

TRESTLE BOARD

SEPT | OCT A.L. 2020

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: R.:W.: STEVEN R. FORTIER, DDGM

R.:W.: Steven Fortier was initiated an Entered Apprentice August 1, 2011 in Port Tampa Lodge No. 153. He was Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on September 27th, 2011 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 25th, 2011.

R.:W.: Fortier was appointed Senior Deacon of his Lodge in 2012 and elected Junior Warden in 2013. He was then elected Senior Warden in 2014, Worshipful Master in 2015 and 2016, and served as Secretary from 2017 until 2019.

Port Tampa Lodge No. 153 consolidated with Fellowship Lodge No. 265 and was consecrated as PTF United Lodge No. 153 on January 19th, 2019. R.:W.: Fortier is now the Marshal for PTF United Lodge No. 153.

R.:W.: Fortier is a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa as a 32° Mason and the Tampa York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery. He is also a Noble of the Egypt Temple Shriners.


He also served District 19 as our District Instructor in 2018 and 2019.

R.:W.: Fortier served his community as a firefighter for the City of Tampa Fire Rescue for 28 years, retiring in 2015 at the rank of Fire Captain. He also in 2001 started a full time/part time career as an educator with the School District of Hillsborough County



in the career/technical field. His field experience as a Firefighter/Paramedic enabled him to continue his passion and teach the Emergency Medical Technician program at Aparicio-Levy Technical College in Tampa.

R.:W.: Fortier has been married to his wife Bonnie for 32 years and has a beautiful daughter, Danielle, 27 and a handsome son, Rious, 22.

R.:W.: Fortier was installed as the District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th Masonic District by Most Worshipful Thomas L. Turlington on May 28, 2019 without the fanfare of the Annual Grand Communication due to the pandemic. His Official Visit to our Lodge was August 25th, 2020. 

DOWNTOWN, TAMPA | SINCE 1850

Visit our Online Calendar at hillsborough25.org for upcoming events.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER



My Brothers,

We are now past the half way point this year. I'm sure most of us can't wait to see 2020 go away, and I don't blame you. As I have mentioned in my last few articles, if you are in need of any assistance during these trying times, do not hesitate to reach out.

As you have likely already heard, our Table Lodge event that we typically hold in September has been postponed indefinitely. I assure you I did not make this decision lightly, as I looked forward to the event very much myself. Due to capacity restrictions and the stage of the pandemic that we are currently in, any event that we could hold would have been a far cry from our custom. It is my hope that we may be able to look at holding the event toward the end of this year, hopefully without as many restrictions. Keep an eye out for more information later in the Fall.

None the less, we are still fairly busy as a Lodge. We are holding one or two degrees, meetings, and our speaker's series each month. If you are willing and able, I implore you to visit YOUR Lodge. If you have the time, we would love for you to find ways to be active in some way too. Enhanced safety precautions are still in effect and we certainly understand, and encourage, those who shouldn't come out to remain safe at home or take extreme caution.

SENIOR WARDEN



Greetings My Brothers,

I hope this Trestle Board finds you and your families in good health. The Lodge has been quite active since reopening back in June. We have put on several degrees. Congratulations to all Brothers that have taken their initial steps in Freemasonry as becoming EA's,

continuing work as achieving Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. We will continue to have degrees throughout the remainder of the year, so I encourage all Brothers to come out and support these Brothers and partake in degree work. The Lodge is always in need of assistance, whether it be catechism instruction, degree work, assisting with investigations, or a number of other committees that may need your help. Please let an officer know if you can assist.

The Lodge has been running smoothly, with the normal maintenance being performed on the AC, elevator, and pest control. We are also planning on finishing the touch up painting, finishing touches for the Tylers' room and preparation room sometime in September / October. More info to follow. We will be having a Property and Finance

Many thanks to our six catechism instructors! Worshipful Scott, Worshipful Liniger, Brother Tennis, Brother Ellis, Brother Gibson, and Brother Manning meet with their classes weekly and put tremendous effort into assisting their twenty students. They shape the journey for these new Masons, and without them, we would never be able to continue bringing so many good men into our Lodge. We can always use a helping hand here, if you're ever interested, reach out and we will get you ready.

I'd also like to thank the officers and Brothers who have been practicing hard and taking chairs for degree work. Having officers and members who are proficient in our ritual is essential to our existence as Masons. Doing it well is essential to the individual experience of every new member too. I look forward to seeing our continued growth in this area. Anyone who desires to learn can join us on nearly any Thursday to practice. You don't need to come to the table with any ritual knowledge, you just have to be willing to give some time and learn.

Check out the calendar in this Trestle Board, as well as the website calendar. We keep our website calendar and social media as updated as you can get. We hope you can spare a little time and be active.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Billy D. Schmidt

Worshipful Master



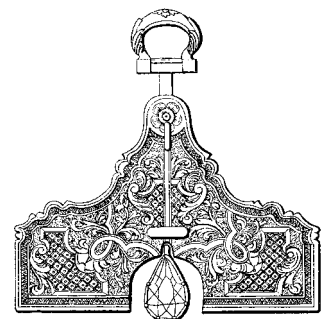
Committee meeting on Thursday September 10 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

I would like to finish with wishing all of our Brothers and families a safe fall, remain healthy, and enjoy your family. As always if any Brother needs anything, please contact the lodge, you would be surprised with how much we can help.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Bryan Seland

Senior Warden



JUNIOR WARDEN



Brethren,

As we navigate through 2020, experiencing more variables and unknowns than ever before, I want to remind you of the constancy of our gentle Craft, and the importance of sharing our fraternity.

Commencing in 1717, modern Freemasonry has seen more societal shifts than any of us will individually experience in our lifetimes; world wars, newfound

countries, shifting cultural trends, illnesses and plagues, natural disasters, fraternal expansion, political unrest and many others – yet, our beloved fraternity has stayed true to its mission of fostering self-improvement through knowledge and light.

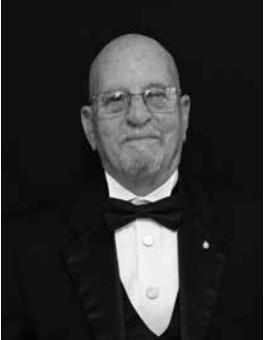
A couple weeks ago, our local Paul Revere DeMolay Chapter hosted a conferral of its Initiatory Degree, and I had the honor and pleasure of sitting in the East for the Degree. My youngest son assumed his obligation, joining the ranks of the same DeMolay Chapter I joined at age 13, continuing a multi-generational legacy within our

fraternity. My dad's stepdad was a Shrine Mason, and introduced my Dad to DeMolay in his formative years. Once attaining lawful age, Dad also joined Hillsborough Lodge. I followed his footsteps, petitioning the same Lodge in 1999. It is my fervent hope that with a positive DeMolay experience and at the proper time, my sons will add to our Masonic legacy.

Throughout our lives, the Masonic fraternity has become our social circle, our source of new friends, and our support structure. We are certainly not alone. As such, the need for constancy is ever-present in the lives of our Brothers; constancy in foundation, tradition and values. In order for this constancy to remain, we have to share our fraternity with others. Please be mindful of your interactions: would those around you benefit from Freemasonry, or from one of the Masonic appendant or sponsored organizations? Take the opportunity to share our mission. Sign a new petition; refer a child to the Shriners' Hospitals; or refer a youth to one of our Masonic-sponsored youth bodies.

Continued on page 6

SECRETARY'S DESK



Greetings Brothers,

As we enter the third quarter of the year, there are many Brothers who have still not paid their dues for 2020. I will be sending out the final summons shortly to those that have not paid and have not contacted the Lodge to make arrangements.

It is very easy to make your payment, just go to the Circumscribe portal and set yourself up with your email and a password. Instructions are contained in this Trestle Board (page 6). Pay with a credit card and then pay it off as you would any other bill. At this time, there is not any discussion taking place to raise dues, but please remember that over the next 4 years there will be a five dollar increase per year in the per capita tax from Grand Lodge. This will be reflected in your dues notice for 2021.

Interest is increasing from persons who are desirous of becoming Masons. As such, your participation is needed to complete the investigations that need to be done. Please contact the Lodge if you can assist in interviewing those perspective candidates.

Elections are coming up very soon, and there will be some changes made in the elected line. The Secretary will need to be replaced. I will be assuming an office in

Grand Lodge and must relinquish the office of Secretary. The forms which are required by Grand Lodge for those seeking an elected office in the Lodge will be available in the Secretary's Office.














Within the past few months, we have gained two EA's by transfer of membership, four re-instatements of Brothers who have been suspended, and one re-instatement of a Brother who requested a dimit but never executed that dimit. If you know a Brother who was suspended, have them get in touch with the Lodge and we will guide them through the process of getting back as an active member of the Lodge. If you know someone that would be a good Mason, have them contact us and we will help them get started. Know a young man between the ages of 12 and 21, have them get in touch with the Lodge and we can show them how they can become a DeMolay, and hopefully continue and become a Mason.

Please remember your Masonic Home and add the \$7.30 to your dues payment to help support the home. The home is planning expansion to cover the needs of today. They will be adding an Alzheimer clinic to the services already offered and will be constructing a new building to house this program.

Continued on page 6

SEPTEMBER

A.L. 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Table Lodge Postponed Until Further Notice We will not hold out annual Table Lodge in September this year. It is our hope that we will be able to schedule and hold the event later in the year when conditions will be less restrictive. Keep an eye out for further updates.</p>		 1 FC Degree Night For Brothers who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	2 District School of Instruction John Darling Lodge MLT 6 p.m. School 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	 3 Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.	4	5
6	 7 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 8 Stated Communication Business Meeting Committee Reports, Balloting, Votes, etc. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	9	 10 Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Finance/Prop Meeting PM Room 6:30 p.m. Degree Practice Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.	11 MASONIC PARK BOARD MEETING Tampa Lodge No. 240 Tampa, FL 7 p.m.	12
13	 14 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 15 Possible Degree Night For Candidates who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:30 p.m.	16	 17 Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.	18	19
20	 21 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 22 Stated Communication Limited Business Speakers Series Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m. Fellowship After Mtg	23	 24 Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.	25 MASTER MASON ASSOCIATION MEETING John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.	26 ZONE SCHOOL / OPEN BOOKS Scottish Rite Tampa, FL 9 a.m.
27	 28 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 29 FRIENDS & FAMILY NIGHT! Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program 7:30 p.m.	30	<p>NOTE:</p> <p>ALL meetings, degrees, and events subject to change due to ongoing Coronavirus restrictions.</p> <p>Please visit our website calendar and social media accounts for the most up to date information and announcements.</p>		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Events, Meetings, and Degrees are subject to change. Continuously updated information is available on the Lodge website calendar: www.hillsborough25.org. Facebook events are also updated regularly and are a good way to receive event reminder notifications - just click the 'interested' or 'going' links for any particular event on Facebook.</p>				 1 Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. <hr/> Officers Meeting WM Office 6:30 pm <hr/> Degree Practice Lodge Room 7:30 p.m.	2	3
4	 5 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 6 Possible Degree Night For Brothers who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:30 p.m.	District School of Instruction John Darling Lodge MLT 6 p.m. School 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	 8 Masonic Education & Catechism Lodge Open 6:30 p.m.	MASONIC PARK BOARD MEETING Tampa Lodge No. 240 Tampa, FL 7 p.m.	10
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September

Noilson Agra	John Mantei
Nelson Alderman	John Maye
Sherman Arthur	Clayton Milligan
Christopher Bajsa	Edward Monjesky
Richard Bozek	JamesMorris
Christopher Callas	Om Prakash Nankissoor
Paul Christian	Robert Norman
William "Bill" Cobb	Joseph Olbrys
Dean Di Leo	Kenneth Pepper
Raul Fernandez III	George Proudfoot Jr.
Steven Gainey	Pedro Rivera
Kermit Hines	John Rose
Alexander Hirst	John Sheehan
Kenneth Hudgins	Michael Shelton
Aaron Jarrell	Austin Talley
Jeffery Lake	Kevin Tributou
Walter Lawless Jr.	Tony Vidal IV
Sam Lazzara	Alejandro Villagra
Mark Linsky	David Wakeen
Joseph Lopez	Melvin White
Clifford Mann	Ronald Wooldridge

October

Michael Andrews	Mark Maxey
Daniel Astacio	Dennis McDonald
Byron Bailey Jr	Jerome Meguiar
Michael Bajsa	Keith Melfi
Agelos Berios	Guy Miller III
Charles Bever Jr	James Miller Sr
Nicholas Bowers	Raymond Miller
Frank Caballero	Nicholas Mitrano
Paul Cimino	Ernest Moore Jr
George Comesanas	Elton Morrow Jr
Lance Connors	Carl Mueller
Frank Cossota Jr	Wally Murga
Dennis Ditinno	Arthur Pasmias III
Jacob Eichenbaum	Charles Pesola
Michael Farrier II	Gustavo Porro
Michael Fletcher	Frederick Powell
Michael Flores	Brian Rios
Wayne Garrison	Luis Rivera
Reynaldo Gonzalez Jr	Roger Robinson
Davelis Goutoufas	Martin Sas
Ray Hodges	Christopher Simms
Julian Hook Jr	William Smalley
John Hunt	James Suarez
Stephen Jacobson	Garland Tickle
Donald Keen	Harold Tubbs
Lawrence Kessler	John Veale
Dominick Lazzara	Otto Weiss Jr
Matthew MacGiffert	Howard Welch
Michael Maltezos	Lehmon White



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.



CIRCUMSCRIBE LOG IN

Circumscribe is the Grand Lodge of Florida's membership database system. **We encourage ALL members to log into Circumscribe and verify their contact information.** The system allows you to edit your contact information as well as view your Masonic record, pay dues online, and take the Master Mason exams online. The Lodge uses the address, email address, and phone number listed within the system to contact you when needed. We often find members without updated contact information and it sometimes leads to suspension for non-payment of dues.

First Time Circumscribe Log In Instructions

- Open your internet browser
- Navigate to: <https://glfl.circumscribe.net>
- Enter your initial Username:
"FL" + "Your Grand Lodge Number" + "@changeyouremail.info"
(example: FL1234567@changeyouremail.info)
- Enter your temporary Password:
"FL" + "Your Grand Lodge #" **(example: FL1234567)**
- You will be immediately prompted to change both your username and password
- Your NEW username can be any email address that you frequently use, or have regular access to.
- Your NEW password must contain at least eight characters and one number. You must enter it twice.
- Upon successfully entering both, you will be required to logout, and then log back in with your new credentials.
- Once you have logged back in, select 'Profile' from the menu items on the left side of the screen. Review your profile and make any appropriate changes, or contact the Lodge Secretary if you require other changes.
- Finally, upload a current picture for your new permanent ID card. Please avoid hats, sunglasses, other individuals or animals in the picture.
- Select 'Save Profile' to complete the process.

Please note, if you or the Lodge Secretary have already added your personal email address to the system, you will need to log in using that email address and your known password or use the "forgot password" feature. If you aren't sure which email address you used, or if one is already in the system, email the Lodge Secretary at secretary@hillsborough25.org and he can verify the email address.

"Secretary" continued from page 3...

This is your home and needs your support. The purchase of a Masonic license plate for your vehicle also helps the home as well as adding the Masonic Home to your list of charities when you purchase through Amazon Smile. Listing the Home does not increase your price for items you purchase, this is donated by Amazon.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Thomas C. Newton

Secretary



"Junior Warden" continued from page 3...

Our fraternity benefits its members through service to others. We must personify its tenets and values in our interactions, so that others for generations to come can share the same foundation and constancy.

I'm proud to be a Mason, and I know you are too. How many others could be too?

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

R. J. "Jody" Meguiar

Junior Warden



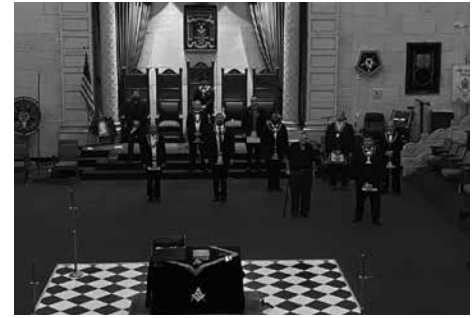
ENTERED, PASSED, & RAISED



July 7th, 2020: Congratulations to Brothers Issaev and Louis on being initiated as Entered Apprentice Masons on July 7th! Thanks to our great degree team, to Right Worshipful Silvers for the lecture, and to Worshipful Scott for supporting many roles and the charge. We would also like to thank all of the visitors we came out, from West Broward, Holyrood, and Temple Terrace Lodges! Pictured here is everyone who made it until the end. Practicing social distancing, of course.



July 21st, 2020: Congratulations to Brothers Huffstutler, Papisov, and Wilkerson on being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 21st! Many thanks to the degree team, to Right Worshipful Baldwin for assisting as Senior Deacon, to Right Honorable Manne for the lecture, and everyone for making it out. Pictured is everyone who were able to stay until the end. Spaced out, of course.



August 4th, 2020: Congratulations to Brother Ehab Korabi on being Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft August 4th! We would like to thank the degree team, especially the three Brothers who sat in a new chair for the first time - Bro Meguiar as SW, Bro Harrison as JW, and Bro Wilson as JS. Excellent work, the hard work and practice truly showed. Also, thank you to those who were able to come out and support this Brother. Pictured are those who were able to stay until the end.

DEMOLAY



August 11th, 2020: Congratulations to the newest members of Paul Revere Chapter, Order Of DeMolay! We were happy to see so many members of our Lodge and others in the area come out and support these fine young men. Nine Master Masons were also inducted as members of the King Solomon Honorary Chapter and our Secretary, Right Honorable Tom Newton, received the Degree of Chevalier - the highest honor bestowed on an active or senior DeMolay. Congratulations to all and thank you to all those who came out and support them.

If you know of any young men aged 12-21, reach out to Paul Revere Chapter. Boys ages 9-12 can also join the "Squires." Email membership@fldemolay.com for more information.

VOLUNTEERING



July 14th, 2020: Shout out to Worshipful Scott and Brother Huster for assisting BT Washington Elementary on July 14th, putting together AV carts for the classes! From the school on Twitter: "Thank you @Hillsborough25 members for taking time to put together our AV Carts! Our teachers are going to be thrilled when they return to school! #WeRfamily"

If you are interested in getting involved with hands on volunteering or charity projects, please contact our Community Outreach Chairman Brother Mike Huster at mhuster1@verizon.net.

COMMITTEES

Education Enrichment

Chairman:
Bro. Matthew Taheri
matthew.taheri@gmail.com

Fellowship

Chairman:
Bro. Suraj Nayee
surajnayee@gmail.com

Community Outreach

Chairman:
Bro. Mike Huster
mhuster1@verizon.net

Property & Finance

Chairman:
Bro. Bryan Seland, SW
bryan.selandH25@gmail.com

Vigilance

Chairman:
Bro. Jody Meguiar, JW
jmeguiar@fldemolay.com

For other committee contact information, contact the Worshipful Master at billy.schmidtH25@gmail.com



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web: www.hillsborough25.org

Address Service Requested

2020 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: Billy D. Schmidt Worshipful Master
Bro. Bryan M. Seland Senior Warden
Bro. R.J. "Jody" Meguiar Junior Warden
W.: Billy D. Scott, III, P.M. Treasurer
R.: H.: Thomas C. Newton, P.D.I. Secretary
Bro. Michael T. Deininger Senior Deacon
Bro. Ritch A. Carroll Junior Deacon
Bro. Kenneth B. Gibson Senior Steward
Bro. Samuel L. Sheppard Junior Steward
W.: Alexander Rodriquez Galano Marshal
R.: W.: Steven J. Silvers, P.D.D.G.M. Chaplain
Bro. Lerone D. Wilson Tyler
W.: Tom Johnson, P.M. Treasurer Emeritus
R.: W.: C. Donald Prosser, P.D.D.G.M. Historian
TBD Musician



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