



June 2025, A.L. 6025

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**Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida
196th Annual Grand Communication (Orlando, FL)**

Congratulations to our 2025-26 installed Grand Lodge Officers:

Most Worshipful Taleb Atala, Grand Master
Right Worshipful Haskell Vest, Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Rick Wendling, Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Rob Estell, Junior Grand Warden
Most Worshipful Richard Lynn, Grand Treasurer
Most Worshipful Jeffrey Foster, Grand Secretary



Congratulations to our newly appointed District Representatives:

Right Worshipful Jeremy Tabak, District 19 DDGM
Right Honorable Jeff Sklet, District 19 District Instructor



175th Year Anniversary and Rededication Ceremony

Thank you to everyone who attended our Lodge Rededication and Birthday Celebration! We hope you enjoyed a great evening celebrating the 175 years of history that our humble organization has created.



The evening started off with a great meal and cake, after which we headed upstairs and the Grand Line led by our **Grand Master, Most Worshipful Don Cowart** rededicated our Lodge.



Past Master, **Worshipful Billy Schmidt** did a presentation on our Lodge history and a brief look back at some of our important and unique milestones. Our Worshipful Master, **Worshipful Michael Wilson** then presented our immediate Past Master, **Worshipful Alex Galano** his perpetual membership.



It was a milestone evening for our Lodge and our Brothers and we thank all those that came out from all over the state. We look forward to another 175 years and seeing you all again soon!





Brethren,

It is with great honor and humility that I address you as the newly installed Worshipful Master of our Lodge. I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me, and I look forward to serving our Lodge with dedication and integrity in the coming year.

Acknowledging Our Past Master

First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our immediate Past Master, Worshipful Alex Galano, for his outstanding leadership and dedication over the past year. His hard work, guidance, and commitment to our Lodge have left a lasting impact, and I hope to build upon the strong foundation he has set. Thank you, Worshipful Galano, for your service and continued support.

Congratulations to Our 2025 Lodge Officers

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our elected and appointed officers for the upcoming year. Your dedication and commitment to our Lodge will help guide us toward continued success. I have full confidence that each of you will uphold the responsibilities of your office with honor and integrity. Together, we will work to strengthen our Lodge, support our brethren, and serve our community.

175th Celebration & Rededication

We recently gathered to celebrate a truly historic milestone—our **175th Anniversary and Rededication Ceremony**. It was a remarkable and memorable event, bringing together brethren, families, and distinguished guests to honor the legacy of our Lodge. The rededication ceremony, led with great reverence, reminded us of the enduring principles that have guided our Lodge for generations. The evening was filled with fellowship, reflection, and appreciation for those who have contributed to our Lodge's long-standing history. I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who played a part in making this event so special, from the organizers to the attendees who shared the celebration.

May we continue to build upon the legacy of our forebears and ensure the light of Freemasonry shines brightly for generations to come.

Community & Charity Initiatives

As we move forward, we have several initiatives to strengthen our bonds as brothers and support our community. This year, our Lodge will be organizing donation collections to assist those in need:

- **May – July:** School Supplies for Local Students
- **September – November:** Non-Perishable Food Items for Families in Need

I encourage all brethren to contribute and help make a difference in our community through these efforts.

The Return of the Southeastern Symposium

Additionally, I am excited to announce that we are bringing back the **Southeastern Symposium**! This event has always been a great opportunity for Masonic education and fellowship, and I encourage everyone to support this amazing event.

Looking Ahead

This year, our focus will be on engagement during our meetings, education, and service. I encourage each of you to take an active role in our Lodge—whether through mentorship, participation in degree work, or simply attending meetings to share in the Brotherhood that makes Freemasonry so special. **It takes all of us, my Brothers, and your input—no matter how small—makes a huge difference in how we grow as a whole.**

Let us work together to uphold our traditions while embracing new opportunities for growth. I look forward to seeing each of you in Lodge and sharing in the light of Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

W. : Michael S. Wilson
Worshipful Master, Hillsborough Lodge 25 F&AM



Senior Warden | Horatio M. Johnson



My Brothers,

I thank the brethren for having the trust and confidence in me to elect me Senior Warden for 2025. As always, we have an effective TEAM of brothers ready to serve you on the officer line. I believe I can speak for us all saying that we look forward to a prosperous and productive year!

I thank Worshipful Alexander Galano for his Leadership &

Guidance during his year in the East!

I look forward to our newly raised brothers being involved in the lodge and I welcome any conversation to make you feel welcome and facilitate your involvement. There are many committees you can be part of, and we can certainly use your expertise and input. I hope to see many of our long-term brothers at the lodge as well and hopefully re-new your commitment to the craft. Our Lodge infrastructure is 175 years & growing! We as a collective Team must play our part to keep moving forward as a Shining Light for all to follow. This Lodge only exists to serve you and the craft. Come be on the TEAM!

The Property & Finance Committee continues to meet and plan to prioritize projects slated to begin in the ensuing months. Your business experience and innovation are key to the future of our home and tenant's businesses.

I hope this year finds you, your family, and friends prosperous, happy, and healthy. "IT TAKES ALL OF US FORWARD TOGETHER!"

Fraternally,
Bro. Horatio M. Johnson
Senior Warden

Junior Warden | Alejandro Rodriguez



Dear Brothers,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for placing your trust in me by electing me Junior Warden. It is truly an honor to be chosen by such a dedicated and supportive group of individuals that I get to call Brothers. The confidence you have shown in me means a great deal, and I do not take this responsibility lightly.

Congratulations to our newly installed W.: Michael Wilson, I am deeply aware of the commitment and vision you have for our Lodge as well as the Fraternity, and I am excited to work alongside you as we move forward together. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all my fellow officers. I look forward to working alongside each of you, and I am confident that together we will achieve great things. Your dedication, talent, and passion will be invaluable as we strive toward our shared goals. I am excited about the potential of our team and the positive impact we can have on our Lodge and our Fraternity.

I am particularly excited about the opportunity to bring new projects and ideas that will help improve our Lodge. Together, we can strengthen our Fraternity and build a brighter future for our Lodge. I look forward to collaborating with all of you to turn these ideas into reality.

Great food plays an essential part in bringing us all together. As part of my role, I am honored to oversee the kitchen, and I plan on providing delicious and memorable meals for our lodge.

This position is not just a personal achievement for me, but a collective one for all of us. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I promise to do so with dedication, integrity, and an unwavering focus on what is best for the Fraternity.

Fraternally,
Bro. Alejandro Rodriguez,
Junior Warden

From the Secretary's Desk,

It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I have been elected to reoccupy the office of Secretary of this lodge. I will strive to continue the great work which has been done in the secretary's office since my departure. Service to the craft is of the utmost concern along with the recording of the business of the lodge in the minutes.



I look forward to getting back into the lodge business and reacquainting myself with every member of the lodge. I am looking forward to working with our new

Worshipful Master and all the elected officers to continue the great work that has always been done at our lodge.

I would ask that each of you remember your obligation to keep the secretary and the lodge abreast of changes in your address and any other information that you feel the lodge should be aware of.

Please feel free to let us know of sickness and/or distress in your life or the life of one of our brothers, even if that brother is from another lodge. Please send the information to secretary@hillsborough25.org. If you know that a brother has passed, we need to know that as soon as possible.

If you haven't paid your 2025 dues, please do so as soon as you can and don't forget to support the Masonic Home with your donation of \$7.30 in addition to the annual dues. Remember that Charity is one of our Cardinal Virtues.

If you want to purchase a perpetual membership which will continue to support the lodge long after your earthly ties are done, I will be more than happy to assist you with the application for that perpetual membership. You can also purchase an honorary perpetual membership for a deserving brother, and I will assist you with that as well.

As we exceed 175 years in this great building, things need to be replaced or repaired. We have brothers who are very capable of fixing or replacing those items which are causing or maybe causing problems in the very near future. Without your support through your payment, we can't maintain the building the way we need to. In your dues notice, there was a blue sheet which gave instructions on how to pay online. There is a fee associated with that convenience, but if you don't do checks anymore, it is a way to support your lodge.

Try to make plans to come to the lodge at least once a month. Find out what you have been missing by not being with the brothers of the lodge. If you want to get involved with the ritual work or assist with a class, we would love to have you back.

Remember, when you became a brother, that a brother of the lodge donated his time to teach you your obligations and it may be time for you to pay it forward.

Fraternally,

**R.:W.: Thomas C. Newton, PDDGM
Secretary**



Recent Degrees & Events

The Brothers of H25 and other District Lodges showed up in force to support Right Worshipful Jeremy Tabak for his first DDGM official visit to his home lodge, PTF United Lodge No. 153 on June 3rd, 2025. A great night of Brotherhood and fellowship!



Hillsborough District 19 and 20 Annual Grand Lodge Golf Outing on Sunday May 25, 2025



Brothers of H25 participated in the 299th Reunion of the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite by staging and conferring the 18th Degree - Knight of the Rose Croix on May 3rd, 2025. This degree is historically done by Brothers of our Lodge, and the tradition continues!



Congratulations to Brothers Brazell, Hernandez, Larkin, Lopez, Nieves and Santurri on being Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on April 16, 2025. Thank you to Right Honorable Brian Manne for the lecture, to Brother Ken Gibson for the charge, to the degree team, and to everyone who was willing and able to attend.



On Saturday April 26, 2025, many Brothers and their families, in partnership with members of the Krewe of Shamrock participated in the Paint Your Heart Out Tampa event. It was a great time and an amazing way to give back to the community! A special thank you to Brother Mike Huster for putting this together and providing us the opportunity to serve!



Upcoming Events

June 4 th	Masonic Leadership Training/District School of Instruction
June 10 th	Stated Communication: Business Meeting
June 14 th	Southeastern Masonic Education Symposium – tickets available for purchase
June 24 th	Stated Communication: District Deputy Grand Master’s Official Visit
July 2 nd	Masonic Leadership Training/District School of Instruction
July 8 th	Stated Communication: Business Meeting
July 19 th	Stated Communication: Grand Master’s Official Visit to the 19 th and 20 th Districts
July 22 nd	Called Communication: Entered Apprentice Degree
July 29 th	Family & Friends Night
Sept 2 nd	Table Lodge – tickets available for purchase

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE									
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The Southeastern Masonic Education Symposium



It's back! **The 2025 Southeastern Masonic Education Symposium**, the premier Masonic Education symposium for the Tampa Bay area, the state of Florida, and the Southeastern United States will take place **June 14th, 2025, at Hillsborough Lodge 25**. This is an all-day event.

Save the date and please visit our website for more information: www.H25SMES.org. Alternatively, you can also [purchase tickets by clicking here](#).

We will host prominent speakers from around the United States as well as Masonic vendors, information tables, food, fellowship, and more.

Example List of Presentations from 2023

- R:W: Robert Johnson - "Masonic Pub Crawl: Freemasonry in America and it's Colonial Tavern Beginnings"
- Brother Juan Sepulveda - "Correspondence with the Divine"
- W: Daniel Molina- "The Taxil Hoax: A Conspiracy Against Freemasonry"
- R:W: Julian Mackenzie - "American Freemasonry in France"
- Brother John Nagy: "The Shoe and the Widows Son"
- W: Chris Burns and Brother Fred Packwood - "Masonry, What Now?"

Tentative Schedule

- Event registration starts at 8:00 AM
- The event begins at 9:00 AM
- Breaks will occur between each presentation as well as a longer lunch break in the middle of the day.
- An evening Fellowship Event will be held offsite after the speakers are finished

2025 Lodge Officers





W.: Michael S. Wilson Worshipful Master



Bro. Horatio M. Johnson Senior Warden



Bro. Alejandro Rodriguez Junior Warden



Bro. Keishad Davis Senior Deacon



Bro. Cliff Shanholtzer Junior Deacon



Bro. Rick Hill Senior Steward



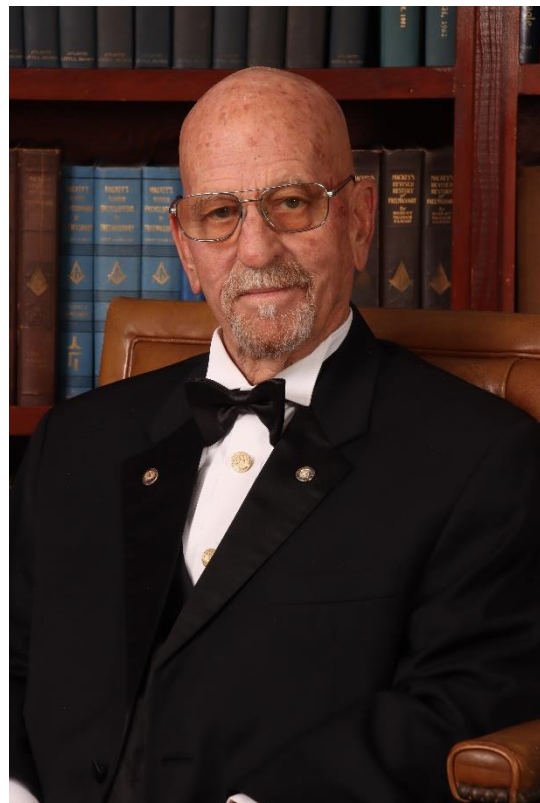
Bro. Starr Starks Junior Steward



*Bro. John Thomas Bast III **Marshal***



*Bro. Mike Huster **Tyler***



*R.:W.: Tom Newton **Secretary***



*R.:W.: Billy Scott III **Treasurer***



*R.:W.: Steven Silvers **Chaplain***

