

Orlando Masonic Lodge No. 69



Trestle Board – February/March 2017

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 Chris Smith, Past Master

This has been an incredible year for me and for Orlando #69. We have accomplished several goals, physically and Masonically. We have grown in number, added more involvement with appendant bodies, increased attendance, and held some very successful events like car washes with the Rainbow Girls. We have held special presentations like Mothers Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day and continue to confer our own Degree Work.

There is plenty to be proud of, but much work remains. I am very proud of our newly installed line of officers. They are all bright, energetic and dedicated Masons. The future of our beloved Lodge is bright indeed. I can't wait to be a part of it. As the youngest Past Master in "Amen Corner"

Fraternally,

Chris Smith, Past Master 2016



**From Jeff Battaglia
Newly Elected Worshipful Master
2016**

Greetings my brothers and welcome to the new year. On Saturday, January 14 we held our 141st Installation of Officers for Orlando 69 and it was a great success. We have a strong line of officers that want to work, motivate the lodge, learn, and work with our community.

I am very proud to be your Worshipful Master for 2017 and I sincerely want to thank all of the brothers of the lodge for their massive outpouring of encouragement and support you have already provided me. This year is going to be full of good things to come and hopefully we will see several new men join our great fraternity.

The basic framework for my plans for the year are outlined below, but a lodge cannot be a family without everyone's input. I truly seek your guidance to determine if we

should take action on these ambitions and activities for 2017 and feel free to offer suggestions that would bring you to your lodge.

Throughout the year, we are going to work heavily with our charities. Our first quarter charity for 2017 is the Wounded Officers Initiative. This organization supports law enforcement officers that have been severely and permanently injured in the line of duty. On January 24th, Officer Adam Pierce gave a presentation to the Lodge and Officer Stacey Booth will be coming to join us to speak on behalf of that organization as well on March 14. Your families are welcome as we will set aside time during our meeting on that night for public presentation.

Our other charities for the year are the Epilepsy Association of Central Florida, Freedom Service Dogs of America, and the Russell Home for Atypical Children.

I would like to increase our community involvement as well. We will finish out the school year with Fern Creek Elementary and our adopted teachers; however, they will be closing their doors at the end of this year. I urge your support in continuing our Adopt a Teacher Program, and have reached out to Kaley/Lake Como Elementary and are honored and thrilled that we are willing to continue this program with them.

Another idea I have for community involvement is a Trunk or Treat in October. What this means is that we get several brothers to drive up to the lodge on Halloween night and hand out candy to the kids from the parking lot. Therefore the families do not have to go house to house along dark streets trying to avoid traffic; they can just come to our lodge go car to car and get all the candy in a nice, safe, well-lit area. Maybe we can even get OPD involved, as is my hope.

My goals for this year are to travel as frequently to the other Lodges within the district, as well as attend Masonic education events. I would love for as many people as possible, especially the officers, to go to as many lodge and education meetings as they can.

Brothers, our lodge is not defined by four walls, it is defined by our brothers.

The more we meet others and learn from them, the better we can become. Please feel free to contact me for any reason.

My email is

jbattaglia.orl69mason@gmail.com

Since you have my email, it is only fair that I have yours too.

Thank you my brothers. I hope to have a great year and see each and every one of you in lodge.

**Your humble servant and
Worshipful Master
Jeff Battaglia**

To Keep Updated On Lodge Activities

www.Orlandomasons1876.com



From The West Danny Pratt, SW

As the new Senior Warden this year, I would first like to congratulate all of the installed officers and welcome them into the line. We have a strong line of officers and will move forward continuing to improving the lodge and grow our members. We will be having numerous things to accomplish this year and we will do it together as brethren should.

I encourage ideas for lodge improvements and ways to provide support to our community, to be brought up at meetings or discussed personally with our officers. We need to continue to show our community who and what we are. As brethren, it is our duty to help our community and support our youth groups.

We will be hosting a Car Wash for the Rainbow Girls of Pinecastle on the second Saturday of February, which is the 11th, and hope to see many brothers there in support of our youth. Breakfast served from 8 am to 11 am.

Already this year we have had an EA Degree as well as and upcoming FC degree. Lets support not only to our Lodge, but the Proud 17th Masonic District.

Best Regards, Danny Pratt, SW



From the South Jose Fernandez JW/PM

Brothers, we are starting a new year with a lot of energy and desire to work within and out of our lodge, for the betterment of all of us. We had a great meeting on Jan 24th with our brothers from Pine Castle #368 and Mokanna #329 for the Traveling Gavel. Pine Castle was able to have it for the Installation. In addition that evening, we had the visit of our very own R.:W:.. Willie B. Erd District Deputy Grand Master of the proud Masonic District 17.

Before our meeting, we broke bread with a healthy green salad, delicious lasagna and vegetables topped with garlic butter bread and cookies for dessert. This was my first time in the kitchen, but I was able to survive thanks to the help of that wonderful lady Louise Lively, wife of our Chaplain Warren Lively Jr., and the guidance of Senior Warden B.: Danny Pratt. I hope that in the future we will continue to have many more appetizing dinners like this one.

Finally, I challenge all the brothers in our lodge that have the time to join us in visiting other lodges in our district during the year; **"Travel, Travel, Travel"**.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe protect and guide us all in the work to be done this year. **Jose Fernandez, JW/PM**