Lodge will also vote on a number of legislative items.

1. Eligibility of Junior Warden of Particular Lodges—Every Brother who is nominated and elected to the office of Junior Warden shall have completed Master Mason Exam I, Master Mason Exam II, and Master Mason Exam III prior to installation.
2. The Worshipful Master may permit any proficient Brother Mason, including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts to participate in Degree Work.
3. The Committee on Work shall be composed of no fewer than ten nor more than 18 members.
4. A digital copy of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be authorized.
5. The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home of Florida may allocate a portion of the rooms available for the use of qualified individuals (non-Masons) on the **private pay plan**. Life care will be reserved for Masons, their wives, and widows, and members of OES. Priority admission will always be to a Mason.
6. Nomination to office of any particular Lodge shall be made in writing no later than the first Stated Communication in **November**.
7. Dual members in good standing shall enjoy all rights and privileges of regular members of Florida Lodges including election to and holding Lodge Office.
8. A Lodge adopting, revising, or amending by-laws will be required to submit only one copy to Grand Lodge not the current three copies.
9. A resident of the Masonic Home shall not automatically be placed on the Emeritus List of a Lodge. A resident under the Life Care Plan who is not otherwise exempt will automatically be placed on the Emeritus List.
10. Dues cards will be revised.
11. The title to property shall be held by a particular Lodge or in the name of a Masonic Center Association.
12. Regulations for establishment of Masonic Center Associations.
13. Each candidate for a Grand Line office shall submit to a background check and sign a statement that he does not object to such a check.
14. Budget
 - A. Grand Lodge—\$1,663,285
 - B. Masonic Home of Florida—\$8,628,068 (\$2,383,072 from Life Care; \$1,206,733 Pay as You Go Plan. Total non-investment income—\$3,589,805.)

LODGE INITIATIVE

A major initiative over the next several years within the Grand Lodge of Florida is Membership Development under the direction of the current Junior Grand Warden, R.W. John Westerman. This initiative focuses on: improving the membership experience; enhancing Lodge attendance; and diligently investigating the quality of those who petition for membership.

On Wednesday, March 8th, there will be a Town Hall Meeting with R. W. Westerman at Pineland Lodge No. 86 in Palatka. Note this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

At Ashlar Lodge No. 98, we are working to do exactly the same thing by having sound Masonic Education at each Stated Communication; good fellowship; and increasing our attendance through the “Ask an Absent Brother”.

Look about you at Lodge and think about those who were in your EA, FC, and MM class. Are they attending regularly? If not, give them a call; let them know that they are missed; and invite them to meet you at the next Stated Communication. You might even offer them a ride to and from Lodge.

Regular Lodge attendance like regular church attendance and so much else in life is a good habit. But one broken, it may be difficult to reestablish. And when at Lodge, let us always keep in mind that we are there for fellowship. Talk with all Brothers. Congeniality goes a long way in encouraging Brothers to return.

All Freemasons are Brothers who meet on the same level, regardless of their social or economic status outside the lodge. Princes, presidents, and captains of business are no better or more important than bus drivers, plumbers, and paper boys when they sit in the lodge together. Masonry does not detract from a man’s accomplishments, nor does it exalt him above his Brothers because of his position outside the lodge.

We meet upon the level, act by the plumb, and part upon the square.

VISITATION

A Mason is promised three things: visitation, relief, and a Masonic Funeral upon request. Ashlar Lodge No. 98 does an outstanding job providing Masonic Funerals upon request from the family for our Brethren that are well-attended and most respectful. We also do an outstanding job providing relief through our contributions to the Masonic Home of Florida and our many other charities, some of which have provided essential support to Worthy Brothers of our Lodge who, for no fault of their own, fell on hard times.

We now need to work on our obligation to visit our sick and distressed Brothers and widows. To accomplish this, the Worshipful Master has appointed Bro. John Durrett to head a committee that will ensure that all sick and distressed are visited and that our Masonic Widows are not forgotten.

Bro. Durrett is currently seeking volunteers for this important committee. M.W. Robert Harry and Bro. Bill Roberts have agreed to visit in St. Johns County. The Worshipful Master will cover northern St. Johns and Duval Counties to include Mayo Clinic, Beaches Baptist, and Baptist South.

We need you to step up and join this committee. A visit to a sick or distressed Brother, his family, or his widow is part of our obligation. Please contact Bro. Durrett and accept a position on the Visitation Committee. Let us make sure that our Brothers or their widows are never forgotten or ignored.

Bro. Durrett, as part of this initiative, is coordinating the purchase by the Members of name tags. These will be individual not Lodge purchases. Name tag design options are below. Please note your selection to Bro. Durrett as soon as possible. You may send your selection to the Secretary, Worshipful Master, or Brother Durrett. Each name tag will cost about \$8.00 and is magnetic. Example: Option D, Color option 2.

1. Layout

- Option A 
 - Option B 
 - Option C 
 - Option D 
- 

Honorific would add additional line below name

Honorific would add additional line below name

- Color option 1 
- Color option 2 
- Color option 3 

RAINBOW ASSEMBLY NO. 42 VISITS ASHLAR LODGE NO. 98

Rainbow Assembly No. 42 in St. Augustine demonstrated some of their work for the Brothers of Ashlar Lodge No. 98 at a Stated Communication on April 6, 2017. Rainbow Assembly No. 42 is housed at Ashlar Lodge and is the only assembly in Masonic District 13.

The program was led by Myla Deford, Worthy Advisor and Grand Page. Assembly members who participated were Megan Richard, Assistant Mother Advisor; Zipporah Gardner, Grand Representative of Oklahoma and Connecticut; April Wright, Grand Representative of New York and Louisiana; Hayley Mastoridis, Grand Faith; and Jessie Durre. Sarah Jane Todd is Mother Advisor to the assembly.

The Assembly also participated in the 13th Masonic District Association Meeting on March 22nd .

Rainbow Assembly No. 42 meets at Ashlar Lodge located at the corner of King Street and Martin Luther King Avenue on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.



L to R: Sarah Jane Todd, Megan Richards, Zipporah Gardner, April Wright, Hayley Mastoridis, Jessie Durre, Myla Deford.



INTERPRETING MASONIC RITUAL



OSCAR PATTERSON III

Interpreting Masonic Ritual by Oscar Patterson III,
Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 98 is available
through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and McCoy Masonic
Supply.

All royalties go to the Masonic Home of Florida.
If you purchase a copy, bring it to Lodge to be autographed.