

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

# TRESTLE BOARD


FEBRUARY A.L. 2014

## MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: W.: MICHAEL W. FLETCHER

W.: Mike Fletcher is a Tennessee native who made his career in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in Florida with the rank of Master Sergeant after 24 years of service to our country.

W.: Fletcher was Initiated an Entered Apprentice on January 5, 1982, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on April 25, 1982 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 6, 1982. Mike was Master of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 in 1994, and has a Perpetual Membership. He received his 25-Year Service Award from Grand Lodge on July 6, 2007 and now has more than 30 years of service to the Fraternity.

W.: Fletcher is a member of Tampa York Rite Bodies, Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 11 and Egypt Shrine in Tampa.

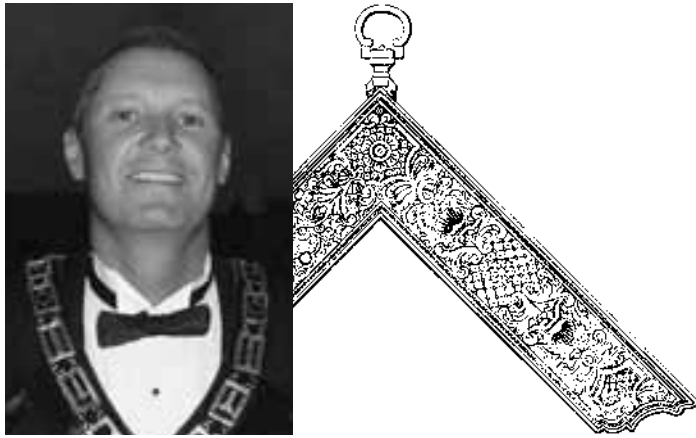
Around the Lodge, Mike is one of a select group of Brothers who are considered "go to guys" for accurate knowledge of catechism and ritual. He earned his first Silver Card less than a year after being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, and he has never looked back. Mike has earned numerous proficiency cards over the years, and he is always ready to help a Brother with his catechism. Stop by on a Thursday night. You will find an excellent Brother, friend and mentor. 



*One of Hillsborough Lodge's most dedicated catechism instructors, W.: Mike Fletcher can be found at Lodge every Thursday night, ready to coach and encourage those Brothers who wish to learn more about Freemasonry.*

**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



Greetings, Brothers,

Thanks to all for attending and participating in the 2014 installation of officers. It was a day I will never forget. Thank you to all the officers for your commitment, I greatly appreciate your service.

This year we have a redesigned web site as well as starting Facebook and Twitter accounts which will help inform the Brothers of activities at Lodge and District. Our officers are representing the Lodge well by attending outside functions, and we would welcome all Brothers to attend with us.

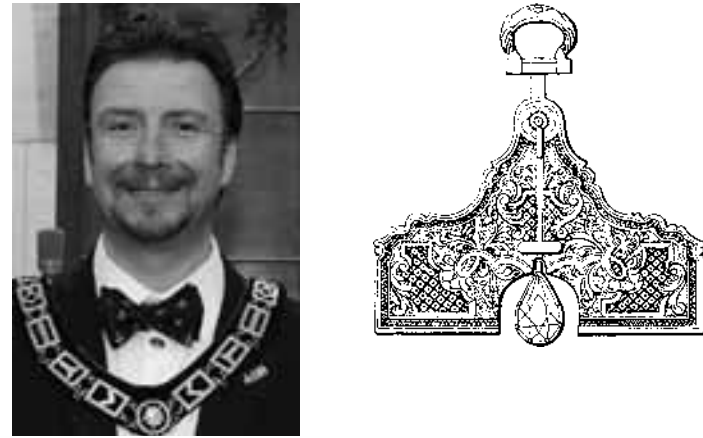
The Worshipful Master's project this year has two parts — technology upgrades and improvements to the Past Masters Room. The technology will include audio/visual equipment which will allow us to have better more effective presentations. The Past Masters Room improvements will include replacing the pictures we are missing, and standardizing the name plates. Thanks to the research of R·W· Prosser and R·W· Jacobson, we will include the 33rd Degree, Potentate, Gold Card holders, and any other honor our Past Masters have achieved.

We currently have many Silver Card holders, but few willing to teach a catechism class. If you are interested, please contact me at davidliniger@gmail.com, or call me at (813) 368-0766. There will be updates on the website in the future which will offer service opportunities inside and outside lodge, please answer the call and step up; your Lodge needs you. Thanks for your support.

Peace, Brothers,

*David S. Liniger*  
Worshipful Master

## FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

Due to *Trestle Board* submission deadlines, I have limited information as I write this for my February message. I should have a full report by the first business meeting in February, and will include a brief summary in next month's *Trestle Board*. The next Finance & Property Meeting will be February 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Past Masters Room. I cordially invite all who wish to attend.

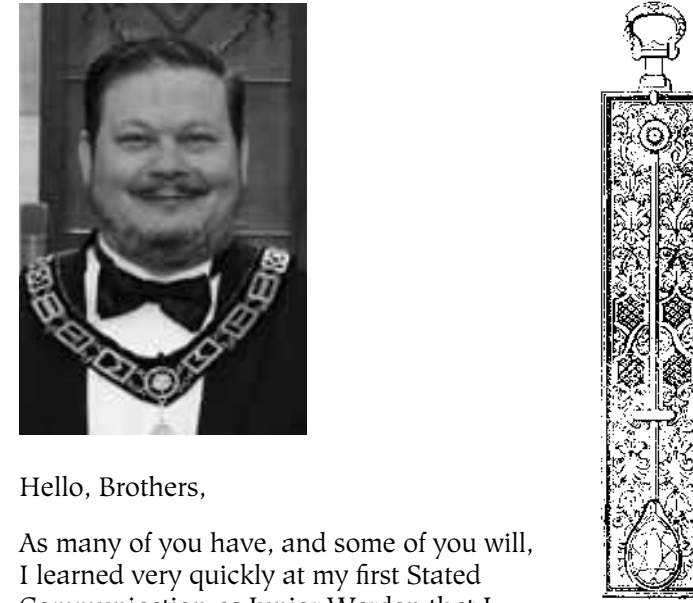
As officers of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, we are continuously at labor and constantly striving to improve our Lodge with respect to traditions and work of past officers. I am available for any suggestions or ideas for improvements to our beloved house. I can be reached at cliff.allen@mail.com. Your input is well respected, and I welcome any positive ideas. I do ask if there are any negative comments or suggestions please bring one or two solutions to the table in an effort to reach a favorable outcome.

Our Lodge is here for all members and every dues paying member has a vested interest in our Fraternity and the direction of our Lodge. We all came into Masonry to become better men and Masons, and one of our Past Grand Masters, J. Dick Martinez, stated that "Masons always rise to the occasion." Please share your talents. Anyone wishing to serve Hillsborough No. 25 in any capacity will be welcomed — whether it is earning a Silver Card, attending meetings, traveling with the Worshipful Master to special functions — you are a vital part of our Fraternity and can contribute to the reputation of Hillsborough No. 25. I wish you all a very Happy Valentine's Day and hope to see you at as many meeting as you are able to attend.

Sincerely & Respectfully,

*Clifford M. Allen*  
Senior Warden

## FROM THE SOUTH



Hello, Brothers,

As many of you have, and some of you will, I learned very quickly at my first Stated Communication as Junior Warden that I still have a few things to learn about the job. Fortunately, the nature and structure of Freemasonry supports this education. Just as the three Degrees of the Blue Lodge are progressive in their light, the chairs in the line build upon each other in their participation and responsibilities — each Degree, each chair, each lesson, a building block in the construction of that grand Masonic edifice we are all striving to erect.

More important still, than the structure, catechism and ritual of Freemasonry, are the Brothers who breathe the real life into our beloved institution. I am extremely grateful for the experienced Brothers who stand by Hillsborough Lodge through thick and thin. They were once inspired by their Masonic mentors, and now they show their commitment to the Craft by acting as mentors to the younger Brothers, passing on the knowledge they have gained. In Masonry, like in many other voluntary organizations, you get out of it what you put in.

As I travel my own path toward the light, I am continuously amazed and inspired by our beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. I look forward to spending time with each of you in Lodge where we can share in the joys of physical, spiritual and intellectual nourishment alike.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

*Kenneth R. Skillman*  
Junior Warden

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

It is indeed an honor and privilege for me to continue to serve you as the Secretary of this Lodge. I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me to take care of the business of this historic edifice. With the assistance of Worshipful Terry McLaughlin, we will endeavor to continue to provide the members with outstanding service.

As we enter into the first quarter of 2014, we will once again be very busy. Dues for 2014 will continue to come in, and several reports must be filed with the office of the Grand Secretary. Our newly elected Worshipful Master, Brother David Liniger, will also be relying on the Secretary to make sure that he has everything that he needs to make his year a success, and this will be done.

I do want to remind each Brother that your dues for 2014 are now due. You can always send a check to the Lodge, pay your dues in person, or as many Brothers are doing, pay with a debit or credit card on the Lodge website ([www.hillsborough25.org](http://www.hillsborough25.org)). It's easy, convenient, and we will issue your dues card and mail it to you. We have a lot of younger Master Masons in the Lodge, and I also encourage you to think about purchasing a Perpetual Membership which will actually save you money in the long run. A Perpetual Membership is twenty (20) times the annual dues. You have 5 years to pay it off, and that can be paid in installments. I will be more than happy to assist you with the paperwork, and the Lodge will benefit long after you have passed.















Please remember your Masonic Home when you pay your dues. The \$7.30 voluntary contribution helps support our Brothers and Sisters who are residents there. Remember, any one of us may need the Home later in life, so it could benefit you and your spouse as well.

*Continued on page 7*



# FEBRUARY

A.L. 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						 Chapter 11 1 p.m.
2	 3 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 EA 4 For Mr. Julian Weber  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	5 <b>District 22 SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION</b> John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL	 6 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	7 <b>MASONIC YOUTH PARK BOARD MEETING</b> Temple Terrace Lodge No. 330 • 7 p.m. 11807 N. 56th St. Temple Terrace, FL	8 <b>HIGH TWELVE LODGE NO. 317</b> Lunch at 11 a.m. Meeting at Noon
9 <b>MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING</b> 11 a.m. 3201 1st Street NE St. Pete, FL	 10 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 11 Stated Communication  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	12	 13 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	14 <b>Happy Valentines Day</b> 	 15 Chapter 11 1 p.m.
16  17 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 18 For Brothers who are prepared.  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	19	 20 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	21	22 <b>W.: George Washington's Birthday</b>	
23  24 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 25 Stated Communication  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	26	 27 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	28 <b>MASTERS &amp; WARDENS MEETING</b> Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL		

## NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

As we start the year, our Junior Warden, Ken Skillman, is excited about preparing the weekly meals for our Brethren and guests!

Thanks to the many Brothers who have offered to give a hand or cook a meal. There are now two firm commitments on the calendar:

April 8th – Bro. Drew Baldwin  
December 2nd – W.: Joe Gonzalez

To add your name to the list, please contact Ken at [kenneth.r.skillman@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.r.skillman@gmail.com) or (813) 952-4423.



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[jeremy.hall@morganstanley.com](mailto:jeremy.hall@morganstanley.com)

# 2014 OFFICERS



The Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 2014 Officers. Front row from left to right: Bro. Billy D. Schmidt, W.; Joseph A. Gonzalez, Bro. Clifford M. Allen, W.; David S. Liniger, Bro. Kenneth R. Skillman, R.; H.; Thomas C. Newton and Bro. John A. "Drew" Baldwin. Back row from left to right: Bro. Donald R. Valverde, Bro. Michael St. James, Bro. Joshua Sussman, Bro. Jose Coll, Bro. Robert J. "Joey" Davis Jr. and Bro. Christopher Hutchinson.

## MASONIC EDUCATION

### We Are Builders

We are all agreed that Freemasonry is a splendid Fraternity; that it is steeped in tradition; that it numbers many great men of the past and present as its Members; that it has a beautiful ritual; and that it is, indeed, a great honor to be a Freemason.


However, in the final analysis the future of Freemasonry depends not on these things but on the influence it exerts in the life of each one of us. If society is to be successful and everlasting, it must live and breathe the principles on which it is founded. It must be workable, and this means that the individual Members must live in the spirit of real Brotherhood, we must be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer only.

To assume obligations of friendship, morality, and brotherly love; to reaffirm love for the dependence on an Eternal Father, are but empty words lost forever in the restless air if they are not practiced in our daily life. In this sense, we as present-day Masons could very well classify ourselves as Operative Masons.

◀

Our Lodge is not just a room. It is not merely a place in which to enjoy fraternal fellowship. It is not an organization which replaces the Church. It is not the means of promoting ones self in business. What our Lodge really is, is a group of men, a group of Brothers, who have dedicated themselves to a common task, and that is to build. A Freemason is a builder; a builder of character; a builder of a better community; a better nation; a better world in which to live; a builder of an Eternal Temple for the indwelling of God.

Such should be the real meaning of Freemasonry to each of us. If not, we should re-dedicate our lives right now to those principles of Freemasonry to which we have obligated ourselves to accept, to learn, to keep and to exemplify.

We are brought to Light in order that we may let our Light so shine before our fellowmen, that they may see our good works and join us in glorifying The Great Architect of the Universe. 

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

# 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*

Come to Lodge — renew old acquaintances and make new ones as well. If you haven't been to Lodge in some time, come down, and see what you are missing. Remember that the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays are Degree nights and the 2nd and 4th are business meetings. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and Lodge opens at 7:15. Try to find one night to come down meet new Brothers who are working hard to make Hillsborough Lodge the finest Lodge not only in the state of Florida, but in the whole United States. We get lots of visitors from other countries who have heard of our Lodge, and they are always impressed when they come to visit.

One last item: If you move to a new address, please notify the Lodge of your change of address, and give us a phone number. We do need to contact Brothers from time to time, often to let them know that we have an award for them. We have quite a few Certificates of Membership for 25, 40, and more years of service that we would like to present, but we can't get in touch with you. We will once again try to contact Brothers who are due membership awards, to come to the Family Night on April 29th. I will be sending out letters to those Brothers, and we hope to see you and your family at that meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Thomas C. Newton*

Thomas C. Newton, PM, PDI

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

# ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



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

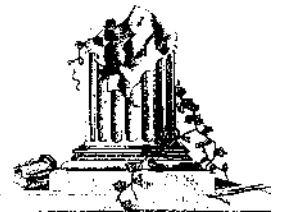
For our Members: If you would like to attend a meeting, but need a ride, please call the Secretary — rides can be arranged. And don't forget, we have a working elevator.

*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

*Our Brother Robert Venner passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on December 25, 2013. 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 Widow's Certificate.*



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## 2014 LODGE OFFICERS

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



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## Remember Your Masonic Charities During The New Year...



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 So Please Give Generously!**