

# Orlando Masonic Lodge No. 69



## Trestle Board – March 2016



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

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**From the East, Chris Smith, WM**

Brethren, what an exciting year for Orlando #69! February has been productive and fulfilling. The cabinets are up in the dining room and remodel of the interior is nearing completion. ***Many thanks to W:. Gary for his leadership in getting this done.***

Our 17th District Masonic Fellowship Ball was a success and a good time was had by all.

On the 9th we were honored to have our DDGM official visit. My Brothers, if you missed it, it was one for the ages. Our officers were sharp in their floor work, our JW provided an excellent meal, and we had distinguished visitors from Canada who enlightened us on the differences in work. The various committeemen spoke and announced some important events upcoming for the Proud 17th. The high point of the evening came when, in the course of discussing sickness and distress,

our Brother R:. W:. Curtis Johnson delivered a praise report about his health which led to W:. Ricky Ricks leading a spontaneous group prayer for continued good health, thanksgiving and unity. It was very moving as all present came down to the floor to join around R:.W:. Curtis.

**Brethren, I believe this is what separates us from other institutions, we are not a social club, though we socialize, we are not just a charity although we do charity work; what we are is a Fraternity based in service to God and each other.**

In these turbulent times when the world seems to be tearing itself apart, we pull together. I have heard it said that the GAOTU won't give you more than you can handle. I disagree. I think in our lives we will face much more than we can handle, precisely because the GAOTU wants us to need each other and Him. ***Together there is nothing we can't face, and very little we can't do.***

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while please come. Be refreshed in the spirit of this Grand Fellowship and rekindle your love of Masonry. You will be glad you did, and remember, we are a Brotherhood of men, under the Fatherhood of God.

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



**From the West, Jeff Battaglia, SW**

My Brothers, greetings from the West.

Quite a bit has been going on around the lodge. We've had our first DDGM visit recently and it went great. We've installed new cabinets in the dining room and they look fantastic. We've even had an Entered Apprentice degree this year and it was a success. We are working hard and fast on everything around the lodge, so come on by, you don't want to miss out.

What do we have to look forward to, well, first and foremost, we have a Master Mason degree on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We could use all the support for that as we can get. It would be great to fill the lodge with brothers as we raise four Fellowcraft to the Sublime Degree. If you want to come by but are unable to get to the lodge, we can find a way to get you there. So come out for fellowship and a good degree.

We have also been contacted by our adopted school, Fern Creek Elementary. The last two years we have "rented" Sir Gus the Traveling Camel for their spring carnival. They would like to have Gus stop by again. Unfortunately, there is a current situation involving Gus' living arrangements and we may not be able to have Gus appear, but we are trying.

If we can get him, we will need to come up with the funds to have him appear.

As a further note, we are not sure how much longer Fern Creek will be in operation. There are rumors that next school year will be their last one. If this is the case, we need to think about a new school as I feel we want to keep this tradition alive.

I hope all are doing well and I look forward to seeing you in lodge. If you can't stay for the meeting, hopefully you can come by for fellowship and a good meal. We miss seeing your smiling faces.

**Your Senior Warden Jeff Battaglia**



**From The South, Danny Pratts, JW**

I am pleased to see the craft at labor working from the designs on the trestle board of Lodge Improvements. On behalf of the Lodge, I thank all those who are taking time out to assist in all the projects being done. May we continue to improve the Lodge and bring in newly elected brothers.

I am also pleased to see more seats being filled as our long list of members continue to come back. Thank you brothers for taking time out of your schedule to not only see the improvements and come for Fellowship, but for coming back into the Lodge Room.

**Remember we have breakfast the second Saturday of the month from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Great food and a great time to bring the family to see the Lodge and its improvements as well as catch up with and even meet new brothers and sisters from the fraternity.**

May the blessing of heaven rest upon us and all regular masons, may brotherly love continue to prevail.

Hope to see you for Fellowship and at the next meeting.

## **Meal Plan For March**

### **First Meeting**

Tuesday March 8:  
Baked Chicken, mashed potatoes,  
veggies and dessert

### **Second Meeting**

Tuesday March 22:  
Salisbury Steak, gravy, egg noodles,  
veggies and salad

**Fraternally,**  
**Danny Pratts, JW**

## **From The Secretary Gary Paquette, PM**

My Brothers, I am well under way towards getting a handle on my new position as your Secretary. I would like thank all for their support while I get my feet under me.

A big help would be your paying your dues as soon as possible so I can get the bulk of that task out of the way and move on to bigger things. I wish all my Brothers well and look forward to seeing you at Lodge.

**Fraternally,**  
**Gary Paquette, PM, Sec.**

## **Petitions For Degrees**

**Shane Charles Bedsole**

**Joyce Bottieri - Mizpah 190  
Order Of The Eastern Star**

Mizpah 190 will have **open** installation of Officers at Chapter on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend. Mizpah 190 meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays (7:30) at Orlando Lodge. Come on out and get involved in this organization as it has been a part of Orlando Lodge No. 69 for many, many years.

## **Passing of Alfred James (Jim) Rouse**

Jim was PM of Pinecastle Masonic Lodge #368 in Orlando, Sec. of St. Cloud Masonic Lodge 221 in St. Cloud, a member of Bahia Shrine Center and St. Cloud Chapter 46 OES. He will be missed by all and the family asks that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.