

# TRESTLE BOARD

MARCH | APRIL A.L. 2021

## MASONIC EDUCATION: WHO SHOULD WE WELCOME?

Surfing through the World Wide Web recently, I came across this quote by the Stoic philosopher Seneca, “Associate with people who are likely to improve you. Welcome those whom you are capable of improving. The process is a mutual one. People learn as they teach.”

I immediately thought of my association with Masons and Masonry. I thought, isn't this what seek to do? Isn't this what we mean when we say, “Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better”? Isn't it this association of men learning from and teaching each other how that improvement in Freemasonry happens— how we help each other to be better?

My thoughts hadn't traveled very far down this track when I started thinking about the long and ongoing discussion among Masons about “guarding the west gate” or how Freemasonry evaluates those who would seek admission into the fraternity—how we decide with whom we will associate. The dominant themes of this discussion have been that Freemasonry has emphasized the quantity rather than the quality of candidates that have been admitted into the fraternity, that we have failed to properly vet those seeking admission, and that men that shouldn't have gained admission have been allowed to become Freemasons to the detriment of the Fraternity as a whole.

As I considered Seneca's simple statement it occurred to me that the problem with our evaluation system might be that we, as a Fraternity, have forgotten what



we hope to give and what we hope to get from a candidate for Masonry. We often think of the transformational effect the Masonic experience can have on a man without considering whether the candidate in front of us is open to it. We think of the “help” the potential brother might offer by taking a chair or helping with a fundraiser without realizing this isn't the help we really need. We haven't thought about what we really have to offer a candidate, nor what we really need from him.

*Continued on page 6*

DOWNTOWN TAMPA | SINCE 1850

Visit our Online Calendar at [hillsborough25.org](http://hillsborough25.org) for upcoming events.



# WORSHIPFUL MASTER



My Brothers,

I hope this trestle board reaches each one of you in good health. As I write this, I think back to the last year and a half, and all of the changes, and obstacles we have had to overcome due to the pandemic. Hillsborough Lodge has made some great strides and continues to be a pillar in the community. We have adapted as a lodge, and as a fraternity as a whole to these trying times,

and have overcome adversity.

We continue to meet at our regular meeting times, and have safety protocols in place (temperature checks, hand sanitizing, mask rule, social distancing), so please come down for a meeting, and feel safe in doing so. We have continued with degrees, and want to congratulate our newly raised Master Masons, and will be quite busy with an EA degree, FC degree, and a MM degree scheduled in the next couple months. If any Brother would like to be involved, please contact me or any other officer, and we can get you set up. We are in need of instructors for our newly initiated Brothers, and if you, or you know of anyone that can help, please contact me or Ritch Carroll, the Junior Warden.

We will continue to partake in community projects, and have several projects scheduled for later in the year. Paint

# SENIOR WARDEN



My Brothers,

First, I wish to congratulate my fellow principle and appointed officers on their performance and success thus far in 2021. For many – myself included – this year started out in turmoil. My family tested positive for COVID-19, which led to a three week quarantine. Luckily, the Lodge was dark for part of that time, so I only missed one stated meeting of the new term.

Additionally, parking became an issue as we began 2021. New city ordinances required payment for street parking until midnight all throughout downtown. Of course, this put a financial strain on many, but we are working on solutions. More will be shared as opportunities are secured.

The Property & Finance Committees have started the year strong. We are building a list of to-dos around the Lodge, and will be asking for assistance in completing some of these projects.

Your Heart Out Tampa Bay will be scheduled in the fall, and Champions for Change later in May. If you would like to be involved in any of our participation of community projects, or have any other ideas to give back to the community, please let me know.

Please come out to our second official visit from our Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Steven Fortier on March 23rd to support him and your lodge.

In closing, I would like to thank Past Master Billy Schmidt for his hard work on getting new furniture for the lodge. It gives the lodge a more prominent look, and makes a better impression on our visitors. We will be having our first Friends and Family Night on Tuesday March 30th. We will have some presentations to give, and would love to see a full house. Please consider attending if you can. I hope each and everyone of you continue to have a healthy year, and if any of you need anything, and the lodge can help, please ask. That is why we are here. I look forward to seeing the Brothers I have enjoyed getting to know, and for the Brothers I have not met yet.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

*Bryan Seland*

Worshipful Master



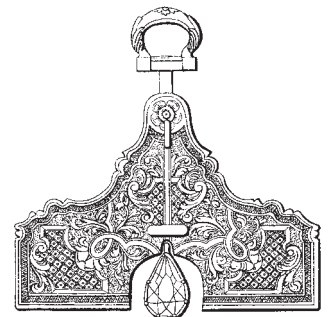
As stated in the last issue – This is YOUR Lodge. We hope that each of you will try to visit as often as your cable tow will allow. Our Lodge has a strong and rich history, one in which you should continue to take pride. Your Lodge officers serve only as the stewards for the Craft, but the Craft as a whole remains the powerful, fraternal entity which has impacted our community since three years before Tampa was even incorporated.

It's a great time to be in "Champa Bay!" GO BUCS! I remain...

Sincerely & Fraternaly Yours,

*R. J. "Jody" Meguiar*

Senior Warden



# JUNIOR WARDEN



My Brothers,

This year has started off fast and furious. We've had one Master Mason degree already and there are multiple Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees pending in the coming months.

Being an instructor is one of the most important roles in the lodge. Through your instruction and mentorship, you are shaping the future of the lodge.

We are looking for some Brothers to instruct our newly initiated EA Brethren and mentor them through their journey to Master Mason.

Do you know any men that you think would make a good Mason? Are they seeking a connection they don't have in their life or social circles? Are they looking for a place where men of any race, religious or political belief can meet as Brothers without contention or argument? Are they desirous of becoming a better man? Do they seek a way to give back?

Bring them to the lodge for dinner. Let them meet the Brothers and be warmly welcomed. Let them talk with the

Brothers and let's give them a feeling of inclusion. Let us make a connection. I believe with the trials and perils of life as they are today, we are needed more than ever and every one of us can make a difference.

Speaking of dinner, I want to thank all the Brothers who have stepped up and volunteered to take a meal on Tuesdays. I greatly appreciate the outpouring of assistance. There is a signup sheet on the kitchen door for you to put your name in for a Tuesday or please ask me. Many nights are still available.

I personally invite you to lodge most Tuesdays. Break bread with us. Come and watch or better yet, be part of a degree. Stop by on a Thursday and meet the catechism classes now in session. The lodge is not a building, it's you! Come be a part of it if you haven't been in a while.

Feel free to email me with any questions or suggestions on how we can serve you, the craft better. My email is [ritch.carrollh25@gmail.com](mailto:ritch.carrollh25@gmail.com)



Sincerely and Fraternaly,

*Ritch A. Carroll*

Junior Warden

# SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brothers,

Two-hundred and two. We still only have 202 of our 504 members who have actually logged into the Circumscribe membership system. Three-hundred and three of our members have NEVER logged in. Even if you have logged in before, ***I implore you to stop reading right now and log in at <https://glfl.circumscribe.net>***. If you have never logged in before, follow the

instructions on page 7 of this newsletter. If you forgot your password, use the 'forgot password' link. If you can't recall which email you used as your username, email me at [billyschmidtH25@gmail.com](mailto:billyschmidtH25@gmail.com) and I can confirm it for you.

Now that you logged in, if you paid your 2021 dues already, simply verify that your contact information is correct. Click 'profile' on the left menu and amend as necessary. If you haven't paid your 2021 dues, please click on the 'payments' button in the left menu. In this area, you can pay online using a debit or credit card.

***If you find that you can not afford your dues at this time, please don't wait.*** Let us know immediately and we can assist you as necessary. No member is turned away simply because they are unable to pay at any given time. Members are only ever suspended if they failed

to pay OR failed to reach out for assistance. Brother: maintain your membership by doing one or the other today please.

I continue to stress the use of the Circumscribe system because it helps you AND your officers. When you pay by check, you have to wait until I find it in the mail on a Tuesday or Thursday. Then you have to wait for me to lump it together with other checks and draft a deposit sheet. Then you have to wait for the Treasurer to pick up the deposit and then wait until he can drop the deposit at the bank. The best-case scenario is that it takes about a week. It can take two to three weeks on occasion. When you pay online using Circumscribe, the funds withdraw instantly and all I need to do is mail your dues card.

















With approximately one-hundred of our members who still have not paid 2021 dues, I felt it necessary to provide as much information as possible. If you ever need assistance, the best way to reach me is by email at [billyschmidtH25@gmail.com](mailto:billyschmidtH25@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing you at a meeting, degree, or other activity very soon Brother.




Sincerely & Fraternaly,

*Billy D. Schmidt*

Secretary



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		 <b>No Degree or Meeting</b> Lodge Closed	 <b>District School of Instruction</b> John Darling Lodge MLT 6 p.m. School 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes		 OES Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 <b>Stated Communication</b> Business Meeting, Balloting, Votes, etc.  Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.		 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes  <hr/> <b>Degree Rehearsal</b> Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 <b>MM Degree Night</b> For Candidates who are prepared.  Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.		 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes		 OES Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 <b>Stated Communication</b> Limited Business DDGM Official Visit Right Worshipful Fortier  Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m. Fellowship After Mtg		 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes	<b>MASTER MASON ASSOCIATION MEETING</b>  John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.	<b>ZONE SCHOOL / OPEN BOOKS</b>  Scottish Rite Tampa, FL 9 a.m.	
28	29	30	31			
 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 <b>Friends &amp; Family Night</b> Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program 7:30 p.m.					

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: <a href="http://www.hillsborough25.org">www.hillsborough25.org</a>. 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 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes  <hr/> Degree Rehearsal Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.	2   3 OES Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.	
4  5 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 6 <b>FC Degree Night</b> For Brothers who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	7 <b>District School of Instruction</b> John Darling Lodge MLT 6 p.m. School 7 p.m. 4601 Habana Tampa, FL	 8 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes	9 <b>MASONIC PARK BOARD MEETING</b>  Tampa Lodge No. 240 Tampa, FL 7 p.m.	10	
11  12 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 13 <b>Stated Communication</b> Business Meeting, Balloting, Votes, etc.  Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m.	14	 15 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes  <hr/> Degree Rehearsal Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.	16   17 OES Chapter 11 Meeting 1 p.m.		
18  19 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 20 <b>EA Degree Night</b> For Brothers who are prepared. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Degree 7:15 p.m.	21	 22 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes	23 <b>MASTER MASON ASSOCIATION MEETING</b>  John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 p.m. Tampa, FL.	24 <b>ZONE SCHOOL / OPEN BOOKS</b>  Scottish Rite Tampa, FL 9 a.m.	
25  26 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 27 <b>Stated Communication</b> Limited Business Speakers Series Right Worshipful Cowart: vision for FL Freemasonry  Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m. Fellowship After Mtg	28	 29 <b>Masonic Education</b> Lodge Open 6:30 p.m. Ritual Practice & Catechism Classes  <hr/> Degree Rehearsal Lodge Room 7:00 p.m.	30		



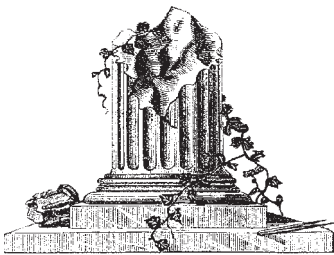
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## March

Lige Tackett Jr.	Gerry Gilbert II
Thomas Parsons	Terry Montgomery
Raymond Sheldon Jr.	Richard Swann Jr.
Michael Penland	Michael Smalley
Bruce Stritter	Stephen Farley
Charles Silliman	David Puzzo
Frederick Janke	Shane Moore
Paul Lowe Jr.	Patrice Falardeau
Ricardo Muga	Ronald King Jr.
Malcom Campbell	James Mungovan
Daniel Guggenheim Jr.	Clarence Rudolph IV
Thomas Ream	Jose Coll
Robert Jackson Jr.	Ronald Le Claire Jr.
John Menard	Jonathan Tennis
Eugene D'Amore	Jeremiah Bustin
James Bustin	Geoffery Newton
Rex Sano	Nestor Santiago
Thomas Newton	Benny Rivera
Wayne Pickard	Douglas MacLean
Frank Frantom	Daniel Maclean
Larry Kuykendall	Jay Kaufman

## April

Henry Smith Jr.	Steven Carter
Thomas Granahan	Michael Shaheen
William Crenshaw	Richard Zach Jr.
Frederick Sattes Jr.	James Young III
Sidney Schuster	Chester Rider
Charles Morgan	Dale Chastek
Dennis Field	Wayne Simmons
Thomas Johnson Jr.	John Faircloth Jr
Jarret Bonar	David Kazar
Melvin Segal	Kurt Beste
Gary Esteppe	Michael Concaugh
Alberto Meyer	Juan Gonzalez
Roger Dixon	Julio Soto
Brian O'Hair	Scott Davis
William T. Williams	Joseph Gonzalez
Clyde Curtis Jr.	Ehab Korabi
Albert Perotti Jr.	Christopher Di Stefano
John Lorenz	Howard Harris
Ronald Samson	Christopher Fortner
Barry Glenn	Jonathan Meadows
Jorge Noda	David Odell II
Robert Cochran	Billy D. Schmidt
Bradley Buethe	Carlos Zuniga
Gerald Personius	Michael Molitor II



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.



“Who Should We Welcome?” continued from page 1...

If Freemasonry is truly about men improving themselves by teaching and learning and understanding the lessons and values inculcated by our degrees, shouldn't we assure ourselves that we are associating with those likely to improve us and welcoming those capable of improvement? Shouldn't we explain to a prospective candidate that Freemasonry means many things to many people, but at its heart, it is an association of men who seek to improve themselves and each other by learning from and teaching one another? Shouldn't we then ask him what improvement he seeks in himself and how he thinks he might help his potential brethren to improve? Freemasonry isn't for everyone. If we can't see how an association with a man will help improve the brethren and he doesn't see that he needs to improve, then maybe the Fraternity is not the proper fit for him, nor he for the Fraternity.

*Brian L. Pettice, 33° is a Past Master of Anchor Lodge No. 980 and plural member of Olive Branch Lodge No. 38 in Danville, IL and an Honorary Member of a couple of others. He is also an active member of both the York and Scottish Rites. Published in The Midnight Freemasons, January 2021, www.midnightfreemasons.org.*

## SPEAKERS SERIES & A SURPRISE



**February 23, 2021:** We had the honor of hosting our own Right Worshipful Drew Baldwin, District Instructor for the 19th Masonic District, for his presentation on Masonic Balloting. Thank you for your time and a great presentation!

We also had the honor of being present as Most Worshipful John Westerman, PGM surprised Right Worshipful Baldwin by attending his presentation and then presented him the Grand Master's Eagle Award and a Certificate naming him the Grand Representative to the United Grand Lodge of England! These presentations would have normally been made at last year's Grand Communication, which had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.



Congratulations go out to Right Worshipful Baldwin on his honors. We thank him for the great presentation and all the hard work he's done over the years for this lodge and the Craft as a whole.

## NEW NOBLES AT EGYPT SHRINERS

**February 10 & 20, 2021:** Congratulations to our ten members of Hillsborough Lodge who became new Nobles of Egypt Shriners in February! Pictured are all of our lodge members at the February 10th (left) and February 20th (right) initiations.



# RECENT DEGREES



**January 19, 2021:** Congratulations to Brothers Issaev and Lynch on being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason! Many thanks to the degree team for their outstanding work, to Brother Sussman for the lecture, and to everyone who was able and willing to make it out. Pictured is everyone who can stay until the end.



**February 16, 2021:** Congratulations to Brothers Darek Drake and Ramiz Kadous on being initiated Entered Apprentice Masons! Many thanks to our degree team for a great degree, to Right Worshipful Silvers for a great lecture, and Right Honorable Newton for a great charge. Pictured is everyone who made it to the end of the evening.

# SPEAKERS SERIES

Be sure to check out our monthly Masonic Education Speakers Series! It's held on the second Stated Communication of each month (fourth Tuesday) with dinner at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:15 pm. The Worshipful Master attempts to hold any and all 'business' until our first Stated each month in an attempt to focus on the presentations. We also invite everyone to join us after the meeting nearby for fellowship.

## Upcoming Speakers

**March 23rd:** DDGM Official Visit, Right Worshipful Steven Fortier.

**April 27th:** Right Worshipful Don Cowart (candidate for Junior Grand Warden) on his vision for Florida Freemasonry and observations from his frequent travels to lodges across the state.

**May 25th:** Brother Matthew Taheri on "Alas, My Brother: A Summary and Allegorical Discussion."

# TIME TO LOG INTO CIRCUMSCRIBE!

What can you do within the Circumscribe online membership system? The two most important things you can do are: 1) easily pay your annual dues via debit or credit card and, 2) check your profile and ensure your contact information is correct. Make sure we have a valid mailing address, phone number, and e-mail for you. The system also allows you to complete the Master Mason I, II, and III exams online and record attendance at certain events and activities so the lodge earns credit towards awards. If nothing else, we encourage you to use the system for dues payments and checking your contact information! **Log in now at <https://glfl.circumscribe.net>.**

## 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](mailto:secretary@hillsborough25.org) and he can verify the email address.

# COMMITTEES

## Education Enrichment

Chairman:  
Bro. Matthew Taheri  
[matthew.taheri@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.taheri@gmail.com)

## Fellowship

Chairman:  
Bro. Suraj Nayee  
[surajnayee@gmail.com](mailto:surajnayee@gmail.com)

## Community Outreach

Chairman:  
Bro. Mike Huster  
[mhuster1@verizon.net](mailto:mhuster1@verizon.net)

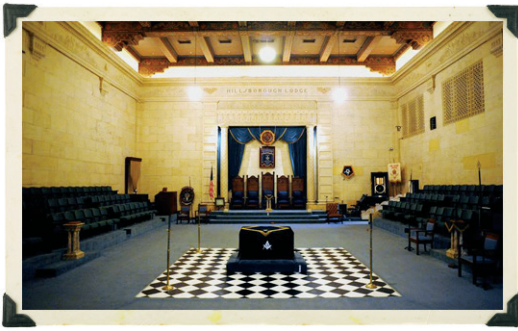
## Property & Finance

Chairman:  
Bro. Jody Meguiar, SW  
[jmeguiar@fldemolay.com](mailto:jmeguiar@fldemolay.com)

## Vigilance

Chairman:  
Bro. Ritch Carroll, JW  
[ritch.carrollh25@gmail.com](mailto:ritch.carrollh25@gmail.com)

For other committee contact information, contact the Secretary at [billy.schmidtH25@gmail.com](mailto:billy.schmidtH25@gmail.com)



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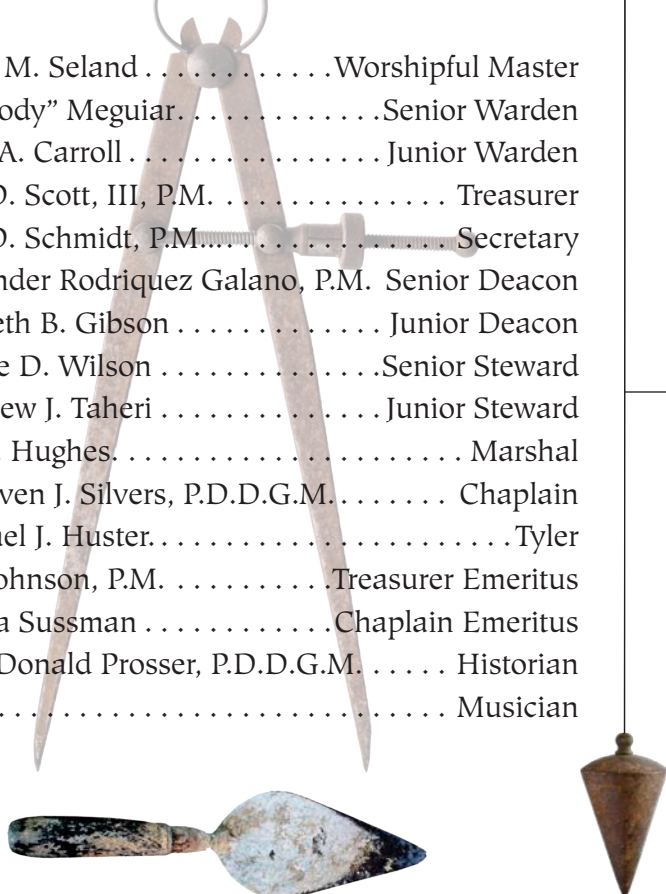
508 East Kennedy Boulevard  
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phone: (813) 229-2305  
 fax: (877) 690-8997  
 e-mail: secretary@hillsborough25.org  
 web: www.hillsborough25.org

**Address Service Requested**

**2021 LODGE OFFICERS**

W.: Bryan M. Seland . . . . .Worshipful Master  
 Bro. R.J. "Jody" Meguiar . . . . .Senior Warden  
 Bro. Ritch A. Carroll . . . . .Junior Warden  
 W.: Billy D. Scott, III, P.M. . . . . Treasurer  
 W.: Billy D. Schmidt, P.M. . . . . Secretary  
 W.: Alexander Rodriguez Galano, P.M. Senior Deacon  
 Bro. Kenneth B. Gibson . . . . . Junior Deacon  
 Bro. Lerone D. Wilson . . . . .Senior Steward  
 Bro. Matthew J. Taheri . . . . . Junior Steward  
 Bro. Jack J. Hughes. . . . . Marshal  
 R.:W.: Steven J. Silvers, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Chaplain  
 Bro. Michael J. Huster. . . . . Tyler  
 W.: Tom Johnson, P.M. . . . . Treasurer Emeritus  
 Bro. Joshua Sussman . . . . .Chaplain Emeritus  
 R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser, P.D.D.G.M. . . . . Historian  
 TBD . . . . . Musician



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