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The Trestleboard

10Volume Tropical 2009

Issue No. 02



Tropical Lodge No. 56 F. & A.M.



Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered March 1, 1893

3100 Evans Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: 239-334-6074

www.tropical56.com

Regular Communications
1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 PM
Dinner at 6:30

February 2009

Visitors welcome / Members are urged to attend
Be proud to show your Dues Card

Trestleboard "Boosters" 2009

Ted Connally, Sam Bissell, Randy Spradling, Peggy & Ron Frieden, Dick Nelson

It's a New Year and Your Name Could be here! Contact Ron Frieden or Ted Connally

From the East

My brothers, our new year has started well with wonderful attendance at our first regular Stated Meeting. We were fortunate to have R W. Sandy Haberman 33° as our lead speaker in what we hope will be a new emphasis on Masonic Education. The schedule for the remainder of the year is:

February: Roadmap of Freemasonry – Power Point Presentation by Randy Spradling

March: Introducing the Shrine

April: Introducing Scottish Rite and York Rite

June: Introducing Grotto and Tall Cedars

July: Tropical Lodge Bylaws

August: Grand Lodge Laws and Edicts; The Florida Masonic Code

September: Importance of Floor Work and Respecting the Floor; a lesson in Floor Work and Proficiency levels— Jason Ott

October: History of the Lodge – Ron Frieden

November: Symbolism and the Blue Lodge

Our plan is that the first Stated Meeting of each month be preceded by an Officer's Meeting and will feature a serious effort in Masonic Education. The second Stated Meeting will be held for Degree Work. The Degree to be done will depend on Petitions and Candidate progress, however, we will work a Degree every month other than Official Visits. Of course, everything is subject to our first priority—Degree Work for our petitioners and brothers. We can expect some called meetings, and we expect to have our annual Outdoor "Moonlight" Degree once again in my year. I will soon be announcing that date and other important dates to keep in mind for the coming year including our Annual Past Master's Roast which is tentatively scheduled for March 5th. Check your calendars and let me or Brother Ted know. Remember, PMs and their Ladies go free, the Lodge pays for the MMs and you pay for your guest. Where and when will be announced in the near future.

Stay tuned, check the website calendar for dates and announcements, and come see us at Lodge. We continue to have new petitions coming in and a number of brothers from other areas joining our Lodge as dual and Plural members. Come enjoy your Lodge.

Fraternally,
Sam Bissell, WM



Past Masters

Edelblut, R.T.	1969	Johns, E.D.	1994
Chandler, A.L. (2)	1970	Lewis, J.D. (3)	1995
Jones, A.R. (2)	1971	Williford, C.A.	1996
Hart, W.E.	1972	Gordon, T.P.	1997
Hamby, J.A.	1974	Andrews, A.H.	1998
Frieden, R.G. (3)	1975 & 1976	Flynn, B.L. Jr.	1999 & 2001
Roan, A. N.	1981	Record, J.L. (2)	2000
Williams, E.P.	1983	Summerall S.N.	2002
Swaringen, F.D.	1984	Bodenhamer, T.H. (2)	2003
Matz, M.W.	1985	Shields, R.G.	2004
Hardin, H.C.	1986	Ott, J.J. (3)	2005
Landrum, E.W.	1988	Lott, E. W.	2006
Sandahl, W.A.	1989	Parsons, Bryant G.	2007
Irvin, R.D. (2)	1990	Thrasher, Barry P	2009
Mc Conley, W.A.	1991		
Fore, G.A. (1,2)	1992		
Goodman, M.T.	1993		

1 PGLO 2 PDDGM 3 PDI

Lodge Committees

Director of Work.....	Jason J. Ott.....	872-2772
Scholarships/Bloodbank.....	Ronald G. Frieden.....	489-1698
Trestleboard/Editor.....	Ted Connally.....	332-2878
Refreshments.....	(Sr. Warden)	
Youth.....	Ben Flynn.....	275-0021
Finance/Budget.....	Randy Spradling.....	634-3267
Building/Maintenance.....	(Sr. Warden)	
Education.....	Ted Connally.....	357-1263
Petitions.....	Al Jones.....	694-5565
Sickness/Distress.....	Andrew Chandler.....	694-3755
Charity.....	Jamie Flerx.....	896-0713
Coaching.....	Jason Ott.....	872-2772
Perpetual Membership.....	Randy Spradling.....	634-3267

Worshipful Master.....	Sam Bissell.....	707-3252
Senior Warden.....	Randy Spradling.....	634-3267
Junior Warden.....		
Treasurer.....	Ted Connally.....	332-2878
Secretary.....	Ronald G. Frieden.....	489-1698
Chaplain.....	Terry Beard.....	936-1044
Senior Deacon.....	Jamie Flerx.....	896-0713
Junior Deacon.....	Steve Twomey.....	477-8177
Senior Steward.....	John Cavada.....	253-0619
Junior Steward.....	(Revolving)	
Marshal.....	Jason Ott.....	872-2772
Tyler.....	Charles Machell.....	693-3400

Officers

Events at Tropical Lodge

February Events

Feb 3	Stated Meeting — Masonic Education	6:30PM
Feb 17	Stated Meeting — FC Degree Expected	6:30PM

March Events

Mar 3	Stated Meeting — Masonic Education	6:30PM
Mar 5	Past Master's Roast — RPYC	6:00PM
Mar 17	Stated Meeting — EA Degree Expected	6:30PM

[Check our Website Frequently](http://www.tropical56.com)

[<www.tropical56.com>](http://www.tropical56.com)

An accurate, up-to-date calendar is maintained for all area

Masonic Events

Special Announcements are published as necessary

Stated Meetings

1st Tuesday of each month

3rd Tuesday of each month

Officers Meet at 6:00PM the 1st Stated Meeting

From the Secretary

Dues payments for 2009 have been coming in very well. Thank you to all the brethren who already have their 2009 Dues Cards. If you still have a 2008 Dues Card all you have to do is send me your check for 2009 and I will send your current card to you.

We have had quite a bit of mail returned recently with no current address. If you have moved recently and are finding that you have not heard from your Lodge recently perhaps we don't have your new address. We want to keep in touch with all our members but it is rather difficult when we don't have a current address.

Believe it or not, it is too early to begin searching for applicants for this year's Will Jones Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are available to Lee County High School Graduates for the current school year. Applications are available from your Secretary. This is a very worthwhile way to support the youth of our community.

Fraternally,
RH *Ran Frieden*, PM, PDI

The following text is taken from an email exchange that appeared on a Masonic list serve recently. The specific issue being discussed is less important than the lesson we can learn here, although the incident itself was by no means minor.

How many Masons does it take to change the face of Freemasonry? Do these phases sound familiar? "Wait a while with patience." How about, "Time, perseverance and patience can accomplish all things," or "Progress in Masonry occurs at glacial speed."

From the very first time I stood up in the Lodge room to address the Master I have listened to those words of advice whispered in my ear. They become a drug on the mind and reminds me of a story Zig Zigler used to tell beginning salesmen. "When I was a boy in Mississippi I used to collect crickets in a mason-jar." He would begin. I would punch air-holes in the lid and watch the crickets try to jump out of the jar hitting that lid like a swarm of angry bees. Then, after a while I found that the crickets did not jump up quite as far as the lid having realized that they could not escape. I found that I could eventually take the lid off the jar without any of the crickets escaping. Isn't that amazing?"

I was talking to Brother on the phone the other day when I was reminded of Zig and his story about the crickets and the mason-jar. For hundreds of years in this country young masons have been given the same advice and in general they have finally accepted that advice as true. In fact, as they climbed round after round of that ladder that leads to success in our fraternity and changed the color of their aprons from white to purple they began to give this same advice to those who followed. Occasionally, one man would see the error in this self-limiting philosophy and try to enact change only to be bullied and threatened with being isolated. In the end they would all fall back in line and march to the sound of the 'status quo' dirge.

Then one day a young Mason watched his father stand up to right a wrong within the fraternity and witnessed his defeat at every turn. The son decided right then that he would to pick up his father's fight and thus began his own journey to wear the purple of the fraternity on his honored shoulders. As he climbed, he sought out those who also saw the great wrong. Very quietly this small group of Masons made laid out their plans and built their strategy during the seven years it took the son to reach the highest office in Freemasonry.

On the day the son was installed as Grand Master he asked his father to read a proclamation calling on the Grand Lodge to right that wrong that that persisted for over *a great many* years, not in the next decade, not in the next five years, not even in one year but within six months. When the proclamation was made the young Masons in the room jumped to their feet and gave the father a standing applause. Six months later, this few, this happy few, this band of brothers, changed the face of Freemasonry in North America.

How many Masons does it take to change the face Freemasonry? It takes just one . . . you.

From time to time we are all critical of one or another aspect of our Lodge, our Grand Lodge and even our Craft. But we have stood out among men for as long as there has been a Craft, and we always will.



James V Flerx
Consultant

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Expressing the
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"doing good to others"
in support of Dentistry for
the handicapped

Ery Parsons, Secretary
694-1383