

Lodge Officers - 2024	
Anthony Garofalo, WM	516-220-7147
John "Wally" Jones, Senior Warden	321-243-6479
Ernie Quick, Junior Warden	321-877-9937
Kirk Hall PDDGM, Treasurer	321-537-9047
Ron Barker, PM, Secretary	321-403-5651
Stephen Butalla, Senior Deacon	941-769-0144
Mike Erickson, Junior Deacon	321-877-9937
TBD, Senior Steward	
TBD, Junior Steward	
Richard Earls PM, Chaplain	757-338-8298
Jamie Hamilton, Marshal	205-447-3996
Sam Woodward, Tyler	

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - 2024	
Catechism Instructors	Ernie Quick, Richard Earls, Robert Sigman, Dino DeRosa, Ron Barker
Charity	Anthony Garofalo, WM
Finance & Budget	Wally Jones, SW
Vigilance	Ernie Quick, JW
Lodge Property	Ernie Quick, JW
Masonic Education	Craig Boettcher, PW
Board of Relief	Anthony Garofalo, WM
Sickness & Distress	Ernie Quick, JW
Petitions	Ernie Quick, JW
Investigations	Wally Jones, SW
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JANUARY 2024



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FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS**

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2300 DAIRY ROAD, WEST MELBOURNE, FL

ANTHONY GAROFALO
WORSHIPFUL MASTER
516-220-7147
Email: Anthony.garofalo@mac.com

Stated Communications
First and Third Mondays
Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30

Lodge mailing address
P.O. BOX 120143
West Melbourne, FL 32912-0143
Lodge Telephone: 321-831-3415
Website: <http://www.melbournelodge143.com>

Lodge Email Address: ml143@melbournelodge143.com
Secretary: Ron Barker, PM 321-403-5651

17th Masonic District
Louis K. Fields, District Deputy Grand Master
850-532-9143 - lkfields@live.com
Matthew S. Green, District Instructor
321-610-8731 - snakez1912@yahoo.com
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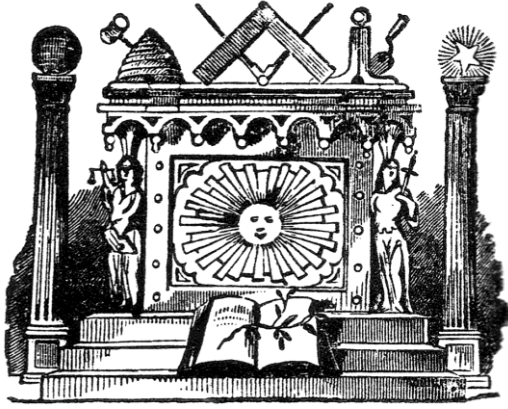
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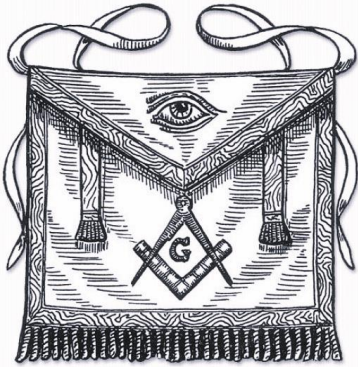
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LODGE CHARITY SCHEDULE

**1st Quarter: Brevard Association of the
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**Gun Raffle Fund Raiser April to June
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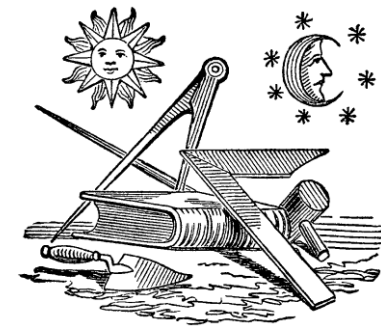
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LODGE MEETINGS 17th MASONIC DISTRICT

Melbourne No. 143	1st & 3rd Mondays
Merritt Island No. 353	1st & 3rd Mondays
Canaveral No. 339	2nd & 4th Mondays
Gateway No. 384	2nd & 4th Mondays
Beach No. 354	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Brevard No. 113	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Palm Bay No. 397	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Harbor City No. 318	2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Indian River No. 90	2nd & 4th Thursdays



From the East

Associate yourself with Men of good Quality if you esteem your own Reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.

Brothers All,

You may (or likely not) recall that, when in the West, I was fond of using these phrases that Brother George Washington transcribe as a child to open my Trestleboard letters. Though several hundred years old, many ring true today. In any event, this one rings in my ears as I write to you this day.

As you know, in November of 2019 I set out into the world again to follow a dream—one unfortunately cut short by COVID. While out there in the world I met Masons from all over. While onboard I regularly met with any Masons among our Passenger list and then, moving to Ohio and Virginia, I sat in new and exciting Lodges. While meeting these Men and hearing their tales of exotic Lodge rituals was certainly interesting, it never felt exactly right. In Virginia I had the opportunity to join a Lodge founded in 1773, but it didn't seem a fit. Upon returning to Melbourne Lodge a few months back, I realized why.

I am very glad to be home. Not home as in where I live, for I have made a home in many places, but rather here in the Lodge among the Brothers who raised me and taught me what it means to be a Mason. Settling in on the blue cushions of the familiar sidelines of our Lodgeroom, it all felt right again. How wonderful to be back among these *Men of good Quality* once more.

(continued page 5)

From the West

My dear Brothers,

A sincere thank you to all those who felt I was suitable to serve in the West and to all the elder Brothers who continue to give me encouragement and sage advice. I am looking forward to the challenges of the coming year.

Having come from a long line of Masons, I was always aware of a significant qualitative difference between the Masonic brothers and their non-Masonic associates. I continue to observe that difference in my Brothers and in so many of our candidates and new brothers. This is one of the many strengths of our fraternity.

There is great pride in being able to introduce and shepherd new candidates in their own Masonic journey. Having the opportunity to sit in the East for a Fellow Craft Degree made me aware of the importance of Masonic education and participation by our members. We have an initiative to assure we are always prepared with experienced participants for degree ceremonies, and I encourage your participation.

In the coming year we will again be challenged to support a variety of charities. In the past two years I have observed that the shift in our raffle prizes to fewer gun raffles and more gift card raffles, has made the tickets more popular across a wider segment of our population. I will support continuing this trend.

Fraternally
Wally Jones, Senior Warden

From the South

Greetings to all my Brothers, families, and friends.

I am honored and grateful to have been elected your Junior Warden for this year and thank you for your confidence in me. I hope everyone had a wonderful time over the holidays and have made wonderful memories to enjoy for a lifetime.

Again, this year we are pleased to have Worshipful Chris Gibbs heading up our kitchen. Last year we enjoyed his meals and thank him for volunteering again this year.

Our first meeting is on January 15th. We will have a catered dinner by our Brother Eddie Smeen, who is the owner of Skewers Mediterranean Grill and will be preparing a family favorite: Garlic Chicken Carrot Special with his wife's award-winning Chocolate Hazelnut Cake!

I am looking forward to more of our Brothers volunteering to prepare or sponsor a meal this year. Come share your special dish with us! I also believe we would all enjoy having some potluck dinners.

In the past we have talked about planting an acacia tree that I would donate at the Lodge to memorialize all our Brothers who have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above. This is a project that I would like to move ahead with this spring, and I welcome everyone's opinions on the idea.

Fraternally,
Ernie G. Quick, Junior Warden

January 2024

Melbourne Lodge No. 143, F. & A.M.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <u>Stated</u> <u>Communication</u> <u>Catered Dinner</u> <u>6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge Opens 7:30PM</u>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <u>Brevard County</u> <u>Scottish Rite Club</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Meeting 7:30PM</u>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

From the East (continued)

Next, a word of thanks. Having been gone for three years, I thought it somewhat presumptuous when I hinted to a Brother that I might be interested in continuing my journey East in 2024. To my relief, this idea was met only with glad tidings and maybe even a little relief! It is truly an honor to be taking a place among the many Men who came before me. I am eager to earn the trust placed in me by you all and am excited for the year ahead.

As for that year, in the coming month we will begin to communicate our plans. While only informally, the other Officers and I have discussed our goals, and we are in unison about a few things. Fraternity, Charity, Ceremony and Making Masons will be high on the list of priorities... oh, and good food too! We are eager to share our plans with you and will do so in the new year.

As we hear in the Entered Apprentice Degree, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity." And it truly is good. I am so glad to be back in the Lodgeroom and look forward to working together with you all to ensure Melbourne Lodge is welcoming to all, helpful to those in need, a showplace for ceremony, and a prolific maker of Masons.

Happy New Year! See you in the Lodgeroom.

In Harmony,
W.: Anthony

Masonic History and Esoterica

The Scottish poet and Mason Robert Burns was born and passed in the month of January. His life is celebrated in Scottish culture on the 25th of this month with "Burns Night" in which traditional foods, music, and dance are enjoyed.

For your enjoyment, here is a Burns poem of a Masonic nature.

Farewell To The Brethren Of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton

*Adieu! a heart-warm fond adieu;
Dear brothers of the mystic tie!
Ye favoured, enlighten'd few,
Companions of my social joy;
Tho' I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing Fortune's slidd'ry ba';
With melting heart, and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, tho' far awa.*

*Oft have I met your social band,
And spent the cheerful, festive night;
Oft, honour'd with supreme command,
Presided o'er the sons of light:
And by that hieroglyphic bright,
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw
Strong Mem'ry on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes, when far awa.*

*May Freedom, Harmony, and Love,
Unite you in the grand Design,
Beneath th' Omniscient Eye above,
The glorious Architect Divine,
That you may keep th' unerring line,
Still rising by the plummet's law,
Till Order bright completely shine,
Shall be my pray'r when far awa.*

Masonic History and Esoterica (continued)

*And you, farewell! whose merits claim
Justly that highest badge to wear:
Heav'n bless your honour'd noble name,
To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request permit me here, -
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round, I ask it with a tear,
To him, the Bard that's far awa.*

From the Editor

From the Editor:

I would like to thank all who came out to the Lodge Christmas Party at the Azan Shrine Center. It was a great success and the Oasis was a wonderful site for the event.

A special thanks should go out to our wonderful Secretary, Ron Barker, who did so much to put the event together. He also remained busy during the course of the festivities ensuring that there was sufficient ham and chicken available for all.

I hope that we will have many more social events in the coming year and hope to see you all in attendance.

Happy New Year!