

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

JULY A.L. 2014

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT:

R.: W.: JOSEPH GONZALEZ, D.D.G.M

R.: W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez was installed as the District Deputy Grand Master of the 22nd Masonic District by M.: W.: James W. Ford, Grand Master of Masons of Florida on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at the close of the 185th Grand Communication. R.: W.: Gonzalez was initiated in Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, March 3, 2008, his petition being signed by R.: W.: John D. Hooker and Brother Tom Granahan.

He was Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on May 20, 2008, and Raised to Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 3, 2008. Immediately thereafter, he earned his Silver Proficiency Card and began instructing, during which time he was appointed the Senior Steward for 2009. He continued his Masonic education by earning his Blue Card in 2010, as the Junior Deacon, and followed the line through Senior Deacon and Senior Warden. He served as the Master of Hillsborough Lodge in 2012. His dedication to his Lodge continues today as the elected Treasurer for a second term.

R.: W.: Gonzalez has served the Grand Lodge of Florida as Chairman of the Grand Masters Charity in 2010, the Chairman of Masonic Youth Coins in 2011, Zone 6 Chairman of Masonic Leadership Training in 2012, and is currently serving a second term as a Committee



Right Worshipful Joseph A. Gonzalez, D.D.G.M. is a Past Master from 2012 and the current Treasurer of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F. & A.M.

Continued on page 7

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



Greeting Brothers,

Happy 4th of July to all! Our fraternity is one of the most patriotic organizations in America. We have the proud distinction of having the most important men in American history as members of our Fraternity. When anyone thinks of Independence Day, they certainly think of our Brother George Washington, first President of these United States. It is truly humbling to be in the same Fraternity as the founders of our country and such distinguished patriots.

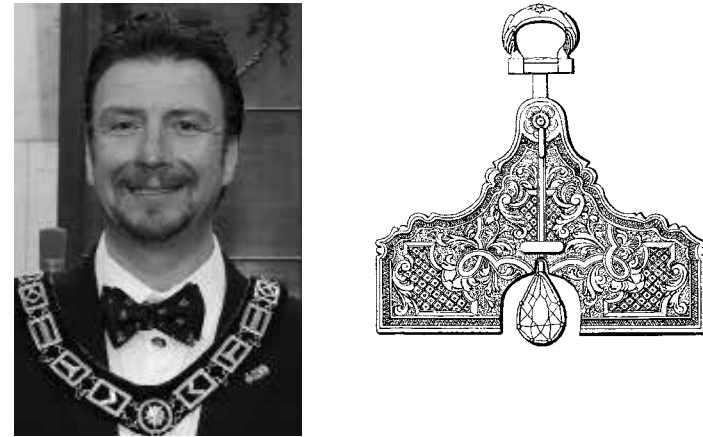
If you were unable to attend the Stated Communication on June 10th, you missed the Senior Wardens review of Grand Lodge resolutions that were adopted. Please take a moment to contact the Lodge Secretary and familiarize yourself with these changes, specifically the election of Officers, Chapter 24, Digest of Masonic Law of Florida. This resolution changes what discussions may be allowed prior to the election of 2015 Officers. All Brothers need to be aware of these new rules.

There are about 5 months left in the year, since we are dark in August, and there is much left to accomplish. I encourage you to email me at davidliniger@gmail.com with any suggestions you may have to improve our Lodge. This is your Lodge, and as such, you have a stake in its future direction. We still need silver card holders to teach catechism and welcome all willing to step up, as well as volunteers in any capacity. Thanks for all who serve Hillsborough 25 and our Fraternity at large.

Peace Brothers,

David S. Liniger
Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

Where has this year gone? Our building, the cornerstone of the City of Tampa, is looking more beautiful than ever. Much of the work in and around the building is almost complete and it is always a welcome to see Brothers that visit our Lodge. You are missed when you are not here. We all bring different solutions and share life experiences, and this is what makes us Brothers. The Degree Work is noticeably improving and it is a pleasure to see so many young Brothers taking an active part in their Lodge.

This month, Royal Maid Service will begin cleaning our Lodge. They will be providing two people to clean our building each week, and keep it in pristine condition.

There has been an increase in attendance, and I want to welcome all Brothers to come and be a part of the best Masonic Lodge in the State, if not the country. We have many great qualities to contribute to the community and to each other. Many times, it is the experience of our learned Brother's and Past Masters that help make us younger Brothers better Masons. The next Building and Finance Meeting will be July 17, 2014, 6:00 pm in the Past Masters Conference Room.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our beloved and time honored institution.

Sincerely & Respectfully,

Clifford M. Allen
Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings My Brothers,

As many of you know, my father and Brother John Skillman, a member of this Lodge, passed away on June 10th after a long and courageous battle with prostate cancer. My dad is not the only great personal loss I have suffered. I lost my very best friend in this world, along with his wife and son in a tragic plane crash when they were all too young. These events, which visit every life, have given me pause for thought.

Naturally, I realize that these events are not unique. We each come into this life and must inevitably pass out of it towards "that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns." My message this month is simple: Love the ones you're with, while you have the opportunity.

One of the most wonderful aspects of Freemasonry is its ability to unite men of diverse background and character. I have commented many times that each time I make the effort to get to know a stranger, how pleasantly surprised I am to hear their story and get to know them as a fellow human being. Even within the hallowed halls of Masonry there is occasional discord, and I dare say, most of it stems from ignorance. Honestly, there are folks who I thought I'd never get along with, and they have become close and lifelong friends.

So please take the time to love your Brother. Set aside that extra few minutes to let him know how much you really appreciate and love him. We all at one point or another are on the giving or the receiving side of this equation, and it is only our egos that prevent us from being the givers.

"Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit."

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Kenneth R. Skillman
Junior Warden

SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

There are still a few brothers who have not paid their 2014 dues. You can pay them online by going to the Lodge web site at www.Hillsborough25.org. Click on the link to pay dues, submit your credit card, and we'll send your dues card as soon as the computer notifies us of your payment.

Please remember your Masonic Home when paying your dues. The \$7.30 contribution helps support our Brothers and Sisters who are residents there. Remember, you may need the home later in life, so it will help you as well.
















We have lost two Brothers within the month of June. Brother Alfred Austin and Brother John Skillman, father of our Junior Warden, Brother Kenneth Skillman. Brother Austin was initiated in 1952, and had just received his 60 year service award in March of 2014. Brother Skillman affiliated with Hillsborough Lodge in June of 2009 and was a 50 year member of the Craft. Both Brothers will be deeply missed by all the Brethren, but are now sitting with the Grand Geometrician in that Celestial Lodge above.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas C. Newton
Secretary, PM, PDI

Secretary, PM, PDI

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		 <p>1 Degree Night For Candidate / Brothers who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Degree 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>2 District 22 SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL</p>	 <p>3 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p>	 <p>5 Chapter 11 1 p.m.</p>
<p>6</p>	 <p>7 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>8 Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	 <p>10 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11 MASONIC PARK YOUTH CAMP Board Meeting Opens at 7pm Meeting Location TBA</p>	<p>12 HIGH TWELVE LODGE NO. 317 Lunch at 11 a.m. Meeting at Noon</p>
<p>13</p>	 <p>14 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>15 Degree Night For Candidates / Brothers who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Degree 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	 <p>17 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m. FINANCE & PROPERTY Meeting at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	 <p>19 Chapter 11 1 p.m.</p>
<p>20 MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING 11 a.m. 3201 1st Street NE St. Pete, FL</p>	 <p>21 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>22 Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	 <p>24 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25 MASTERS & WARDENS MEETING Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL</p>	<p>26 Sporting Clay Shoot FishHawk Masters & Wardens Fundraiser 8:30am to 1pm Reserv: (813) 787-4150</p>
<p>27</p>	 <p>28 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>29 FAMILY NIGHT! Family Dinner 6:30 p.m. Lodge Presentations 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

KITCHEN NEWS



Tuesday, September 2nd, 2014

Don't miss the Fellowship and a seven course, 5-star meal prepared by W.: Walter Schoepf and Brother Karlo Degiacomi. Included in the program are several toasts, responses and attendance by Most Worshipful James W. Ford Grand Master of Masons of Florida.

Make your reservation online at www.hillsborough25.org/table_lodge.html

Jonas C. Roel
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Morgan Stanley

MASONIC EDUCATION

For the Good of the Order

During the American Civil War a young Captain in the army of the South was taken prisoner and brought up the Mississippi to Rock Island. The climate was severe on the southern men, proof of which can be found in the files of the War Department. The young Captain fell desperately ill. He made himself known as a Mason to an officer of the prison. The officer took him out of the prison to his home, and nursed him back to life. When the War ended he put money in his pocket and gave him a little pistol to protect himself on his way back to his southern home. That young Captain was my father! So, as far back as I can remember, I have had a great admiration for a Fraternity whose spirit could soften the horrors of battle and mitigate the lot of a prisoner of war.

Since those far off years of Great War, no man can pass through such an ordeal and be the same man as before. Something in me was buried with the boys I buried in Flanders - five hundred and twenty-seven of them in one day. All bitterness, bigotry and all ill-will if I ever had any toward any race or creed, lie dead and buried with the War. Never have I had a deeper pity for my race, a greater love for my country, or a firmer faith that Freemasonry can do something for the re-building of the broken brotherhood of the world that nothing else can do.

The three basic principles of Freemasonry, Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth, are that of doing good and spreading light in the spirit of good will. Our Fraternity strives for two things: first, to bring Freemasonry together in cooperative fellowship and service in times of need and calamity; and second, to educate Masons in Masonry that the gentle, kindly light which shines on our Altar may find its way through our lives and through our Lodges into the world of partisan strife and sectarian feud where it is needed. What we want is a service that educates and an education that serves humanity.

The whole principle of Freemasonry is "the Brotherhood of Man begins with the Manhood of the Brother." It seeks to build men, making them Brothers and Builders. Any other kind of brotherhood is weak, if not futile, either a flabby sentimentalism or a calculating selfishness. Our Masonry is made up of strong men, picked men - they cannot be picked too carefully - sworn and trained to make righteousness and good will prevail. By that fact, a great responsibility rests upon us, which we cannot escape even if we desired to do so. Whatever needs to be done in a community, the Masons ought to be the leaders in doing it because we are Builders. Every Masonic Lodge ought to be a social and civic center, where designs are drawn upon the Trestleboard for the common good, regardless of sect or party.

Frankly, my first thought is not of the men who are already Masonic students, but the throngs of young men who are crowding into our Temples all over the land. We welcome their youth, their energy, their enthusiasm; but we want them to be Masons, not merely members. We want them to know something about Masonry, not only its ritual, but what the ritual means, and what Masonry can do and ought to do in the World. Otherwise, as is so often the case, they will drift away and become "Bread and Butter Masons," only attending "The Big Meets and the Big Eats," using the Masonic Apron for a napkin.

Perhaps it is not altogether their fault - the Lodge that simply makes Masons, and does not teach Masonry, does only half its work. If we do not know Masonry ourselves, if we do not know how to teach it to our young initiates, if our Lodges become simply mills grinding out Degrees; our Freemasonry will sink to the level of a club - useful as such but in no way unique - losing its original purpose and power, and its great opportunity in our own day.

Masonic research, as I understand it, means to search again for something we may have forgotten or overlooked. There are treasures of truth in Freemasonry, and sources of power we have not yet dreamed of, much less used. We need to know the past of Masonry in order to keep us true to its spirit, its purpose and its methods. We must also research into the present meaning, power, and application of Freemasonry, the better to know what our great order of Builders ought to do and can do for the making of a greater and better America. The philanthropies of the Craft are munificent and its opportunities are magnificent!

Here is our challenge and our opportunity, lest our Temple of Liberty and Fraternity be injured or destroyed before it is completed and dedicated - for it is not yet complete. Racial rancor is a thing slithered with blood and the mother of feuds and wars. Religious bigotry and hatred is one of the most horrible things in history. As for lawlessness, it strikes at the Altar of liberty, undermines all our institutions, and opens the floodgates of anarchy. These Ruffians, if they have their way, will wreck Freemasonry, as they came near doing long ago, and they will ruin America.

Freemasonry, by virtue of its spirit and its teachings, can do for America what no other Fraternity can do. Without entering into political debates or sectarian disputes, as in the past so in the future, let us build upon the foundations laid by our fathers, and make America what its poets and prophets have dreamed it should be. **TM**

Source: Masoniceducation.com, written in 1923 by Joseph Fort Newton.

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT

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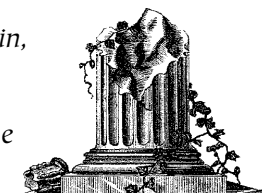
Member of the Juris Prudence Sub-Committee for Foreign Relations. R. W. Gonzalez is proud to be commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, and his Masonic affiliations include election as the Chancellor of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Tampa in 2014, and a Noble of the Egypt Temple Shrine in 2011.

R. W. Gonzalez graduated from Jesuit High School in Tampa, 1991, and later from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing, 1998. He is currently the owner and operator of Lucid Logo, LLC, a full service marketing and consulting business in Tampa, specializing in business development, website design and digital & print media.

R. W. Gonzalez is happily married to his best friend and partner, Desiree Gonzalez. After eight years of dating, they were married January 23, 1999. Together, they are the very proud parents of Joseph, age 13, and Catalina, age 9, both of which are dedicated students, brown belts in Tae Kwan Do, and play competitive soccer in Tampa. While their schedules demand much of their individual time, they try to always find time for breakfast and dinner together, or to enjoy a day at the beach.

When asked for comment on his recent appointment, R. W. Gonzalez offered this: "It's amazing to me the level of work, passion and sacrifice that M. W. Ford has given to Freemasonry, and the incredible responsibility that now rests upon on his shoulders. I'm honored and humbled that he appointed me to support him and the Fraternity. I will represent him as best as I can, and use the valuable lessons I've learned from so many Brothers that I admire and have depended upon for advice over the years. I owe a debt of gratitude to W. Mclaughlin, of which I am certain I will never be able to repay. He taught me to depend on our Fraternal Brotherhood, when even in disagreement, we continue to love and respect each other as men and Brothers. He also taught me a very important lesson, that I should always stand up for the Fraternity, no matter the circumstance. At the conclusion of this year, I hope the Grand Master, my family and my Brothers will be proud of my efforts." **TM**

Bro. John Skillman & Bro. Alfred Austin, members of Hillsborough Lodge, have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above. Please keep our Junior Warden and the Family in your thoughts and prayers.



MASONIC TRAVELS



W. M. David Liniger welcomes to our Lodge Bro. David Butler, from Harmony Lodge No. 555, Cork, Ireland, for the Stated Meeting on April 8, 2014. Bro. Butler is currently the Provincial Grand Librarian Archivist for The Grand Lodge of Ireland.



The Grand Lodge of Scotland, taken on location by our own W. Steven Silvers, Past Master Hillsborough Lodge, 2013.

O.E.S. CHAPTER II



Meets at Hillsborough Lodge

We will be dark for the months of July and August
Hope Everyone has a Great Summer!

Our first meeting will be Saturday,
September 6th, 2014 at 1pm

Hope to see you there.

Sandra Johnson, PM, Secretary
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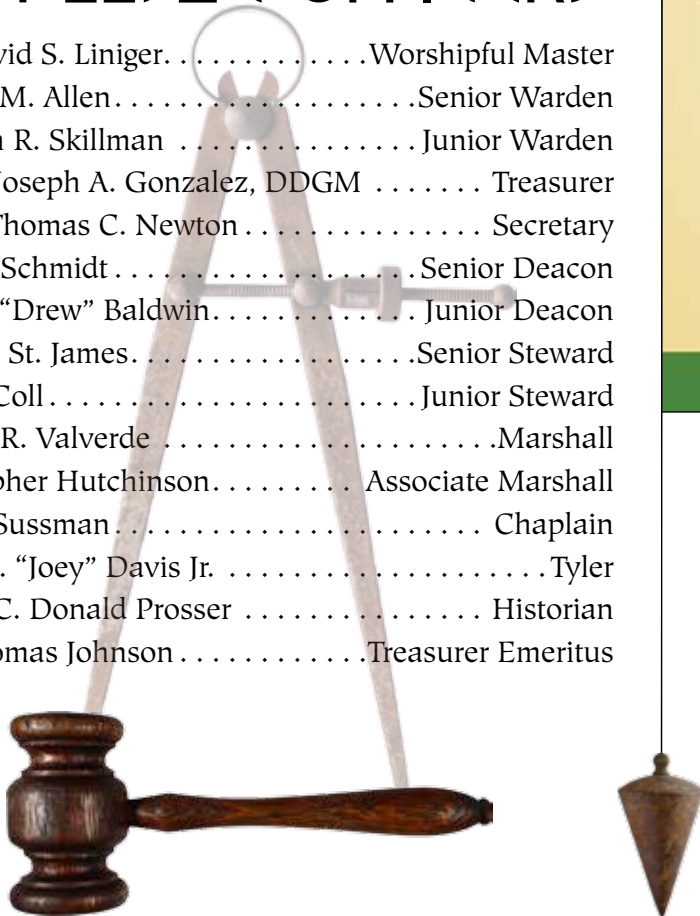
HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 FBAM
 508 EAST KENNEDY BOULEVARD
 TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602-4909

PHONE: (813) 229-2305
 FAX: (813) 228-7623
 E-MAIL: HILLS25@VERIZON.NET
 WWW.HILLSBOROUGH25.ORG

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2014 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: David S. Liniger. Worshipful Master
 Clifford M. Allen. Senior Warden
 Kenneth R. Skillman Junior Warden
 R.:W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez, DDGM 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
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 President

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 News and Announcements**



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 and follow the links!**