

Orlando Masonic Lodge No. 69



Trestle Board – February 2016



Lodge Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of Every Month – Fellowship at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30
Mizpah Order of the Eastern Star meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of Every Month, Meeting at 7:30
Lodge Breakfast the 2nd Saturday of Every Month, served from 8:00 until 11:00 – Family Welcome



From the East, Chris Smith, WM

My Brothers, we are off to good start to our new year! Our committees are set, our Charity for the Quarter will be the Russell Home for Atypical Children, and we've already done Degree work!

I look forward to a well attended "Fellowship Ball" (see later,) and greater attendance at our Lodge functions. It's one thing to share common values and love of Masonry, it's another to see it in action as we gather and get to know each other, literally growing in the bonds of friendship and Brotherly love.

My goal is to have a guest speaker or educational event on the second meeting of each month. If you have any suggestions of something you would like to see please let me know. Plans are also being discussed of having some "food events" ideas like BBQ's, pot luck suppers, food truck nights, etc..

Finally my Brothers, my personal goal this year is to make contact with everyone, even those that haven't been to Lodge for a while. Because we move, numbers change, etc. so please make sure we have your most current information. Email me, call me, text me, let me know how to reach you and I promise, I will contact you. If you know of a Brother that hasn't been to Lodge in a while, give them a call. Invite them out, offer a ride. I believe you'll enjoy the fellowship, and who knows, you may be just what that Brother needed. A friendly face, someone that cared enough to call, to let the Brother know they are valued, they are loved.

***"Behold how good and pleasant it is,
for Brethren to dwell together in
unity"***

***Fraternally,
Chris Smith, Worshipful Master***

**17th District Fellowship Ball
February 20, 2016**

VFW Hall – Goldenrod, FL

Time 6:00 - Attire – Formal

\$50 per person or \$100 per couple

RSVP by Feb. 6 to the WM

This is an event that all Brothers are cordially invited and encouraged to attend. Great evening of entertainment, food, dancing and fellowship.



From the West, Jeff Battaglia, SW

Hello my Brothers and welcome to an exciting new year at Orlando 69. We had an excellent installation on Jan 2. It was well attended and very well done. The new line of officers is looking good and are anxious to support the lodge.

With that being said, I would like to personally thank W. Bob Johnson for so many faithful years of service as our Secretary. He really kept the lodge going strong.

In the upcoming months we have a lot to look forward to. We have degrees already scheduled, more petitions coming in, and more work scheduled on the lodge building and grounds. Please keep coming by to see the improvements. We do have a Master Mason degree in March and there are a few open positions. If you'd like to take part in a degree ceremony, just let me know.

With all the new candidates coming in, we are going to need more catechism trainers. We need people with a desire to share their Masonic knowledge and time.

We are continuing to work with Fern Creek Elementary. We gave our adopted teacher some nice gifts right before the holidays. We also had an excellent showing at the Teach-In.

Several Brothers brought the experiences to Fern Creek to share some good stories with the students and were well received by the staff who greatly appreciated our efforts. Let's keep it going.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I look forward to the new year and the challenges it brings. As always, we encourage you to join us every other Tuesday and bring a friend.

**Fraternally,
Jeff Battaglia, SW**



From The South, Danny Pratts, JW

My Brothers, A new year has come and the lodge is looking great from the south. We anticipate more improvements and we have a strong line of officers this year. As our newly raised brothers come into our lodge, may they provide us with help and ambition in the continuation of improvements.

As the new Junior Warden, I will provide the craft with much nourishment for our fellowship meals.

Meal Plan For February **Italian dishes**

First Meeting

Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana with pasta along with garlic bread and a salad.

Second Meeting

Meatball Parmigiana subs along with salad and a dessert.

So come join us for some great food and great conversations. Let's get our Brothers back into the lodge and catch up on old times and new ones as well.

We hope to see more of our Brothers joining us for fellowship along with our meetings getting larger in crowd as new projects begin. Hope to see you all at the meetings and looking forward to more input from our brothers.

Let us demonstrate the power of our Brotherhood in numbers and may our thoughts combine together to finalize great results. Don't forget to view our website for updated photos of projects as they move along.

May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular masons and may Brotherly love prevail.

Fraternally,
Danny Pratts, JW

District Deputy Grand Master **Official Visit** **R.W. Donald Goolsby**

On **February 9, 2016** R.W. DDGM Donald Goolsby will be having our second official visit at Orlando Lodge. The Officers cordially invite all of the Brothers to come on out to Lodge and welcome R.W. Goolsby as this will be his final Official visit to our Lodge for his term of office. R.W. Goolsby is a staunch supporter of all that we are doing at Orlando Lodge and he deserves our support for the remainder of his term.

WEBSITE UPDATE

At the meeting on February 23rd, our Brother Louis Dobles will giving a presentation on how he plans to improve our website. Br. Dobles urges as many to attend as possible to give feedback on his plans so that our site can be a useful communication tool for your Lodge. Come on out and enjoy an evening of Fellowship and information on these changes.

From The Secretary **Gary Paquette, PM**

My Brothers, I would like to thank Bob Johnson for his term of office, as well as his assistance in bringing me up to speed in my new role as your Secretary. The task; "Daunting," but with everyone's support I will be up to speed in no time. Please bear with me during this process as I get my feet under me.

I would be remiss if I didn't request that everyone pay their dues as soon as possible so that task can be completed timely.

Fraternally,
Gary Paquette, PM, Sec.