

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

904 826-4086



September 2016

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 MONTH

ST. AUGUSTINE YOUTH SERVICES

FROM THE EAST

Brethren. Hope all is well. I want to thank all who came to celebrate the birthday of an American Hero and Brother. Br. Bill, it was a great turnout.

There are some important dates coming up, so mark your calendars. Starting with

*District Association Meeting 24 August Honoring our Veterans.

*FC Degree on 8 September, Dinner at 6:30 and Degree at 7:30. Our SW Br. Bo Bozard will be in the East. Degree practice will be held on August 24.

*GM visit September 10 Palatka Lodge. More to follow. So join us for these very special events and enjoy some great fellowship.

I would ask if you are having a Class or meeting in the Lodge Please clean up after yourself, it is not fair for the other Brothers to come in and have to clean up. This is your Lodge.

I hope everyone has a safe and great month, and as always remember to keep our sick and destressed in our prayers.

QUOTE of the Month

Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worth while. -Wilfred T. Grenfell

Charity:
GM Flagship Charity

Fraternally
Rick Bailey W.M.

FROM THE WEST

At our recent Family Night when we recognized First Responders, one of the young men talked with me about becoming a Mason, but he asked me a very pointed question. It is one that we all need to think about if we are to reach out to those who compose the future of our Great Fraternity—the young men of today, especially those born after 1985.

His question to me was “What does Masonry have to offer me other than just a good meal and having fun and fellowship? What educational opportunities do you have? How will Masonry help me be a better man, a better husband, a better father? What do you really do?”

My first thoughts were to tell him about our deep history, our charity, our brotherly love, and the strong comradeship established within the Lodge. That wasn’t enough, though. He wanted more, much more.

Freemasonry talks about education and light, especially in our First and Second Degrees. Historically, Lodges were the seat of learning and Freemasons in the U.S., like Ben Franklin, founded our public school systems, our libraries, and our universities. Men learned grammar, rhetoric, logic, even geometry in the Lodge. Of course this educational function gave way in the 19th century to public education in this country, but that is no reasons to assume that the Lodge cannot continue to educate the Brethren.

Freemasonry teaches that it is “beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.’ It did and should still provide a sound foundation for ethical decision making and a moral, upright

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Stated Communication	2	3
4 Parking Lot Fundraiser	5 Labor Day Parking Lot Fundraiser OES	6	7 District Instruction Pineland Rainbow	8 FC Degree	9	10 GM Visit, Palatka 5:00 pm
11	12	13	14	15 Stated Communication	16	17
18	19 OES	20 York Rite Chapter/Council	21	22 Lodge Practice EA Degree	23	24 Masonic Leadership Training Ashlar
25	26	27 York Rite Commandery	28 District Association Cabul			

life. Masonic philosophy partakes of all the great philosophers of the past beginning with Socrates. Have we, however, in our modern, hurried age, given up on sound moral instruction? Have we forgotten or forsaken our past history and tradition, and are therefore reaping the results of that lapse—declining membership?

Young men of today seek more than just fellowship and good food. That is an inducement, but not an outcome. Young men of today possess fewer biases and prejudices than their parents and grandparents. They demonstrate a distinct interest in temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, brotherly love, and, above all, truth. They strongly dislike superficiality, ignorance, superstition, bigotry, and an unwillingness to learn and change for the betterment of the organization and themselves.

Freemasonry speaks directly to their desires—if we will but let it. The revitalization of our Great Fraternity is dependent upon attracting and keeping as active members these young men. How is it to be done? Through strong philosophical and educational instruction within our Lodges and through a return to our roots—a beautiful system of morality based on sound ethical decision making.

Important Reminder

New Brothers to the Lodge. You need to see the Senior Warden Oscar Patterson to get a Lodge Parking Tag. The tag will allow you to park at the Lodge during the day or night without being towed.

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 OES	4	5 District Instruction Melrose Rainbow	6 Stated Communication	7	8 MM I, II, III Ashlar 8:30 am
9	10	11	12	13 EA Degree	14	15 Andrew Hammer Seminar Ashlar, 9 am
16	17 OES	18 York Rite Chapter/Council	19 Rainbow	20 Stated Communication	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 York Rite Commandery	26 District Association Hastings	27 Lodge Practice MM Degreee	28	29

Military Veterans of Ashlar Lodge No. 98, F. & A. M.

We have begun a project to recognize all **VETERANS** who are now or who have been Members of our Lodge and who are not listed on the World War II memorial hanging on our West Wall. An appropriate plaque is being constructed to display the names, military affiliation, and service of all Brothers who are Veterans.

If you are a Veteran, please complete the form below and return it to Bro. Oscar Patterson, our Senior Warden. If you know of a Brother who is deceased or who does not attend regularly and you can attest to his military service, complete a form for him, as well.

FULL NAME: _____ Membership No.: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ PERIOD: _____

Examples: Alfred W. Adams, U.S. Coast Guard, Korea

James J. Smith, U.S. Army, Vietnam

Ashlar Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master:	James "Rick" Bailey	386 283-0108
Senior Warden:	Oscar Patterson	904 955-9175
Junior Warden:	Bo Bozard	904 501-4370
Treasurer:	Bob Gagnon P.M.	904 501-7446
Secretary:	David Pierucci	904 460-9477
Senior Deacon:	Matthew Sweeney	904 806-0571
Junior Deacon:	Ken Shaffner	386 864-9162
Senior Steward:	James Carrick	904 501-4348
Junior Steward:	Robert Wilson	386 763-8725
Chaplain:	Jim Davis P.M.	904 392-4565
Marshall:	Brian Iannucci	904 708-9765
Tyler:	Ron DeRoco	904 599-1584
Musician:	Ted Cassford P.M.	904 797-8710
Lodge Instructor:	Oscar Patterson	904 955-9175
Bob Adair Mentor Program	Jim Davis P.M.	904 392-4565

Honoring Our Oldest Brother and A World War II Veteran

Bro. William Tatel, a 60+ year member of Ashlar Lodge No. 98 and a World War II Veteran who served with Gen. George Patton in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Europe and who is the oldest World War II veteran in St. Johns County as well as possibly the sole surviving member of Patton's World War II staff celebrated his 100th birthday on August 5, 2016.

A birthday celebration in his honor was held on Sunday, August 7, at Ashlar Lodge No. 98. More than 80 family members, friends, and Lodge members attended. Tatel received greetings not only from those in attendance, but also from President Obama, Governor Scott, Senator Nelson, and other officials in recognition of his longevity and military service.

Bro. Tatel served with the 7th Army Western Task Force for three years and participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Rome-Arno, and Southern France. He also participated in the Rhineland Campaign. He received the Purple Heart and other military awards.

Bro. Bill graduated from college in 1938 and was drafted early in 1941. After initial training, he attended Officer's Candidate school and received a commission in the Transportation Corps. Upon graduation, 2nd LT Tatel was entitled to a 10-day leave, but instead received embarkation orders and left for North Africa. At about 100 pounds and loaded with a backpack and Thompson submachine gun, he waded through the African surf eventually camping in Casablanca.

His first assignment in Africa was to carry messages for Patton's army regarding troop movements. When Patton arrived in Palermo Sicily, Tatel was ordered to "open the streets and department stores." Working with just a few men, trucks, and local residents, he accomplished the mission in five days highlighted by the reopening of the famed Palermo Opera House. A plaque dedicated to Tatel is located on the wall at the opera house.

Bro. Bill is married to his childhood sweetheart, Phyllis. They lived across the street from each other as children and have been together for more than 90 years. Bill and Phyllis

Intended to marry immediately after he completed OCS, but the war intervened. They finally got married on VE Day in 1945. They have been married 71 years.

Bro. Bill was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army as a Captain, a rank he attained as the result of promotion awarded by Gen. Patton.



Outstanding First Responders Recognized

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 F. & A. M. honored five St. Johns County First Responders in July 21. The recipients, their friends, families and supervisors gathered the Lodge for the event. This program was part of Ashlar's Family Nigh. More than 80 people attended.

Outstanding Fire Fighter Certificates were presented to LT Pete Weiland of the St. Augustine Fire Department and to Firefighter Robert Harper of the St. Johns Fire/Rescue Department.

Outstanding Law Enforcement Certificates were presented to DET Samantha English of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and to Trooper Colise Frazer of the Florida Highway Patrol.

Paramedic Hardus Oberholzer of the St. Augustine Fire Department was recognized as an Outstanding Paramedic.

Each recipient received a Grand Lodge of Florida certificate and a monetary award. The presentations were made by W. James Bailey, W.M. of Ashlar Lodge No. 98.



**Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free & Accepted Ma-
sons
St. Augustine, FL**

**Is pleased to host
Worshipful Andrew Hammer**

*Past Master and Secretary, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M.
Grand Chancellor, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, A.F. & A.M.
Past Grand Orator, Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A.F. & A.M.*

AUTHOR OF

OBSERVING THE CRAFT:

A TREATISE ON THE METHOD AND MANNER OF FREEMASONRY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016
CHECK-IN -- 9:30 A.M.
SEMINAR -- 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
LUNCH -- 12:00 NOON -1:00 P.M.**

**\$30.00 ADVANCED RESERVATIONS (ONE WEEK PRIOR TO EVENT)
\$40.00 AT THE DOOR
CASH OR CHECK ONLY
LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED**

**ASHLAR LODGE NO. 98 F. & A.M.
105 KING STREET
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32284**

MASTER MASONS ONLY -- CURRENT DUES CARD & ID REQUIRED

PROPER ATTIRE—COAT AND TIE

**For Advanced Reservation Form/Information contact
Bro. Oscar Patterson III, Senior Warden, Ashlar No. 98 at opers@comcast.net**

Exereted From Grand Oration, Grand Lodge of Florida, 2016

As I continue looking for more light to better understand and search for answers, I believe there are two primary areas that we as leaders in our Fraternity should look at and better understand so we can take the appropriate action(s) that will bring these newer generations into the Fraternity versus thinking they will somehow tumble on to Freemasonry and know to ask for a petition to join. First, the generational differences that exist within our Fraternity today and the integration of social media and technology to reach the potential members of today and tomorrow must be recognized. Secondly, an alternate operating model of a Lodge as it relates to our aging infrastructure that, in many cases, as it continues to age, increasingly becomes a financial challenge on budgets and the constant need of repair and does not attract men who we want to join our Fraternity.

In Freemasonry today there are five generations of members. Maintaining an environment that involves each one with the other is in many cases a challenge. This is occurring not only with our Fraternity, but in the workforce, other fraternal organizations, and various religious organizations as well. As we take a closer look at each generation we start with “The Greatest Generation,” representing those Brothers born in the 1900 – 1924 period. This generation was also named the G.I. Generation. Many of these Brothers grew up during the great depression and also fought in World War II. “The Silent Generation” also known as the “lucky few” were born between 1925 – 1942; some of these Brothers fought in World War II, the Korean War, and many in the Vietnam War. The “Baby Boomers” followed Word War II, born between 1946 – 1964, the period that saw an increase in birth rates. This particular generation is associated with rejection or redefinition of traditional values. In Europe and North America this group was associated with privilege, as many grew up in a time of affluence. They thought of themselves as a special generation, very different than those that came before them. “Generation X” followed and were commonly known as Gen X; born between 1960 – the early 1980’s. Between the 1980’s and 2000, we welcomed the “Millennials” or Generation Y. The current Generation Z, represents those born in the late 1990’s and is estimated to go grow through the mid 2020 period.

The importance of naming these five generations in and of itself is not that important, but the differences that occur between each is what presents the challenge. How do their values and vision fit with ours? Do their expectations build on the previous generation? Is the work ethic of each group the same or different? How do they handle conflict resolution? In the age of social media and communication technology, how do we effectively introduce Freemasonry to them?

I recently attended a Scottish Rite Workshop and the 19 year old International Master Councilor of DeMolay International shared some extremely interesting facts. Imagine..... Generation Z never knew life without the internet, cell phones, or social media. EVERY Gen Z is connected to electronics at least 1 hour per day; 46% are connected 10+ hours. Millennials used two screens daily, Generation Z uses five daily and two at nearly all times. 73% check email and social media less than an hour after waking up. They have and will continue to grow up with a personal device of some type and other devices that include laptops, iPads, and tablets and rely on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, Vine, Pinterest, and Tumblr to name a few with more certain to be on the horizon to stay connected to their friends and in the workplace. What drives this behavior is F.O.M.O the

the Fear of Missing Out, a syndrome that both aids and disables the effectiveness of Generation Z today. 54% visit YouTube over three times a day. They are not nearly as dependent as previous generations.

Gen Z does their research, they have the internet at their fingertips and use it as often as is needed to stay informed, and get answers to their questions whenever needed. One comment shared, “We don’t ask parents for as much help anymore. Why get advice from parents when we can get it online?” That surfaces the question, is the advice accurate and the desired method for our young people to easily get answers to their questions, but this is a topic for another day? If after an average of 8 seconds you have not caused a Gen Z to stay on your site, they are gone. Landing pages are employed more and more in marketing today and are embracing the concept of making your homepage for prospective members and not active members. The site must be VERY visually appealing, NOT a lot of words. Are our Masonic sites such that it grabs one’s interest within 8 seconds? Visit the DeMolay International site and see an example of a landing page that is visually appealing and causes you to click through to one of the three actions listed with an image or picture and not words. After this short narrative on generations, can you understand the challenge that the generational differences and the regular use of technology and social media presents in our very traditional environment?

As we learn from the opening paragraph of the “Address on Freemasonry,” that is delivered by many of us each year at the ceremony of open installation. “Freemasonry is a moral institution, established by virtuous men with the praise worthy design of recalling to our remembrance the most sublime truths, in the midst of innocent and social pleasures – founded on Liberality, Brotherly Love, and Charity. It is a beautiful system of Morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Truth is its center – the point where the radii diverge – and directs the disciples to a correct knowledge of the Great Architect of the Universe, and the moral laws which He has ordained for their government.”

There is no mention that Freemasonry requires an individual Lodge to have an individual building. With the use of technology, we are all afforded the opportunity to go to college or receive technical training online; banking is now accomplished at anytime and anywhere through a technology solution; and shopping for most anything you would need takes place online, all without a physical building. Our own Grand Lodge is moving in this direction when it comes to running the administrative functions of our Fraternity. Technology is all around us, and we have all heard from the leaders in the technology arena that this is just the beginning.

The financial impact of maintaining a building by every Lodge is not always possible and certainly not needed in many situations. I would venture to say that there are many Masonic Lodge buildings that are utilized less than 10% of the available time and sit empty when not in use. As an organization, each Lodge needs to consider if their individual financial situation is getting tighter and ask the question, “would sharing an existing Lodge building, when the geographic area allows this to take place, be a better option?” It does not require a merger or acquisition, the Lodge can maintain its identity and work out a financial arrangement that benefits all parties. I fully understand that this is not possible in many situations, but when it is, it should be considered as an option to maintain a sound financial position for the Lodge. This is a decision made by the individual Lodge and its members, let me repeat that, it is a decision made by the individual Lodge and its members, and should not be overlooked as an option if it

is felt that a dues increase is not possible or requires an exceptionally large increase that in either case could potentially cause a decrease in membership. Imagine for just a minute a Lodge building with all external maintenance and repairs completed, fresh paint, proper signage, green grass, and a manicured outside. In my mind that image says come on in, something good is happening in here!

My Brothers, we have faced challenges since the early days of American Freemasonry and most likely before that, as challenges are a part of life that we all face each and every day. When you reflect on those many great men that have gone before us in all generations, and who will follow in the generations that will follow us, we have always stepped up to the challenge and turned them into opportunities. I believe that the few challenges shared above, along with others we will face, can and will be turned into new opportunities to improve ourselves and the organization we all represent. However, the answers that we seek are not within any one Brother, but within all of us. Identifying the challenges through dialogue and conversation, remembering that we can agree to disagree with each other, will create the opportunities. Our past remains a vital part of history and while we are fraternally strong with Brotherly Love and affection; and with charitable giving estimated to well exceed \$2 million a day, there remains a need to make adjustments to take our Fraternity into posterity so future generations may accept the responsibility we all accepted and make changes necessary to assure our rich history remains just that, history, as we continue to grow from the lessons of our legacy pressing forward into tomorrow. We will turn the corner on membership, remain focused on the future, with the understanding and commitment that our best years are before us, yet to be realized.

To those military veterans in the room who served, regardless of your branch of service, or the rank you obtained, and whether you did one tour, retired, or are still serving, thank you on this Memorial Day for your service to our country. And let's never forget the many who served in harm's way and gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in defense of the freedoms we enjoy. They are missed, but the memory of each and every one of them will keep them alive in our hearts and minds. May God Bless us all as we continue the work of our great Fraternity, may God Bless our leaders and those currently serving, and May God Bless the United States of America. Thanks You!

R.W. Chester King
W. Grand Orator 2015-2016