

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

FEBRUARY A.L. 2015

THE PRESIDENCY OF OUR BROTHER W.: GEORGE WASHINGTON, PM

In 1787, Brother Washington was again called to the duty of his country. Following independence, our young republic struggled under the Articles of Confederation. But the states were not unified. They fought among themselves over boundaries and navigation rights and refused to contribute to paying off the nation's war debt. In some instances, state legislatures imposed tyrannical tax policies on their own citizens.

Washington was intensely dismayed at the state of affairs, but only slowly came to the realization that something should be done about it. Perhaps he wasn't sure the time was right so soon after the Revolution to be making major adjustments to the democratic experiment. Or perhaps because he hoped he would not be called upon to serve, he remained noncommittal. However, when Shays's rebellion erupted in Massachusetts, Washington knew something needed to be done to improve the nation's government. In 1786, Congress approved a convention to be held in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation.

At the Constitution Convention, Washington was unanimously chosen as president. With others,

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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



Brothers All,

Thanks to all for attending and participating in the 2015 installation of Officers. It is truly a day that I will never forget. Thank you to all the Officers for your commitment and service, I greatly appreciate what you do for our Lodge. Your zeal and commitment will continue to make Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 the Top Hat Lodge in Florida, and a beacon of light for all to look for inspiration.

We have many good men who are in the pipeline to become Master Masons and I congratulate them on their quest. It is very impressive to have a good turn out on Degree night, as support is an important part of the whole process. As I have alluded to in past articles, we need your help in "making good men better." Your presence and assistance is needed in the Lodge. If you need a ride to or from the Lodge, please contact us and we will make the necessary arrangements.

The Worshipful Master's Project this year is to promote the interaction among the Brethren. First, we now have an antique pool table upstairs that matches the décor of our Lodge perfectly. Second, we will have Brotherhood development days once a quarter. We will take one item from our lengthy Avil list and work on our Lodge together as a group. The list includes painting, general maintenance, cleaning, polishing, etc. Finally, I intend to replace the wardrobe used in sections of the Master Mason Degree. Hillsborough is the best Lodge in the State and we have many members. We need your help.

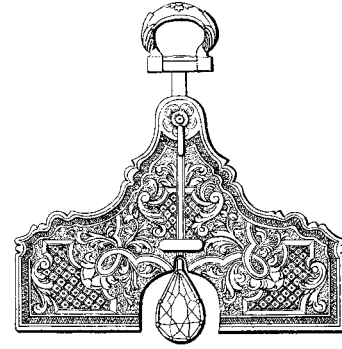
I am available any time to address your concerns. I only ask that you bring two solutions to the table. My contact number is (813) 952 4423, email cliff.allen@mail.com.

Fraternally,

Clifford M. Allen

Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



Greetings, Brothers!

We are now into full swing with 2015, and it is shaping up to be a great year! I have completed my audit of the Lodge finances, and found nothing out of order. The Finance and Property Committees have met for the first time, and we have hit the ground running.

At long last, the repointing of the north wall will be completed this quarter. We will also be undertaking projects to improve the drainage and seals around the windows in our commercial rental spaces, as well as restoring the stained glass window construction above the Lodge main stairwell. Improvements to the kitchen are also planned.

There are plenty of opportunities to do simple things to improve our Lodge, such as painting the prep room and other minor repairs. I will be scheduling a few work days throughout the year, so please let me know if you are interested in helping out. I can always be reached at kenneth.r.skillman@gmail.com or (813) 545-2446.

Finally, take a moment to think about what Masonry, and more especially, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 mean to you. If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come on down and see what's new. If you attend Lodge regularly, take a look around at what others are doing, and ask if you can help with catechism instruction, ritual practice, meal preparation, or with any of the other activities that keep our Lodge running. This is our Lodge, and we will get out what we put in. Thanks, in advance, for your participation!

"My brain is the key that sets my mind free."

—Bro. Ehrich Weiss (Harry Houdini)

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Kenneth R. Skillman

Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings Brothers,

We need more catechism instructors. We have a very small number of instructors right now. We will have a good number of Entered Apprentices this year and they will need an instructor. If you have a silver card, I urge you to put it to good use by teaching catechism. If you don't have a silver card, I encourage you to earn one so that you can become a catechism instructor and assist our Lodge.

In January, we raised several Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. If you are a newly raised Brother Master Mason, now is the best time to earn your silver card while your catechism is still fresh. Teaching a class was one of the most rewarding things that I've done. It's a remarkable feeling to see your students and Brothers go from Entered Apprentices to the Apron Presentation. The friendships and bonds that my students and I formed will last a lifetime. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a catechism instructor.

You can assist our Lodge in earning Masonic Education points by logging your attendance at Masonic events on our website. Simply go to www.hillsborough25.org, find "Brothers" in the top navigation bar and then click on the "My Masonic Attendance" link. Once you're on the Attendance Submission Page, enter the event that you've attended, complete the remaining information, and submit it. This will help tremendously by letting us know what events you've attended so that our Lodge can earn Masonic Education points.

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come join us for dinner and great Fellowship!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Drew Baldwin

Junior Warden

SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

The Secretary's office is here to serve you and I will strive to improve the function of the office throughout the year. We are upgrading the computer system to make things work more efficiently and allow us to reduce the amount of paper that we use. Some things will continue to require paper copies, and letters will still be sent out to Brothers announcing awards and special events and Degrees.

We suspended 48 brothers this year for nonpayment of dues and we had 4 deaths reported to the Lodge. While we remain the largest Lodge in the State of Florida, our numbers are still going down and we may lose that very distinction in the near future. We have had an influx of petitions and will be very busy with Entered Apprentice Degrees in the next several months. We will have raised nine Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in January. Help by supporting our DeMolay boys, as they are the future of the Lodge and Masonry as a whole.

The 2015 officers are already hard at work learning new parts and expanding their knowledge of the ritual to learn new stations in the Degrees. As a result, we are in need of instructors for the three Degrees. If you have a silver card or want to earn one, please come to Lodge on Thursday nights and assist us with instruction of new Brothers. Our own W.: Mike Fletcher is here to improve your proficiency in the catechisms and get you ready to teach a class.

Know a man who you feel would make a good Mason? Approach him and ask him if he is interested. Petitions are available on the web at www.hillsborough25.org, or you can pick one up at the Lodge. Please PRINT your name on the line provided for recommendations next to your signature. If you change your address or know a Brother who is ill, or has passed to the Celestial Lodge Above, please let us know. You can always contact the Lodge Secretary's office by phone at (813) 229-2305, or via email at secretary@hillsborough25.org.

Continued on page 7

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	3  EA Degree Night For Candidates & Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	4 District 22 EA School of Instruction John Darling Lodge • 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	5  Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	6	7  Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.
8	9  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	10  Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	11	12  Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	13	14 HIGH TWELVE LODGE NO. 317 Lodge Meeting at Noon
15	16  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	17  FC Degree Night For Candidates & Brothers prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	18	19  Masonic Catechism 6:30 p.m. Finance & Property PM Room 6:30pm	20	21  Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.
22 MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING 11 a.m. 3201 1st St. NE St. Pete, FL	23  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	24  Stated Communication Special Masonic Presentation Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	25	26  Masonic Education & Catechism 6:30 p.m.	27 Masters & Wardens Meeting Fellowship Lodge No. 265 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave, Tpa, FL.	28
<p>MORE MASONIC EVENTS</p> <p>View more Masonic events and updated information on the Lodge web site: www.hillsborough25.org, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter, links available on the web site.</p>  						

Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 and High Twelve Lodge No. 317 will host R.:W.: Stan Hudson, Senior Grand Warden, for a Mergers and Consolidations Town Hall meeting on

**Saturday, March 14, 2015
9am to 11am
at Hillsborough Lodge**

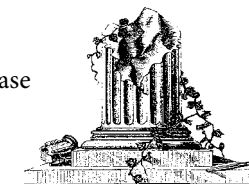
The topic of the meeting will be the current condition of Lodges within the State, and the necessary procedures and steps to be taken when particular Lodges consider a Merger or Consolidation with another Lodge.

Stay after the Town Hall Meeting and attend the Official Visit of the DDGM at the High Twelve Stated Meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS!

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anthony M. Shortt | Joshua A. Sussman |
| Byron E. Townsend | Kenneth G. Robbins |
| Charles E. Peterman II | Kevin M. Kilbourne |
| Cory M. Tidwell | Louis V. Torres |
| Daniel S. Fisher | Manuel Gonzalez |
| Derek D. Hopkins | Matthew C. Lucas |
| Forrest G. Klinger | Milton P. Zamore |
| Gerald F. Hussey | Randall T. Leavitt |
| Giovanny F. Sekulits | Reese C. Letcher |
| Haynes T. Hendry | Richard J. Schwartz |
| Henderson R. McArthur | Richard L. Harrell |
| Horton E. Gafford | Robert H. Beebe |
| Jack H. Jones | Robert J. Davis Jr |
| James V. Crawford II | Rodney K. Taucher |
| Jamey H. Neely | Rodney W. Kohler |
| John R. Grimaldi | S M Richards |
| John L. Rutland | Shawn R. Gilbert |
| John L. Vath | Thomas F. Granaham |
| Jorge A. Santamaria | Todd W. Ousley |
| Joseph J. Zevchak | William B. Smith |
| Joseph M. Wilkinson | William R. Macgillivray |
| Joseph V. Osman | |

If you hear of a Brother who has passed to that Celestial Lodge Above, please inform the Lodge Secretary so the Lodge can give proper condolence and assistance to his Widow.



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MASONIC EDUCATION

“Wor. George Washington” continued from page 1

namely James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, Brother Washington had come to the conclusion that it wasn't amendments that were needed, but a new constitution that would give the national government more authority. He spoke but once during the proceedings, but he lobbied hard with his fellow delegates in the afterhours for major changes in the structure of government.

The Convention produced a plan for government that not only would address the country's current problems, but would endure through time. After the convention adjourned, Washington's reputation and support for the new government were indispensable to the Constitution's ratification. Opposition was strident, if not organized, with many of America's leading political figures condemning the proposed government as a grab for power. Even in Washington's native Virginia, the Constitution was ratified by only one vote.

During the presidential election of 1789, he received a vote from every elector to the Electoral College, the only president in American history to be elected by unanimous approval. He took the oath of office at Federal Hall in New York City, the capital of the United States at the time.

As the first president, Washington was astutely aware that his presidency would set a precedent for all that would follow. He carefully attended to the responsibilities and duties of his office, remaining vigilante to not emulate any European royal court. To that end, he preferred the title “Mr. President,” instead of more imposing names that were suggested. At first he declined the \$25,000 salary Congress offered the office of the presidency, for he was already wealthy and wanted to protect his image as a selfless public servant. However, Congress persuaded him to accept the compensation to avoid giving the impression that only wealthy men could serve as president.

George Washington proved to be an able administrator. He surrounded himself with some of the most capable people, appointing Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury and Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State. He delegated authority wisely and consulted regularly with his cabinet, and listening to their advice before making a decision. Washington established broad-ranging presidential authority, but always with the highest integrity, exercising power with restraint and honesty. In doing so, he set a standard rarely met by his successors.

During his first term, Washington adopted measures proposed by Treasury Secretary Hamilton to reduce the nation's debt and place its finances on sound footing. He established several peace treaties with Native American tribes and approved a bill establishing the nation's capital in a permanent district along the Potomac River.

In 1791, Washington signed a bill authorizing Congress to place a tax on distilled spirits, which stirred protests in rural areas of Pennsylvania. Quickly, the protests turned into a full-scale defiance of federal law known as the Whiskey Rebellion. Washington invoked the Militia Act of 1792, summoning local militias from several states to put down the rebellion. Washington personally took command, marching the troops into the areas of rebellion and demonstrating that the federal government would use force, when necessary, to enforce the law.

In foreign affairs, Washington took a cautious approach, realizing that the weak, young nation could not succumb to Europe's political intrigues. In 1793, France and Great Britain were once again at war. At the urging of Alexander Hamilton, Washington disregarded the U.S. alliance with France and pursued a course of neutrality. In 1794, he sent John Jay to Britain to negotiate a treaty (known as the “Jay Treaty”) to secure a peace with Britain and clear up some issues held over from the Revolutionary War.

Washington was able to mobilize public support for the treaty, which proved decisive in securing ratification in the Senate. Though controversial, the treaty proved beneficial to the United States by removing British forts along the western frontier, establishing a clear boundary between Canada and the United States, and most importantly, delaying a war with Britain and providing over a decade of prosperous trade and development.

During his two terms as president, Washington was dismayed at the growing partisanship within the nation and the government. Power bestowed on the federal government by the Constitution made for important decisions, and people joined together to influence those decisions. The formation of political parties at first were influenced more by personality than by issues. Despising political partisanship, Washington believed that ideological differences should never become institutionalized. He strongly felt that political leaders should be free to debate important issues without being bound by party loyalty. However, Washington could do little to slow development of political parties. The ideals promoted by Hamilton and Jefferson produced a two-party system that proved to be remarkably durable.

Ever mindful that his presidency would set the precedent for those to follow, he was careful to avoid the trappings of a monarchy. At public ceremonies, he did not appear in a military uniform or the monarchical robes. Instead, he dressed in a black velvet suit and powdered hair, as was the common custom. His reserved manner was more due to inherent reticence than any excessive sense of dignity.

Desiring to return to Mount Vernon and his farming, and feeling the decline of his physical powers with age,

Continued on page 7

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, Executive Office of DeMolay
813-835-1793

“From the Secretary” continued from page 3

If there is no one there, please leave a message, we will get back to you.

Dues notices have been sent out, so get your 2015 dues in as soon as possible so we can get your 2015 dues card out to you. Please remember your Masonic Home when you send in payment of your dues.

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 the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays are Degree nights, the 2nd & 4th are business meetings. Dinner is at 6:30, Lodge opens at 7:15. Try to find one night to come down and meet new Brothers who are working hard to make Hillsborough Lodge the finest Lodge not only in Florida, but in the United States.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas C. Newton

Secretary, PM, PDI

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

O.E.S. CHAPTER II



Tampa Chapter No. 11 wishes to congratulate all the newly installed Officer of Hillsborough Lodge!

If you need a ride, please contact the Secretary and we will make the necessary arrangements to get you to a meeting. And don't forget, we have a working elevator.

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

“Wor. George Washington” continued from page 6

Washington refused to yield to the pressures to serve a third term, even though he would probably not have faced any opposition. By doing this, he was again mindful of the precedent of being the “first president,” and chose to establish a peaceful transition of government.

In the last months of his presidency, Washington felt he needed to give his country one last measure of himself. With the help of Alexander Hamilton, he composed his Farewell Address to the American people, which urged his fellow citizens to cherish the Union, avoid partisanship and permanent foreign alliances.

In March 1797, he turned over the government to John Adams and returned to Mount Vernon, determined to live his last years as a simple gentleman farmer. His last official act was to pardon the participants in the Whiskey Rebellion.

Upon returning to Mount Vernon in the spring of 1797, Washington felt a reflective sense of accomplishment and relief. He had left the government in capable hands, at peace, its debts well-managed, and set on a course of prosperity.

Source: Bio, and A&E Television Network, LLC.



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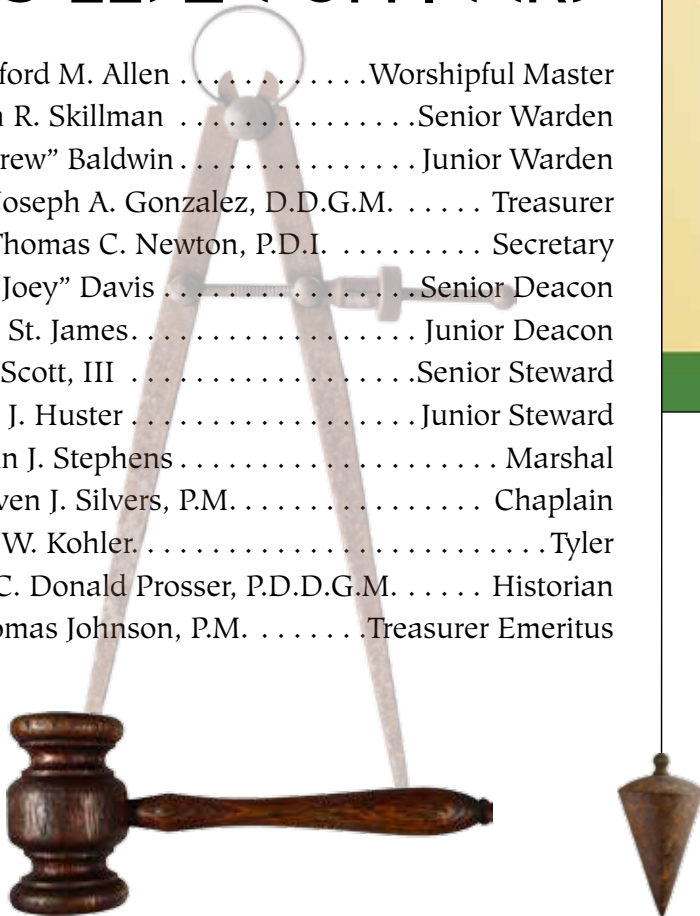
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 WWW.HILLSBOROUGH25.ORG

Address Service Requested

2015 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: Clifford M. Allen Worshipful Master
 Kenneth R. Skillman Senior Warden
 John "Drew" Baldwin Junior Warden
 R.:W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez, D.D.G.M. Treasurer
 R.:H.: Thomas C. Newton, P.D.I. Secretary
 Robert "Joey" Davis Senior Deacon
 Michael St. James Junior Deacon
 Billy D. Scott, III Senior Steward
 Michael J. Huster Junior Steward
 Benjamin J. Stephens Marshal
 W.: Steven J. Silvers, P.M. Chaplain
 Rodney W. Kohler Tyler
 R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser, P.D.D.G.M. Historian
 W.: Thomas Johnson, P.M. Treasurer Emeritus



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