



Mandarin Masonic Lodge No. 343 F.&A.M.

February 2025

From the East...

Brethren,

As we continue our journey in this new year, I want to emphasize the value of membership. The strength of our Lodge lies in the participation and dedication of its members. Your presence and engagement are vital to the success of our work and the bonds we share as Masons.

I encourage all brothers to attend **Open Books session at Orange Park on February 5th**. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your knowledge, improve the quality of our ritual work, and gain deeper insights into our teachings. Let's make a strong showing and bring our best to the table.

On **February 27th**, we are hoping confer the **Entered Apprentice Degree**, a cornerstone of our Craft. This is a momentous occasion for the candidates, and your support and participation will make it a memorable experience for them. Please mark your calendars and join us in welcoming these new Brothers to the Fraternity.

The **School of Instruction** is another vital event that demands our attention. Regular attendance at these sessions helps us uphold the integrity of our ceremonies and ensures the continuity of our traditions. Your commitment to improving your proficiency strengthens not only yourself but also the Lodge as a whole. This SOIs take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Let us also show our support for our youth by attending the **First Coast Chapter Order of DeMolay Installation on February 22nd at 3PM here at our Lodge**. These young men represent the future of our fraternity, and our presence demonstrates our encouragement and pride in their endeavors.

Finally, let's rally together to attend the **NEFMA meeting** and claim the **Traveling Gavel**. At Hyde Park Lodge on Feb 26 at 6:30PM. This is a chance to showcase the unity and determination of our Lodge while fostering camaraderie with other Lodges in Districts 8 & 9.

Thank you for your dedication to Masonry and to our Lodge. Let's make February a month of growth, fellowship, and excellence.

Fraternally,

Omar Rivera

Worshipful Master



From the South...

Greetings from the South,

Hello Brethren,

If our first month is the foreshadowing of what's to come, we're definitely in for an amazing year. We already had our first Master Mason Degree, raising three new brothers. One more to follow soon, by way of courtesy work. EA degree in the works as well.

Hopefully, this year will be filled with growth and success, coupled with our new Masons being active in our lodge. Especially, since our participation and attendance is what gives our lodge life. Always remember that we are the key to our lodge, we alone, through our decisions and actions strengthen or weaken the lodge we love. If you are reading this and haven't attended in a while, we miss seeing you. Even if we haven't met before, that's irrelevant, you are my, and our Brothers and we always enjoy seeing you. Even if it's only a few times a year, that is still far better than not seeing you at all. I look forward to a great year and seeing our lodge grow.

Beefeaters this month was a success. We had a total of twelve people, sharing fellowship, food and cigars. It's been a while since we had the last Beefeaters and I knew I missed it, but didn't realize exactly how much till last night. I hope we are successful in doing it every fifth Friday again, because it was a great night and I was honored to finally be able to host the event that allowed me to first meet so many of you before I was an EA.

-----NOTICE OF 3TF-----

Third Thursday Fellowship will be at Julington Creek Fish Camp this month. That's the 20th. If you are interested, please let me know somewhere between now and the 17th, so I can have an approximate count for the reservation. Thank you and hope to see you there.

Fraternally,

Daniel Breslin

Calendar

Subject to minor changes.

February 2025

1– 100 Masons– Waycross Exchange Club
4– MLT 6-10 Stafford Caldwell Lodge
5-Open Books– Orange Park Lodge
6- Stated Communication
19-District SOI– Solomon Lodge
20-3TF– Julington Creek Fish Camp
22– First Coast Demolay Installation– 4PM
26-NEFMA @ Hyde Park Lodge
27-Called Communication EA Degree

March 2025

5– Open Books– Orange Park Lodge
6– Stated Communication
18– OES Mandarin Installation 7:30PM
19- District SOI– Temple Lodge
20– 3TF (TBD)
22– Demolay King Solomon Degree @ Scottish Rite
26– NEFMA– AJR Lodge

2025 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Omar Rivera
(904) 864-9440

Senior Warden

Bob Davidson

Junior Warden

Daniel Breslin

Treasurer

Don Carter, PM

Secretary

Lou Govreau, PM

Marshall

Jan Lindahl, PM

Chaplain

Jack Krumbein

Senior Deacon

Carl Mankinen

Junior Deacon

Mitchel "Shane" Weaver

Senior Steward

Travis Reynolds

Junior Steward

Tyler

Bobby Bethel

2025 COMMITTEES

Finance

Bob Davidson, SW
Larry Rogers, PM
Travis Reynolds, SS

Vigilance

Daniel Breslin, JW
Jack Krumbein, Chaplain
Travis Reynolds, SS

Petitions

Lou Govreau, PM, Sec
Shane Weaver, JD
Bobby Bethel, Tyler

Masonic Education

Todd Connor, PM
Lou Govreau, PM, Sec
Ed Mann, PM

Board of Relief

Omar Rivera, WM
Bob Davidson, SW
Daniel Breslin, JW

Charity

Todd Connor, PM
Don Carter, PM, Treas
Larry Mason, JS

Lodge Property

Bob Davidson, SW
Daniel Breslin, JW
Carl M, SD

Community Relations

Jeff Starke, PM
John Young, PM
Larry Mason, JS

PAST MASTERS

1962 <i>C. P. Munger</i>	1983 <i>J. R. Knight Jr.</i>	2004 Charles Higgins
1963 <i>C. E. Futch</i>	1984 John Porter Hufman	2005 James C. Ruoff
1964 <i>W. H. Ange</i>	1985 Richard Gale Hornbrook	2006 David M. L. Randall
1965 <i>Walter Wilson Powell</i>	1986 <i>Richard Faye Mauro</i>	2007 William E. Avera III
1966 <i>M. D. Bish</i>	1987 Donald Wyman Carter	2008 George S. Blum
1967 <i>Billy Collier</i>	1988 <i>Joseph J. Frederickson</i>	2009 <i>Eddie E. Bides</i>
1968 <i>T. "Ira" Higginbotham</i>	1989 Christopher C. Ramsayer	2010 Nate Vargo
1969 <i>C. J. Bowden</i>	1990 Anthony "George" Colson	2011 Larry M. Rogers
1970 <i>R. L. Flynn</i>	1991 Henry B. Tucker	2012 Mike Minter
1971 C. R. Bell (PDDGM)	1992 <i>Elva Ray "Pete" Copeland</i>	2013 Larry M. Rogers
1972 John Ammond Peoples Jr.	1993 Walter Manfred Pace	2014 George Sarkees III
1973 <i>Earl Davis Waldrep Sr.</i>	1994 <i>Lenwood Earl Bucks</i>	2015 Angelo Echevarria
1974 <i>Donald E. Bush</i>	1995 <i>Gerald Dean Pugh</i>	2016 Jeff Starke (PDDGM)
1975 <i>Earl Herndon (PDDGM)</i>	1996 Earnest Jackson Strange	2017 David J. Gilpin
1976 <i>M. C. Cassidy</i>	1997 Jimmy J. Pace	2018/2019 Todd Connor
1977 <i>Nicholas Manos</i>	1998 <i>Siegfried Rohrbacher</i>	2020 Lou Govreau
1978 <i>Cecil Lenard Platt</i>	1999 Randy Carter	2021 John Young
1979 <i>Cedric Frank Thompson</i>	2000 <i>Paul Johnston</i>	2022 Jeff Starke (PDDGM)
1980 <i>G. Grayson</i>	2001 John Downes	2023 Edward Mann
1981 <i>T. Thompson</i>	2002 Charles Benham	2024 Jan Lindahl
1982 <i>Jerry Johnson</i>	2003 Larry M. Rogers	



**The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of
Free and Accepted Masons of Florida**

DONALD W. COWART
Grand Master

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PROCLAMATION

**TO: THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS, OFFICERS, AND MEMBERS OF ALL
PARTICULAR LODGES OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION OF FLORIDA**

The month of February being identified with the birth of George Washington, patriot, soldier, statesman, father of our great country, and outstanding member of Freemasonry, as well as with other notable Masonic events; and

Love of country and our flag being a principle basic concept of Freemasonry in America and freedom of assembly, thought, and religion being essential to the practices of our Masonic tenets, it is fitting that we take time to show our appreciation for our great heritage and as Masons to exemplify and promote patriotism and demonstrate our dedication to the great democratic principles which have made us a great nation.

THEREFORE, I DO NOW PROCLAIM AND DIRECT:

That the month of February 2025 be designated as "AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP MONTH" for the Masons of Florida and that all Particular Lodges participate in special programs to emphasize our loyalty and continued support of our American institutions and our democratic way of life.

Such programs should include our Masonic families, friends, and our Youth Organizations.

Dated at Jacksonville, Florida, this 2nd day of January A.L. 6025, A.D. 2025.



Donald W. Cowart, Grand Master

Attest: 

Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary



Newly Raised Master Masons...

Larry Mason
Derek Mercer
Ray Smith

Petitions to receive the Degrees...

Mike Mason
Jorge Butten
Patrick Hinely

Awaiting MM Degree...

Eric Finkelstein

Sickness and Distress...

Brother Charlie Owens has laid down his working tools.
Alas, my Brother!

