


HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

# TRESTLE BOARD

DECEMBER A.L. 2013

## 2013 MASON OF THE YEAR: BRO. BILLY D. SCHMIDT

Throughout the course of this year, many Brothers have displayed a dedication to our Lodge beyond that which is expected of them. For this dedication, we say thank you to each and every one of you. This year, W. Steven J. Silvers has the honor and pleasure of naming Hillsborough Lodge's Mason of the Year for 2013. To receive this honor, a Mason must show proficiency in our work, dedicate time to practice, strive to learn constantly, be willing to perform the necessary duties for the benefit of the Lodge and set a good example for others to follow.

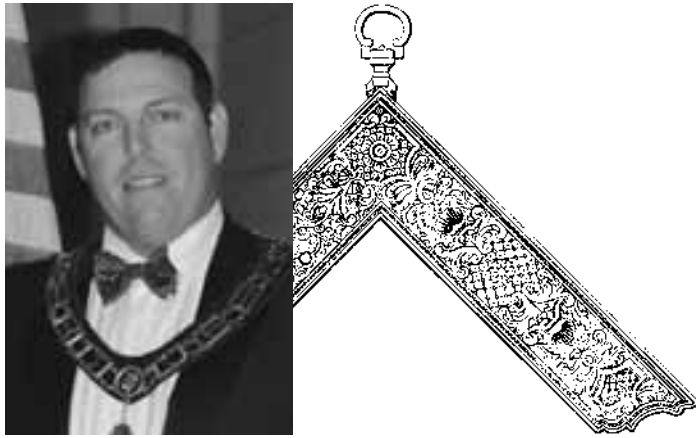
And the winner is... Brother Billy Schmidt. Bro. Schmidt is the appointed Junior Deacon of the Lodge. He manages the sales of all goods in our merchandise cabinets, is in charge of our fundraising program through the sales of name plaques for the Lodge-Room chairs, serves on the District Deputy's traveling committee, has attended most Masters & Wardens meetings, District Schools of Instruction, Zone School's and been ready and willing to serve the Lodge in any way possible. Brother Schmidt has truly proved himself to be a shining star in our Lodge. We are confident that he will continue to support the Craft of Hillsborough Lodge and Freemasonry throughout the coming years with his dedication, knowledge and love for the Fraternity. Congratulations Brother Schmidt! 



*Brother Billy D. Schmidt, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25's 2013 Mason of the Year. Billy is a frequent participant in a variety of Masonic activities, and he can always be counted on to cheerfully pitch in and help out with any project.*

**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



My Brothers,

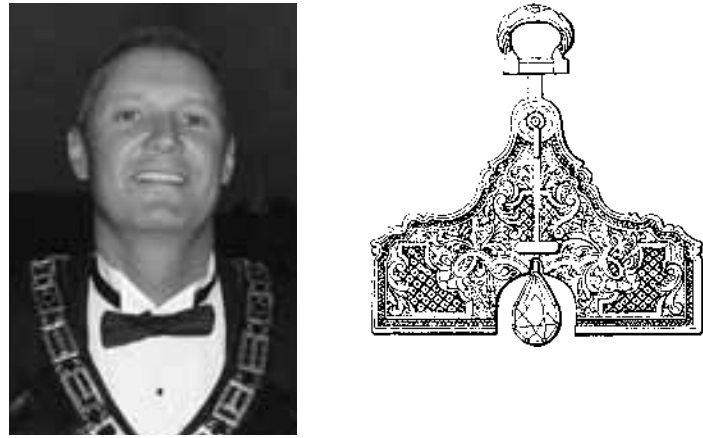
It seems like it was just yesterday when the Craft elected me to serve our Lodge as its Worshipful Master. I had been told by several Past Masters, how fast my time in the East would pass. I have to admit that they were not kidding. It's hard to believe that this will be my last article as Master of the Lodge. I would also like to say that serving the craft of our historic Lodge has been an incredible honor. I stand humbled by your confidence and trust to carry out the duties that accompany this station. It has been my goal throughout this year, to promote fellowship and harmony within the Lodge, and I believe that in this respect, this year has been very successful.

Throughout the course of the year, many projects and improvements have been accomplished as we continue to restore our historic building. None of which would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Senior Warden, David Liniger and our line of officers, who have been there at every turn to support our efforts in making this a great year. I am blessed to have had so many dedicated Brothers who have a true passion for Masonry. This year, we have seen many new Brothers become involved in our events, degrees and education programs. Many of our new Brothers have also become members of the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite and Egypt Temple Shrine.

Involvement is a key ingredient in the future success of our Lodge and in our Fraternity. I cannot stress enough, the importance of being involved not only in your home Lodge, but throughout the district as well. By attending Masters & Wardens, District School of Instruction, Masonic Leadership Training and Zone Schools, you will gain a knowledge of Freemasonry that is necessary for any Mason to become a leader. It also expands the circumference of Brothers, who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. A wise Mason once told me that, "In this Fraternity, there is no substitute for knowledge."

*Continued on page 6*

## FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

As the year ends, I find myself reflecting on the accomplishments of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 during Worshipful Steven J. Silvers' year. Worshipful Silvers has done an outstanding job leading Hillsborough Lodge. Since he petitioned our Lodge in June of 2008, he has served our fraternity in many capacities, and no doubt will continue to do so in the future. We are very fortunate to have so many excellent Worshipful Masters who have diligently served our Lodge, and continue to serve our Lodge and district long after they leave office. It never ceases to amaze me when our Past Masters are introduced at the beginning of Lodge meeting, how many still attend weekly, and how many are P.D.D.G.M.s, P.D.I.s, 40-year members, Treasurers, Secretaries, Chief Catechism Instructors, Lecturers, Mentors, etc. The levels of service we continue to get from Past Masters are astounding! I thank you all for your stellar examples, and know Worshipful Silvers will continue the tradition.

I have been very fortunate to have had great leaders precede me in line, and to have wonderful Brothers behind me in line. I have learned tons from the wise council of all my Brothers, and will continue to lean on you all in the future. I have not only improved in Masonic knowledge since I joined this Lodge, but as a man as well. That is what we preach when we first step foot in Hillsborough 25, we take good men and make them better. It has been my distinct pleasure to learn and grow with you all.

Thank you to all the officers for your hard work and support, and congratulations to Brother Allen for an excellent year of meals and cooking your last one — it's a great feeling, isn't it, Bro? Thanks to Brother Skillman for another year of outstanding Trestle Boards, it is truly the nicest one I have seen. Thank you Worshipful Silvers for your service, leadership, and especially friendship. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and your family,

*Continued on page 6*

## FROM THE SOUTH



Fraternal Greetings, Brothers,

Brothers, friends and family: 2013 has been an awesome year for us all! It has been a great honor serving you as your Junior Warden for this Masonic year. I have had so many experiences and have learned so many valuable lessons in life and I just want to take the opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for having faith and believing in me. I can honestly say this Masonic experience has truly made me a better man.

It has been a great year for Hillsborough No. 25. I humbly thank you for the trust & honor you bestowed upon me by allowing me to serve the craft as Junior Warden this year, and I will do my very best to uphold the traditions and sterling record of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. We all owe thanks and praise to our outgoing Worshipful Master Steven Silvers for his untiring efforts this year.

There is still plenty of work this year, with elections rapidly approaching, and a few more degrees to conduct before instillation. We look forward to seeing each of you and strengthening the bonds that cement us.

If there is a Brother who comes to your mind who you haven't seen or heard from in a while, make the effort to reach out to that brother, let him know that we have not forgotten him..

Fraternally,

Junior Warden

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Brothers,

In recent articles in the Trestle Board, I have reported that we would be suspending Brothers who had not paid their dues for 2013 at the end of September. By the Digest of Masonic Law, it is acceptable for the Lodge to do so, however this year we have gone back to the way suspensions were done in the past. All brothers are still members of this lodge until the 29th day of December of this year. If dues have not been paid by that date, we will suspend those who are in arrears. If you are one of those brothers who has not paid your 2013 dues, if you have a financial situation that is preventing you from paying your dues, you need to contact the lodge and let us know. There are ways to help each and every Brother, but we have to know that you need the assistance of the Lodge. You can call us at (813) 229-2305 or send us an e-mail to hills25@verizon.net and explain the situation or problem and allow us to assist you. Think about your obligation "... I will help, aid and assist a poor or distressed Brother...", and that is what W. Terry and I are trying to do.

As this year draws to a close, I want to thank the craft for allowing me serve YOU as your secretary. The business of the Lodge is always important and concerns all Masons. The recommendations from you and the directives of the Grand Lodge on what needs to be done to improve each Lodge and Masonry as a whole continues to be of the utmost importance to me. W. Terry and I are there to help you in any way possible, so don't hesitate to contact us to ask questions or give us your comments. If it is something that needs to go to the Worshipful Master or a standing committee, we will see that your comments or request get to proper person or persons.















As this year draws to a close, we are again seeing a resurgence of interest in the fraternity. We are receiving

*Continued on page 7*



# DECEMBER

A.L. 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	3  MM For Brothers who are prepared.  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	4 <b>District 22 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.  <b>HAPPY HANUKKAH!</b>	6	7  Chapter 11 1 p.m.
8	9  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	10  Stated Communication  <b>ELECTION OF 2014 OFFICERS</b>  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	11	12  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	13 <b>MASONIC YOUTH PARK BOARD MEETING</b> Tampa Lodge No. 240 • 7 p.m. 6920 E. Chelsea St. Tampa, FL	14 <b>HIGH TWELVE LODGE NO. 317</b> Lunch at 11 a.m. Meeting at Noon
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  MM For Brothers who are prepared.  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 <b>NO LODGE MEETING</b>	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>	26 <b>NO MASONIC EDUCATION</b>	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 	JANUARY 1  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>		December 27th <b>St. John the Evangelist Day</b>	January 11th <b>2014 Officer Installations</b>

# NOTICE OF SPECIAL DECEMBER MEETING

Please mark your calendars!

**December 10th  
Election of 2014 Officers**

DECEMBER 2013						
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				

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The Past Masters Degree this year was a big success! A big thanks to all the Past Masters who participated. Front row from left to right: R:H: Thomas C. Newton, R:W: Stephen B. Jacobson, W: Thomas E. Johnson Jr., Illustrious 33° R:W: C. Donald Prosser, W: Joseph A. Gonzalez, R:W: John D. Hooker, W: Terry D. McLaughlin, W: Steven J. Silvers. Back row from left to right: W: John J. Hillyer III, W: Robert Cloversettle, R:H: Juan A. Martinez, R:W: Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, W: Joseph V. Citro, R:H: Brian H. Manne.

*"From the East" continued from page 2*

I took this information and have ever since, endeavored to continue to increase my own knowledge of Masonry. To this Brother, as well as all those who have helped to guide me on the Masonic path, I say thank you. I look forward to continued service to our Lodge and to our Fraternity.

Finally Brothers, may each of you enjoy a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Fraternally,

*Steven J. Silvers*

Worshipful Master

*"From the West" continued from page 2*

and look forward to fishing and hanging out with you in and out of Lodge for years to come.

We build lifetime friendships at Hillsborough 25. Thanks to my Brothers all and hope to see you on election night and in 2014. Have safe and happy holiday!

*"All that is essential for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."*

— Bro. Edmund Burke

Peace, Brothers,

*David S. Sniger*

Senior Warden

# 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

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

inquiries those persons interested in Free Masonry over the internet, referrals from brothers and walk ins. If the current trend continues, this next year may be a banner year for not only this lodge but for Masonry as a whole.

Dues notices for 2014 have arrived and will be sent out. You may have already seen your notice by the time you see this article. Please don't forget your Masonic Home with your voluntary gift to the "Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents" program, which supports the Masonic Home, of \$7.30. Not much to ask to help your Brothers and Sisters in the Masonic Home of Florida.

Lastly, I want to wish each of you a Joyous Holiday Season, and I hope to see you in Lodge soon.

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.**

With the holiday season fast approaching, Tampa Chapter No. 11 would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone happy, healthy and safe holidays. We wish you happiness and joy!

For our Members: If you would like to attend a meeting, but need a ride, please call the Secretary – rides can be arranged. And don't forget, we have a working elevator.

*For more information about Tampa Chapter No. 11 or the Order of the Eastern Star, please contact:*

**Sandra Johnson, PM, Secretary**  
P.O. Box 9046 • Tampa, FL 33674-9046  
(813) 500-3460



**"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."**

— Franklin D. Roosevelt  
32nd President  
& Freemason

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**2013 LODGE OFFICERS**

- W.: Steven J. Silvers. . . . . Worshipful Master
- David S. Liniger . . . . . Senior Warden
- Clifford M. Allen . . . . . Junior Warden
- W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez. . . . . Treasurer
- R.:H.: Thomas C. Newton . . . . . Secretary
- Kenneth R. Skillman . . . . . Senior Deacon
- Billy D. Schmidt . . . . . Junior Deacon
- John A. "Drew" Baldwin. . . . . Senior Steward
- Michael St. James. . . . . Junior Steward
- Christopher Hutchinson. . . . . Marshall
- Joshua Sussman . . . . . Chaplain
- Jose E. Coll . . . . . Tyler
- R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser . . . . . Historian
- W.: Thomas Johnson . . . . . Treasurer Emeritus



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