

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

5888

904 826-4086



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 WEST

Since its beginnings more than 500 years ago, the core of Speculative Freemasonry has been education, sound Masonic Education. In previous centuries, prior to the establishment of public education and national universities, Lodges provided instruction in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, especially mathematics and architecture. They focused on rhetoric, logic, grammar, and, even music. Astronomy was a major component of their instruction. Modern Speculative Lodges appear to have moved away from this sound tradition. This trend must be reversed. The Lodge must, again, become a center for moral instruction and Masonic education.

To accomplish, we have established within our Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Florida a “System of Masonic Education.” It begins before a candidate submits a petition when he meets with knowledgeable Brothers and learns about what it means to be a Mason and what will be expected of him once he is initiated. It is furthered by the Investigating Committee who probes the petitioners intentions, understanding, and commitment. It proceeds through Catechism instruction for the three Degree, but simply memorizing the few words in the Catechisms is not sound Masonic Education. Memorization does not teach meaning.

To accomplish this, Ashlar Lodge No. 98 has implemented one of the most extensive and comprehensive mentoring programs in our Grand Lodge. Our Lodge Mentor, W. Jim Davis, meets with each Catechism class on numerous occasions to discuss the meaning of Masonry, its history, its philosophy, and what it means to be a Freema-

FROM THE EAST

Greetings. Hope all had a great Father’s Day. Congratulations to our New DDGM RW Randy Bolen who was installed at this year’s Grand Lodge and we look forward to great things during his year. Also Congratulations to our SW Br. Oscar for getting 2nd place for the MM Lecture this year.

This maybe off beat, but very important. As we are in trying times in this world we need to be aware of our surroundings and what’s going on. Times are getting worse, everyone can be or is a target as an American. So if you see something out of place no matter how big or small you think it is, contact law enforcement, it could save your life and your family lives. Be save my Brothers have a safe and happy 4th of July. See you soon!!!

Fraternally
Rick Bailey W.:M.:

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Holiday	5	6 Rainbow District Instruction Palatka	7 Stated Communica- tion	8	9
10	11	12	13 Open Books Pinelands 6:30 pm	14	15	16
17	18 OES	19 York Rite chapter/ council	20 Rainbow	21 Stated Communica- tion	22	23
24	25	26 York Rite- Commnader y	27 District Association Ashlar	28	29	30 Tri State Degree
31						

son. During the mentoring sessions, each Brother is provided with a book which provides him with reading material and a bibliography of Masonic sources.

When a Brother has completed his Master Mason Catechism and the accompanying mentoring, it is time for him to begin our Grand Lodge's educational courses. First is Master Mason I, II, and III exams. This course is intended to familiarize all Brother with "The Digest of Masonic Law" and "Masonic Etiquette." The course is given both as an in-class exercise where all three exams are completed in a single morning or evening, or it may be done on-line through the District Committeeman for Masonic Education.

With Master Mason I, II, and III completed, the Brother should move on to The Lodge Officers' Training Course—21 exams in three modules. This course is done on-line through the Zone Chairman for Masonic Education, but assistance is available from the District Committeeman. At the same time (or after, whichever is best for the Brother), the Brother should complete Masonic Leadership Training. This is an in-class course which takes two sessions with the instructor.

When all Masonic Education offered through Grand Lodge has been completed successfully, the Brother receives proper recognition through the award of a Purple Card and appropriate pin.

"An educated Mason is a Dedicated Mason" is not a trite, over-worked saying. It is a statement of fact.

Bro. Oscar Patterson
Senior Warden

August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Rainbow	4 Stated Communica- tion	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 OES	16 York Rite chapter/ council	17 Rainbow	18 Stated Communica- tion	19	20
21	22	23 York Rite Commnadery	24 District Association	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Chaplain's Message

ASK AND RECEIVE

We were taught as we stood hoodwinked at the door in the preparation room that when we knocked it alluded to a certain text and this text referenced our ability to receive knowledge as explained below.

“The manner of application at the door of God's favor, symbolized in the Closed Door, is described in various passages. God said to Solomon: " Ask what I shall give thee." Elsewhere it is recorded: "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein." "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Wisdom dwells with contemplation. There are we to seek her. Though the passage be difficult, the further we proceed the easier it will come.”

In the Bonds of Friendship

Jim Davis

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	386 763-8727
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

THE READING IN THE ENTERED APPRENTICE PSALM 133

An excellent way to begin interpreting Masonic ritual is to examine the specific Bible passages recited during the circumambulation in each degree. In the Entered Apprentice Degree Psalm 133 is used to demonstrate unity.

Psalm 133 begins with a declaration of the usefulness of unity informing us that it is better to function together than with divisiveness. In the ancient Hebrew *gam shenayim* implies the goodness of those who are of the same belief system to united for a sacred purpose. And that this unity is best accomplished within a sacred space or "same place." This passage was part of the initiation of the Knights Templars and is quoted by St. Augustine as Divine authority for monastic life. The passage further admonishes us that we are brethren not only through nature and "blood," but also through our common social and personal interactions. The mutual love described is that referred to in the New Testament as *agape* described most eloquently and

emotionally in I Corinthian 13.

The entire passage demonstrates that we cannot say too much about the necessity of persuading people to live together in peace and harmony and suggests that those who abide by this admonition will receive God's blessing and approval. "How good" states the passage, how proper it is to promote happiness by the diffusion of good influences through the broad spectrum of brotherhood. How pleasant and filled with delight is the mind so engaged. And though the brethren will separate and go into their homes—to their scattered habitations—it is always most pleasant to see them assembled in harmony and unity. This unity, implied by the passage, will have an important influence upon the world resulting in a reduction of strife and contention.

The "precious ointment" suggests not only consecration, but also an infusion of knowledge through that act to the lowest member of the society. Brotherly love, we are then told, does not diffuse its blessing unless it descends to all assembled. The implication of the passage is that if we love one another in unity and fellowship, immortality will follow. The cost of the ointment was not small, it being composed of some of the most precious spices: myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, cassia and olive oil. Yet as is the dew, it is freely given and descends from the highest mountain to the lowest valley. The brotherly love demonstrated through the unity described in the passage is rare and is not the kind of affection that comes and goes. It represents a perfect union. We are brothers together not because of some genetic bond, but rather by a combination of commonwealth and an attachment to the same ancient Fraternity.



MASONIC ETIQUETTE

Masonic Etiquette is that which distinguishes us from other organizations. The *Digest of Masonic Law* is our ultimate guide. But it does not stand alone on questions of proper decorum and behavior in the Lodge. “The Mentor’s Manual” (G217) and “Masonic Etiquette” (GL208) are invaluable resources for instruction and the establishment of proper Masonic decorum in any Lodge.

The five most violated points of Masonic Etiquette:

1. Talking from and on the sidelines to include whispering between brothers;
2. Unsolicited and multiple prompts during degree work, opening, or closing;
3. Not standing when addressing the Worshipful Master;
4. Talking directly to the Secretary or other officer without first obtaining permission of the Worshipful Master;
5. Not standing and waiting to be recognized by the Worshipful Master before speaking; we are Masons not public school children. Raising a hand will not gain your recognition and a slouched-over Brother who is standing may not be recognized to make or second a motion.

A few more issues of proper Lodge decorum:

1. Do not cross legs when sitting in an Officer’s chair. Both feet on the floor;
2. Do not place your hands in your pockets while speaking, especially as an officer;
3. Correct titles are important in Freemasonry. The Worshipful Master is “Worshipful Master” not “Worshipful Sir or, even, “Worshipful;”
4. The District Deputy Grand Master is correctly “Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master” during his term not simply “Right Worshipful.” And likewise the District Instructor is “Right Honorable District Instructor” during his term unless he is a Past District Deputy Grand Master in which case he may be properly referred to as ‘Right Worshipful District Instructor;”
5. The Grand Master is “Most Worshipful Grand Master” during and after his term of office. All Grand Line Officers are “Right Worshipful” accompanied with their office.

Other issues of proper procedure in the Lodge:

1. Profanity is not acceptable in a Masonic Lodge under any circumstance;
2. When the Worshipful Master is unable to attend, the Senior Warden presides but the Junior Warden does not move up. The Senior Warden presiding may appoint a Past Master or A KNOWLEDGABLE BROTHER to sit in the West. If the Senior Warden chooses not to sit in the East, he may name his replacement (Digest 38.22);
3. Grand Honors are given only
 - A. To a newly installed Worshipful Master;
 - B. A District Deputy Grand Master during an official visit;
 - C. Grand Master;
 - D. Elected Grand Lodge Officers;
4. Public Grand Honors are given only
 - A. At the graveside for burial of a Brother;
 - B. In the 2nd Section of the Master Mason Degree.

Who may vouch for a Brother to sit in a Lodge?

That decision is at the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master.

Is there a difference between an “obligation” and an “oath?”

Obligation – “of my own free will and accord” – the action or a formal contract;

Oath – “So help me God” – A solemn promise formalized by calling upon God as witness.

When should alarms NOT be made at the door?

1. During opening and closing;
2. When the Senior Deacon is occupied with his duty in the Lodge;
3. During the Obligation;
4. When the Lodge is balloting.

Who may make the alarm at the outer door?

Only the Tyler and only the Junior Deacon is authorized to answer.

Who may be admitted into a Lodge?

Only those who have permission of the Worshipful Master.

It is acceptable to partake of the meal and leave without attending Lodge?

It is an act of utmost discourtesy to the Lodge to act in such a manner and that includes the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may, however, join the

Brethren for the mean but under current Grand Lodge of Florida statue, they may not remain for a Master Mason Lodge.

How should a Brother behave during prayer?

All Brethren should rise and remain in absolute silence throughout the prayer.

How should prayers be worded?

The prayer itself, if not in the words prescribed in our Ritual, should be constant with the faith of Freemasonry and therefor no expression of any peculiar sectarian view or creed is permitted.

Ritual

There is no place for mirth, frivolity, joking, talking, whispering, or other distractions during Masonic Ritual. Nor should there be any applause. The Brothers on the ritual team do not perform as a person and any distraction from the serious intent degree work, especially in the Master Mason Degree, is intrusive and not proper Masonic behavior.

At the conclusion of the Degree it is improper to recognize any Brother who participated other than the Candidate.

Other aspects of proper Lodge behavior and decorum.

A Brother may not pass between the Worshipful Master and the Altar. “There shall be no obstruction between the Great Lights and the East.” However, should a Worshipful Master elect to deliver the Lecture, he may move through the Lodge Room as necessary.

A Brother desiring to approach the East must first request permission from the Worshipful Master unless directed by him to approach.

Uniformity in our Ritual work is not a dream, it is a real possibility. With diligent and zealous practice as well as attendance at Schools of Instruction and Open Book, Brothers may master the intricacies of Freemasonic Ritual.

Proper Masonic etiquette and decorum is something we should practice at all times. It is common sense to perform at our best doing that which we consider to be both polite action and proper respect for the Craft.



Grand Master's Message



As we enter into the new Grand Lodge Year many thoughts come to mind. Traveling around the state for the last four years the same questions have been asked. "What are we doing about the declining membership? What are we doing about failing Lodges? How is Grand Lodge going to fix this?"

As you have heard me say in the past, I am just a Brother like each of you. As Grand Master, I know that my job is not winning a popularity contest. Being popular is not my goal. I will do what I feel is necessary for the betterment of the Craft.

We talk about values and what the Fraternity means to us, but what are we doing? Now is the time to stop talking about it. Now is the time to take ownership and assume responsibility for the future of our Lodges and Districts. None of us got here all by ourselves and this did not happen overnight; therefore, it is going to take all of us to bring it back.

There are many opportunities for us to self-improve. We expect new members to go to the education classes offered, better yet, why don't we take the new members to the classes so we may learn as well. The annual reports are appalling. There are entire Districts with zero participation and way too many Lodges with little or no participation.

Masonic Education and Membership Development is my priority this year. We have some very dedicated Masons on the Masonic Education and Masonic Leadership Training Committees and they are going to work hard toward this goal. If these Committees are going to be successful, you will need to support their efforts in the Districts and Zones. We have some new leadership on the Membership Development Committee and they will be sharing some new ideas. Again, none of this works without your support and participation.

We need to come together as a "TEAM"; are we not Freemasons; have we not taken the same Oaths? We say we take good men and make them better, but we should be continually working to make ourselves "BETTER MEN". When we come together as a "TEAM", when we work as one Fraternity, we all will become "GOOD MEN". By joining this "TEAM" we will "Together Educate All Masons" including ourselves.

My slogan this year is: "BUILDING TODAY FOR A STRONGER FRATERNITY TOMOR-

ROW.” What does this mean to you and me? We need to continue to evaluate our Lodge structure, we need to merge or consolidate willingly when we are out of options. Merging or consolidating does not mean failure; walking away and turning the key for the last time is failure. We need to work better at the District level. Our Masonic Associations should be utilized to build stronger relationships between our Lodges and Fellow Districts. We need to work as one entity and not as individual Lodges or Districts. It should not matter which District we are in, we should be of like mind working together. I believe we all have the power to turn this Fraternity around. Look at the condition of our Country, have we become like so many waiting for someone else to take care of us, to fix our problems, or someone else to pay for us? We need to STOP BEING AFRAID OF WHAT COULD GO WRONG AND START BEING POSITIVE ABOUT WHAT COULD GO RIGHT. Together, standing strong, and united we will return this Fraternity to its former greatness and in the process take it to new heights for future generations.

We need to guard the West Gate my Brothers, in our haste to bring in more money by short changing our investigations we are bringing in the wrong type of man. Is a quick dollar worth risking our Fraternity over? We are having too many trials because we bring in the wrong man and/or do not educate our members. All members need to know the Digest of Masonic Laws. We are not educating them to be good Masons. They are not taught tradition. They are not taught the business of our Lodges. They are not taught Ritual and we are not helping them to be better men. We are however, short changing them. Is it any wonder they do not come back? We are too quick to put them in a chair before they truly understand our teachings. This results in their frustrations and they burn out too soon. Our Blue Lodges are not social clubs in which we are card carrying members; we are Freemasons, and as such we must Meet, Act, and Part.

By acting like Masons we show our communities that we are good, upstanding men, thus proving that we are a Fraternity worth belonging to; and that we are proud of our membership.

“REMEMBER NOT ONLY TO SAY THE RIGHT THING IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT FAR MORE DIFFICULT STILL, TO LEAVE UNSAID THE WRONG THING AT THE TEMPTING MOMENT”

In closing, my Brothers, may God bless you, may God bless our armed forces, and may God bless the United States of America.

Fraternally,

Stanley L. Hudson,
Grand Master

ANNUAL TRI-STATE MASONIC DEGREES

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016

Held at Jackson Lodge No. 1
2818 Apalachee Parkway (US 27); Tallahassee, FL 32301



FLORIDA



ALABAMA



GEORGIA

GRAND LODGE OFFICER WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Springhill Suites by Marriott

1300 Executive Center Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: (850) 325-1103

Group Name: *Florida Masons*

Rate: \$99.00 per night

Cut Off Date: July 15, 2016

SCHEDULE

Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.

Entered Apprentice Degree – 8:00 a.m.

Fellow Craft Degree – 10:00 a.m.

Lunch – 12:00 p.m.

Master Mason Degree – 1:30 p.m.

(Times for FC Degree and MM Degree are approximate)

Information: R.: W.: Randall Grant, D.D.G.M. 7th Masonic District
Email: randy230k@yahoo.com Phone: (850) 212-6957