

Orlando Masonic Lodge No. 69



Trestle Board – March/April 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 Jeff Battaglia
Worshipful Master**

My brothers, we've had a few meetings under our belts now for the new year. So far everything is running well but we do have work to do. In an effort to keep this message short, allow me to just list the bullet points:

1. **We need a new roof.** Our current one is leaking and pooling water. It won't be long before major problems arise. We need your help.
2. On February 28, we had a long, but productive meeting and DDGM visit. Great information was transmitted by the DDGM & his committeemen.
3. On March 11, we had our annual Lodge Breakfast from 8 to 11.
Remember, our breakfast is the 2nd Saturday of each month.

4. On March 28, the Monarch of **Ormazd Grotto** will be in attendance to share information about what their organization is doing in the community.
5. On March 29, there is the ME/MLT training that I encourage everyone to attend. It is at Orange Blossom 80.
6. Beginning April 3 at 7pm, we will begin a new session of training for the Master Mason I, II, and III exams. These are open book tests that we can complete this task together. If you haven't completed these exams, doing so will provide you with some good knowledge about your lodge and the rules/requirements detailed in the Digest of Masonic Law.

As you can see my Brothers, we have a full slate of work ahead of us and have many more things to offer.

What's new in the lodge:

- We have added a bulletin board showing pictures and names of our newest EAs, FCs, and MMs.
- We are ordering lodge polo shirts, embroidery will include the lodge name, Masonic logo, and your name (approximate price of \$30 per shirt)
- I am going to participate in some instructional sessions to complete the Lodge Officers Training examinations, and I encourage all current or future officers to complete the training as well.

- There is a good possibility that Job's Daughters may want to have a Bethel (chapter) in our lodge. To accomplish this goal, we need at least 5 brothers who would be willing to be involved "voting" brothers and 4 others that would be part-time advisors. If we can get the brothers support, we can get the training we need to proceed. Remember Brothers, your ladies can be involved as well.
- While we are losing Fern Creek as our adopted school at the end of the year, we will be adding Kaley Lake Como Elementary School. They are extremely excited to work with us. This coming year, we will continue our efforts by adopting 2 teachers. We will also add something new by awarding a Student of the Month. Encouraging our youth in their educational pursuits is always a good idea.
- Circumscribe – Brothers you NEED to sign up to Circumscribe. This is a new program available on the Grand Lodge website. Your dues cards will now be sent out in hard plastic with your picture rather than the paper ones we currently get. You will also be able to pay your dues and other things through Circumscribe. It's simple to register and the directions are posted at the lodge. If you don't have a computer at your convenience, visit a friend, brother, or the library.

Brother's fantastic things are happening at Orlando 69 and we want you all to be a part of it. Please come out and join your extended family. Even if you don't stay for the meeting, come by for dinner and fellowship. We would love to see you.

One final thing to add my brothers. I know it's a lot to ask, but we are going to need a new roof sooner than later. Therefore, we will begin accepting any donations for the roof that you are willing to provide. Just let us know that your donation is designated for the roof.

W.M. Jeff Battaglia



From The West Danny Pratts, SW

Brothers, this year I would like for us to get more acquainted with each other not only in the lodge but outside of the lodge.

Within the Lodge, we should always be free to introduce ourselves to all guests and share your business cards with each other. Some of us have known each other for years and still not know what we do for work.

I would also try to meet with each other outside of the Lodge, as often our families might feel left out. Many opportunities are out there that we can all get together and allow our family & friends to become more familiar with your organization and your fellow Brothers. Some ideas might be a comedy show, dancing, bowling or anything that allows us to experience some great fellowship.

**Remember, Freemasonry is a
Brotherhood of families as well**

I ask that these things be brought up in lodge and discussed and always am looking for input from the side lines....**The Craft.** Speak out any suggestions you may have that can benefit the Lodge and our appearance in the community. We need to do more for our community and bring more members into our Lodge.

I continue looking forward to doing more for the lodge this year and getting more involved in community outreach and ask that you all do the same. Lets show what our brotherhood is all about and do the best we can for each other as well as our community.

Best Regards, Danny Pratts, SW



**From the South Jose Fernandez
JW/PM**

Brothers, once again we begin another month of fraternal meetings, Saturday weekend breakfast and car wash, Thanks to the hard work our of brothers, we were successful.

First, we had our official visit on February 28, 2017 of the R.: W.: William B. Erd, District Deputy Grand Master of the Proud 17th District and his staff of brothers.

We all enjoyed a delicious steak dinner as main course and a surprising dessert of vanilla and chocolate ice cream sandwich. We should repeat this more often.

At the meeting, we heard a lot of good news from our Proud 17th District Committeemen and R.:W.: Willie B. from Tennessee. We thank them for their time and efforts in serving our district.

Brothers, it is my duty as guardian of the temple to inform all our brothers of a very important safety topic that concerns us all. The deteriorating condition of our temple roof and the increasing water leak is troublesome in that it is becoming a safety condition for all of us to correct. With the coming rainy season, there is an urgent need to repair the roof to protect all the efforts in our recent renovations. The cost of these repairs is estimated to be approximately \$30,000.00, and in order to pay for these repairs a committee has been assigned to look for ways to raise the funds needed to make the repairs. The committee is working to prepare a plan to raise the needed funds, but we need your assistance and input in brainstorming for a solution.

This is not a plan for one man to develop and execute, but a plan for all of us to work together ASAP. We don't want to see the roof cause damage to our recent renovations.

Please address your ideas to our W.: M.: Jeff Battaglia, attention "Roof Committee".

Remember, "this temple is your Lodge, care for it, so it can care for you back".

Until next time,

Jose Fernandez, JW/PM



***Charity of the Month
Wounded Officers Initiative***

On March 14, Retired Officer Stacey Booth joined us to share her story about her injury in the line of duty. The only thing that can be said about her presentation was: SPELLBINIDNG

Mark Your Calendars

On April 11, we will have the Rainbow Girls enlighten us with their Rose Presentation as well as another special presentation for a worthy brother.

On May 23, we are going to have a Military Appreciation Night. The first part of the meeting is OPEN TO EVERYONE. Oak Ridge High ROTC will be there to give their Empty Seat presentation to honor those service men and women we have lost.



Claude (Bert) Nelson, PM 1983
Received his 40 year Masonic Service Award at the meeting on February 28. Brother Bert also honors us with his service in being the Installing Marshal for Installations for many years. Thank You Brother Nelson for your support

Also that evening, the American Legion will present the colors (hopefully they can make it), and members of the Navy Reserves. We will show the famous video of Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance explanation.

This portion of our meeting is open to everyone, so invite your ladies, children, family, and friends. If you were a service member, please feel free to wear your military regalia. We are also collecting clothes and other household items for AMVETS.

Special Notice

At the Stated Communication on Tuesday March 14, discussion was had regarding the Paper Trestleboard and the difficulties in preparing, printing and mailing it to the members. With today's technology it was decided that a much more consistent, robust, informative, and versatile Trestleboard could be published by email, and placed online at the Lodge website.

The Lodge strongly desires to communicate as effectively as possible with all the members, and it was decided an electronic Trestleboard is the answer. We also realize that there are some who don't have access to a computer and if a paper edition is "needed", an accommodation will be worked out, **but it must be requested. Please call me at my cell phone: 407-790-6289**

There will be two more paper Trestleboard published, but subsequent to that, an electronic version will be sent to your email, placed on the Lodge Website at www.orlandomasons1876.com, and on the Lodge Facebook page.

Please send your email of choice to receive the Trestleboard to:

jbattaglia.orl69mason@gmail.com

Circumscribe Signup

Go To: <https://glfl.circumscribe.net/>

Find your grand lodge member number on your dues card

Initial User Name: FL"yourgrandlodgenumber"@changeyouremail.info

Example: FL1234567@changeyouremail.info

Temporary Password is FL"yourgrandlodgenumber"

You are required to change password which must be 8 characters and 1 number

You will then be prompted to log back in where you can check your profile, pay your dues, and upload a picture. Check it out, you will like it.