

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

# TRESTLE BOARD

JANUARY A.L. 2012

## MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: W.: JOHN D. HOOKER

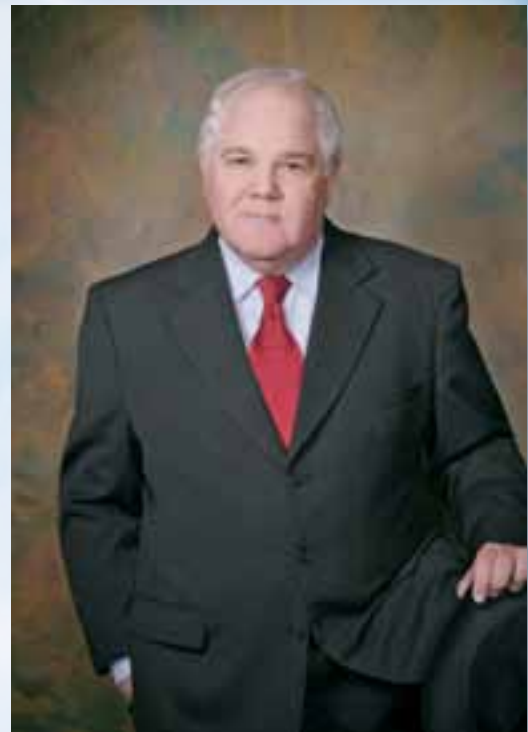
Brother John D. Hooker was born in Ocala, Florida on November 30, 1947 and grew up on his grandfather's 160-acre farm in Reddick, Marion County, Florida. His boyhood home was located on a dirt road and had an outhouse. When he was young, his mother bathed him in a wash tub.

John graduated from North Marion High School in 1965. He worked as a Master Barber to pay his college expenses while attending Central Florida Junior College and afterwards at the University of Florida where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Economics.

After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army Reserve and was Honorably Discharged with the rank of Sergeant. He attended Stetson College of Law, graduating in 1974, and began work as an Assistant State Attorney in the Thirteenth Judicial District, Hillsborough County, Florida. After working for the state for two years, he started a private trial law practice in Tampa and began handling cases throughout the state.

His first law office was in the old John Darling Masonic Lodge building in downtown Tampa. He retired in 2011 and

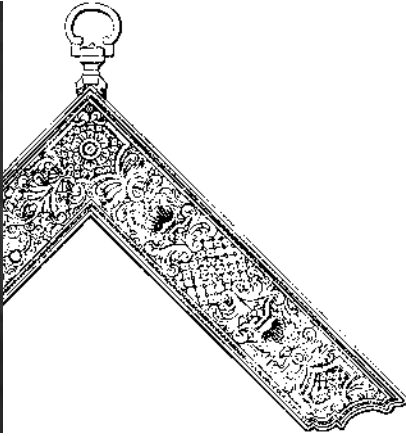
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*Brother John D. Hooker comes from a family full of Masons. Rising from humble beginnings, he has earned several degrees and established a successful law practice. John has a long history of contributing to the community, and as the Junior Past Master of Hillsborough Lodge, he has just completed a banner year filled with many outstanding accomplishments.*

**Degrees on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays**  
**Stated Communications on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays**  
**Masonic Instruction every Thursday**  
**Eastern Star meets on 1st and 3rd Saturdays**  
**DeMolay meets every Monday**

## FROM THE EAST



Brethren,

Four short years ago in April 2008, I was initiated into the honorable institution of Freemasonry, and by good fortune, it was into Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. The man responsible for that undertaking was Worshipful John D. Hooker, PM. On behalf of all the Officers of 2011, I extend to W.: Hooker a debt of gratitude for his love of our Lodge, support of his Officers, and the dedication he showed all year. On a personal note, I thank him for signing my petition; I am a better man for it today.

I thank all the Brothers who have placed their faith in my ability to lead our Lodge in 2012. There is no greater honor than to be chosen by a majority of your peers; Election Night was a truly humbling experience for me and one that I will not forget.

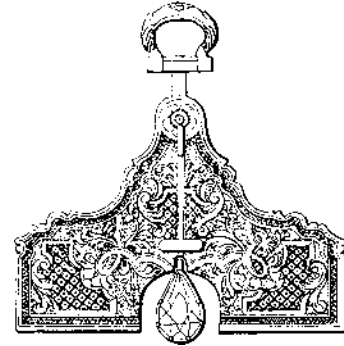
Installation of Officers will be held at the Lodge on Saturday, January 7th, 2012 at 10 a.m. I invite all of my Brothers, friends and family to join us on this very special day. After much consideration and thought, I have appointed the following Brothers to be installed as Officers for 2012:

Senior Deacon: Bro. Joshua Sussman  
 Junior Deacon: Bro. Clifford Allen  
 Senior Steward: Bro. Kenneth Skillman  
 Junior Steward: Bro. Billy Schmidt  
 Chaplain: Bro. Kermit Hines  
 Marshall: Bro. Michael St. James  
 Tyler: Bro. Drew Baldwin  
 Musician: W.: William "Shorty" Powell

On Tuesday, January 10th, we will have our first Stated Communication of the year. Business to be conducted that evening will include the 2012 budget for approval by the Craft, Masonic Education, a Worshipful Master's address, minutes of prior Communications, and ballots. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and our meeting will follow at 7:15 p.m.

*Continued on page 6*

## FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

The 2011 Masonic year has come to a close. I am proud of the many improvements made last year under the direction of W.: John Hooker and through the dedication of so many Brothers. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me to continue my service as your Senior Warden for 2012.

As the new year begins, I will be conducting an audit of the 2011 financial statements and continuing the work of the Finance and Property Committees. I will make my report at our Stated Communication on February 28th. While great strides have been made in the past couple of years at Hillsborough Lodge, there are other and important issues that still need to be addressed. I look forward to working with my committees and other interested Brothers for the betterment of our Lodge.

In every circumstance, a Lodge is better off when its members are involved. I ask each Brother to reflect on his attendance and to participate in our Lodge functions. Our Lodge is a sanctuary for peace and harmony away from the outside world. Let us all come together to work for its betterment. I hope to see you throughout the year as we meet on the level.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Junior Warden this past year. I enjoyed watching over our fine Lodge during refreshment and preparing our meals. I am confident that our new Junior Warden, David Liniger, will continue to provide an atmosphere conducive to Friendship and Brotherly love. I would especially like to thank our new Worshipful Master, Joseph Gonzalez, for all of his advise, support, confidence and leadership over the past year. I look forward to serving the Craft as your Senior Warden.

May each of you find Peace, Happiness and Prosperity. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Fraternally,

*Steven Silvers*

Senior Warden

## FROM THE SOUTH



Brothers,

I offer my sincerest thanks to all of my Brothers for entrusting me to serve as Junior Warden for the year 2012 at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. I am extremely humbled and honored to serve Hillsborough Lodge, in any capacity, and will strive to continue the outstanding work Brother Steve Silvers accomplished last year.

I am very excited and look forward to working with our new Worshipful Master Joseph Gonzalez on improving our building, finances, Brotherly love, and providing the best refreshment I can. After personally witnessing his efforts last year, I am sure that 2012 will be an amazing year for Hillsborough Lodge and the Craft.

I am encouraged by the involvement of the newer Masons last year in the kitchen, as well as participating in degrees and helping in various functions in the lodge. If any Brother is interested in assisting with the dining room, or serving in any other way, please feel free to e-mail me at: davidliniger@gmail.com or just ask any Lodge Officer how you can help. There are many opportunities for you to give back to your Lodge and we would love to have your help. Make your 2012 resolution to attend more Lodge meetings.

*"We have all the light we need;  
 we just need to put it in practice."  
 — Albert Pike*

Happy New Year, Brothers!

Fraternally,

*David Liniger*

Junior Warden

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Brethren,

I would like to thank the Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge for reaffirming their confidence in me by electing me to the office of Secretary for the year 2012. There is more to this office than just keeping the minutes, and I learn more and more each day. Again, I will strive to maintain the high standard of the office which has been set by those who have gone before me.

On January 10, 2011, Mr. Jesse James Knafla will be initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason. Mr. Knafla is a Senior DeMolay from Paul Revere Chapter, and this degree will be to honor all Senior DeMolays and those who have been honored by the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay. If you are a Senior DeMolay or have been honored by the ISC of DeMolay, please attend this meeting, and wear your regalia.

As the lodge embarks on a new year, the light is bright for 2012. Over the past two years we have seen an increase the number of petitions for the three symbolic degrees. We have also seen more and more Brothers who have not been in Lodge for some time coming back to Lodge and getting caught up. Most of the absence is due to address changes when a Brother moves. Please take the time to drop the Lodge a line, call on the phone, or better yet, come to the Lodge and give us your address, phone number and e-mail address. You can send this to us at: hills25@verizon.net and we can make the changes. If you know a brother who is not getting information from the Lodge, have him contact us. There is a simple fix to the problem.

### 2011 New Member Recap:

Entered Apprentice	37
Fellow Craft	29
Master Mason	35

*Continued on page 7*



## NOTICE OF SPECIAL JANUARY MEETING















Please mark your calendars!

**January 7th - Installation of Officers**  
Installation of our new 2012 Officers.

JANUARY 2012						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*"Leadership is an opportunity to serve. It is not a trumpet call to self-importance."*

—Swami Kriyananda

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 <b>DISTRICT SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION</b> John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL	5  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	6	7 <b>INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</b> Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 • 10 a.m.  Chapter 11 1 p.m.
8 <b>INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</b> Community Lodge No. 252 • 1 p.m.	9  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m. <b>SCOTTISH RITE</b> 5500 Memorial Dr. Tampa • 7:30 p.m.	10  Budget Proposal & Approval Worshipful Master's Address Ballots Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	11	12  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	13	14 <b>INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</b> John Darling Lodge No. 25 • 10 a.m. Port Tampa Lodge No. 153 • 2 p.m.
15 <b>MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING</b> 11 a.m. 3201 1st Street NE St. Pete, FL	16  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	17  EA Mr. Jesse James Knafla with ISC Legion of Honor DeMolay in chairs. Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	18	19  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	20	21  Chapter 11 1 p.m.
22	23  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	24  Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	25	26  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m. <b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> 6 p.m.	27 <b>MASTERS &amp; WARDENS MEETING</b> Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL	28
29	30  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	31  <b>FAMILY NIGHT</b> Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.				

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2012 Lodge Committees

### Finance Committee

- Brother Steven Silvers, Chairman
- Brother David Liniger
- W.: Tom Johnson, Treasurer Emeritus
- Brother Joseph Wilkinson
- Brother Jeremy Hall
- R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson, PDDGM
- Brother Drew Baldwin

### Vigilance Committee

- Brother David Liniger, Chairman
- W.: Joseph Almaguer, PM
- Brother Brian Shrader

### Petitions Committee

- R.:H.: Tom Newton, Chairman
- W.: Terry McLaughlin, PM
- W.: Tom Johnson, PM

### Masonic Education Committee

- Brother David Liniger, Chairman
- W.: Terry McLaughlin, PM
- Brother Steven Silvers
- W.: Michael Fletcher, PM
- R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser, PDDGM, Lodge Mentor

### Masonic Relief Committee

- Worshipful Master, Joseph Gonzalez, Chairman
- Brother Steven Silvers
- Brother David Liniger

### Investigation Committee

- Brother Joshua Sussman, Chairman
- Brother Chase Harrison
- Brother Brian Morales

### Masonic Charity Committee

- Worshipful Master, Joseph Gonzalez, Chairman
- Brother Steven Silvers
- Brother David Liniger

### Property Committee

- Brother Steven Silvers, Chairman
- Brother Clifford Allen
- Brother Joseph Wilkinson
- R.:H.: Juan Martinez, PDI
- Brother Kermit Hines

### Communications Committee

- Brother Kenneth Skillman, Chairman
- W.: Robbins Denham, PM
- Brother Michael St. James
- Brother Clifford Allen

*"Masonic Spotlight" Continued from page 1*

spends his spare time boating, fishing, hunting, traveling and reading. He has two sons and a grandson. His oldest son owns Hooker Tea Company, and his youngest son is an attorney in Washington, D.C. His daughter-in-law is also an attorney in Tampa, Florida.

W.: Hooker comes from a family of Masons. His great, great Uncle W. B. Hooker held membership number 50 in Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 and another uncle held number 176. The Hooker Family donated the land to Turkey Creek Lodge, and its first Worshipful Master was W. A. Hooker. His father was a 25-year member of Palmetto Lodge No. 110 and raised him as a Master Mason on April 17, 2008. He is proud to have served the Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2011. His proudest Masonic accomplishments were the erection of the Two Beautiful Bronze Pillars in the Foyer of the Lodge, his leadership in bringing the Brothers to work together to improve the Lodge, and raising a record number of new Masons during his term as Worshipful Master. **12**

*"From the East" continued from page 2*

As we begin our labors this New Year, I should stress that no one man can complete the task of erecting an edifice as grand as ours. It will take hard work and patience, Brotherly love, wise council, and a helping hand from each and every member. I encourage and challenge all the Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge to step in, get to know our new Brothers and their families, and give support to your Officers. We can all shape our Lodge back into the sanctuary we have been taught to expect as Masons. Remember, when you do attend Lodge, please bring a Brother with you.

I hope to see you all in Lodge soon.

Fraternally,

*Joseph Gonzalez*

Worshipful Master

*Rest in Peace, our Brothers in the Celestial Lodge Above...*

*If you hear of a brother who has passed to that Celestial Lodge above, please inform the Lodge Secretary so he can send out the Widows' Certificate.*



# ORDER OF DEMOLAY

## Paul Revere Chapter



**Meets at Hillsborough Lodge  
every Monday at 7 p.m.**

*For more information, please contact:*

Brother Bill Cobb  
Personal Representative to  
the Executive Office of DeMolay  
813-835-1793

*"Secretary's Desk" continued from page 3*

Petitions referred to the Investigations Committee: Rafael Pizano for the three symbolic degrees.

We will be balloting on the Petition of Robert L. Thomas Phillips for Plural membership.

At our December 20th Called Communication, Messrs. Matthew Patrick Belmonte, Charles Joseph Corces, Charles Joseph Corces, Andrew William Dempsey, and Travis Alan Van Buren received the Three Symbolic Degrees in Masonry,

If you have not paid your 2012 dues, please send them into the lodge, and as always, don't forget your contribution to "Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents" program which goes to the Masonic Home.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Thomas C. Newton*

Thomas C. Newton, PM, PDI

# ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



**Meets at Hillsborough Lodge  
1st and 3rd Saturdays at 1 p.m.**

*Look to the day with a purpose  
Of fulfilling the plans that you've had,  
With a joy in your heart that will never depart  
For God's made this day to be glad!*

Please join us for our first meeting of the New Year on Saturday, January 7 at 1 p.m. Chapter 11 warmly welcomes all visitors.

Remember to Trust and Obey God and Love One Another.

Claudine Rogers, P.M., Worthy Matron • 813-393-7490  
Terry McLaughlin, P.G.P., Worthy Patron • 727-412-4053

## It's A New Year, Brothers...



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## 2012 LODGE OFFICERS

- W.: Joseph Gonzalez . . . . . Worshipful Master
- Steven Silvers . . . . . Senior Warden
- David Liniger . . . . . Junior Warden
- R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson . . . . . Treasurer
- R.:H.: Tom Newton . . . . . Secretary
- Joshua Sussman . . . . . Senior Deacon
- Cliff Allen . . . . . Junior Deacon
- Ken Skillman . . . . . Senior Steward
- Billy Schmidt . . . . . Junior Steward
- Michael St. James . . . . . Marshall
- Kermit Hines . . . . . Chaplain
- Drew Baldwin . . . . . Tyler
- R.:W.: C. Don Prosser . . . . . Historian
- W.: William Powell . . . . . Organist Emeritus
- Len Whalen . . . . . Chaplain Emeritus
- W.: Thomas Johnson . . . . . Treasurer Emeritus



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### Remember Your Masonic Charities in the New Year...



**The Good Work Never Stops,  
 So Please Give Generously!**