

Lodge Officers - 2025

John "Wally" Jones, Worshipful Master	321-877-9937
Ernie Quick, Senior Warden	321-243-6479
Stephen Butalla, Junior Warden	941-769-0144
Kirk Hall PDDGM, Treasurer	321-537-9047
Ron Barker, PM, Secretary	321-403-5651
Mike Erickson, Senior Deacon	770 289-1625
Tom Hamilton, Junior Deacon	860 690-8797
Alex Barbosa, Senior Steward	321 429-4562
George Swanson, Junior Steward	860 559-7459
Richard Earls PM, Chaplain	757-338-8298
Jamie Hamilton, Marshal	205-447-3996
Sam Woodard, Tyler	no phone

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - 2025

Catechism Instructors	Jonathan Pitt, Dana Ferrel, Ernie Quick, Nathan St. Pierre
Charity	Wally Jones, WM
Finance & Budget	Ernie Quick, SW
Vigilance	Stephen Butalla, JW
Lodge Property	Ernie Quick, JW
Masonic Education	Craig Boettcher, PM
Board of Relief	Wally Jones, WM
Sickness & Distress	Ernie Quick, JW
Petitions	Stephen Butalla, JW
Investigations	Ernie Quick, SW
Ritual Instructor	Craig Boettcher, PM
Website/social media	Bryan Fox

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SEPTEMBER 2025



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2300 DAIRY ROAD, WEST MELBOURNE, FL

JOHN "WALLY" JONES WORSHIPFUL MASTER

516-220-7147

Email: thurwulf@gmail.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

Matthew S. Green D.D.G.M.

Phone. 321-610-8731 d17ddgm2024@gmail.com

Craig R. Boettcher DI-District Instructor

Phone. 321-298-2203

d17districtinstructor2024@gmail.com

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Howard Holcomb, Lawrenceville No. 131, GA (4/2024)
John "Wally" Jones, Melbourne No. 143 (12/2025)
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Roger McKay, PDDGM, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2027)
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Montserrat Williams, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2024)
Eddie Smeen, Melbourne No. 143 (5/202)
James Beckman, Melbourne No. 143 (2/2024)

NOTE: (month/year) Last month to be published

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Boosters are \$12 and business cards are
\$120 for twelve issues. Please Contact
the Secretary.

LODGE NEWS

W.: Ted Woodbury, Past Master of Melbourne
Lodge 1995 and Palm Bay Lodge 2003,
passed away peacefully on June 30, 2025,

There will be a Memorial Service at Azan
Shrine Center on Saturday October 11th at
1:00 PM.



Last publish date – 3/2024

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Congratulations to Master Masons

Robert Peter McCabe, Joshua Richard
Morris, and Robert Kyle Rumsey

OPEN BOOKS

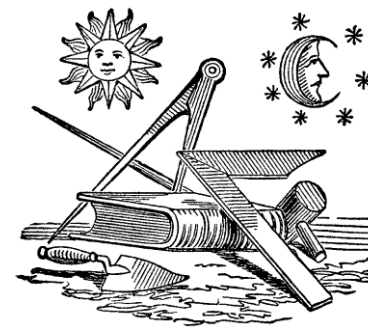
First Wednesdays 6:00 to 9:00 PM
Harbor City Lodge No. 318, F. & A. M.

- Check those letters in the Red Book
- Learn a Lecture
- Learn How to Open & Close Lodge
- Brush up on your Catechisms
- Qualify for Proficiency Cards

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE INVITED

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



LODGE CHARITY SCHEDULE

Children's Hunger Project

In Brevard County, the number of children in the free and reduced-price meal program exceeds 60% of student enrollment. Some elementary schools have 80% or more of their kids on the free and reduced-price meal program with many of them at risk of childhood hunger and malnutrition.

From the East

"We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers."

Brother Albert Pike

Brethren,

The opening quote comes from one of our well published Masonic Brothers and expresses the feelings I enjoy when visiting our several District 17 Lodges. Brother Albert Pike was a lawyer, poet, and Masonic leader in Arkansas and the Confederacy. He fought in the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Indian Wars, and wrote influential books on law, history, and religion.

August was a quiet month at the lodge. The Lodge was dark with the exception of our Wednesday degree practices and an officers meeting. The September Family Night will be held at Ciao Italian Grill, 1400 N. Harbor City Blvd Melbourne, September 8th at 6:30 PM.

Our Lodge will resume Stated Communications, with our September 15th DDGM Official Visit. Our September Charity is the Children's Hunger Project. A worthy charity with an 88% rating.

We continue to hold our Wednesday degree practices. We are preparing for a Master Mason Degree (date TBD) and the aforementioned DDGM Official Visit. All brothers are welcome, whether they intend to participate in the degrees or not. There is a wealth of Masonic knowledge at all our Wednesday practices.

(continued page 5)

From the West

Greetings Brethren from the west. I hope everyone has had a great vacation and family visits with time to relax and enjoy. Our children are starting back to school, so it is a fresh start for all.

Monday September 3rd will be open books at Harbor City lodge No. 318 from 6-9p.m. It is open to all Master Masons so stop by and have good fellowship and get some of your questions answered about degree and floor work and enjoy a Klondike ice cream bar.

Palm Bays Masters and Wardens meeting on September 6th will be held at Melbourne lodge No. 143. Breakfast is at 8:00, followed by meeting at 9:00a.m. All Master Masons are welcome and each lodge in our district will talk about their upcoming events. Please come out and join us.

Our regular Lodge meetings will start on September 15th and each 1st and 3rd Monday after. Dinner is at 6:30, meeting at 7:30 and this will also be our very own District Deputy Craig R. Bottcher's Grand Masters official visit, followed by an informative meeting with presentations by the district committeemen. The Grand Masters official message delivered by W.R. Craig R. Bottcher D.D.G.M. Come join us for a great dinner and fellowship.

September 27th is our district Grand Masters official visit. Registration is at 5p.m., please bring your signed dues card. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at AZAN Shrine temple followed by a tiled meeting at Harbor City Lodge No. 318 at 7:00p.m. It will be a wonderful evening, the ladies will remain at the Shriners for a Ladies event, while the Brothers attend the meeting, returning to meet with their ladies after.

(continued page 5)

From the South

Brothers,

Welcome back from our summer break! I hope everyone is feeling rested and fully recharged for the exciting remainder of the year ahead. As a reminder, we will not have a Stated Communication on September 1st, 2025, due to the Labor Day holiday. On Monday, September 15th, we will host the DDGM R:W: Craig Boettcher, the DI R:W: Matt Green, and the district committeemen for their official visit. We will be having an Italian night for this occasion, featuring all of the classic Italian dishes:

Monday, September 15th: Italian Night and Official DDGM Visit

- **Bucatini con Polpette:** Al dente bucatini pasta, homemade meatballs topped with a slow-simmered garlic-basil sauce and parmigiano Reggiano.
- **Tuscan white bean and kale salad:** A warm salad with white beans, sauteed kale, parmigiano Reggiano, crushed red pepper, and a citrus dressing.
- **Cheesy garlic bread:** Toasted Italian bread with a garlic-parsley compound butter and mozzarella.
- **Tiramisu:** The iconic Italian dessert with espresso-soaked lady fingers, layered with creamy mascarpone cheese and cocoa powder.

While we have accomplished a great deal already, we will be continuing our commitment to beautifying the lodge. As we get back to our normal schedule, I want to announce the following important dates:

(continued page 5)

September 2025

Melbourne Lodge No. 143, F. & A.M.
Lodge Charity is Children's Hunger Project

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <u>Open Books</u> <u>Harbor City Lodge</u> <u>6:00 to 9:00PM</u>	4	5	6 <u>Masters & Wardens</u> <u>9am – 10am</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u>
7	8 <u>Family Night</u> <u>Ciao Italian Grill</u> <u>1400 N. Harbor City</u> <u>Blvd</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	9	10 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	11	12	13
14	15 <u>Stated</u> <u>Communication</u> <u>DDGM Visit</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge 7:30 PM</u>	16	17 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	25	26	27 <u>Grand Master Visit</u> <u>Azan Center</u> <u>Dinner 6:00 PM</u> <u>Meeting at Harbor</u> <u>City 7:00 PM</u>
28	29	30				

From the East (continued)

As always one of our core duties is to encourage the growth of the craft through recruitment of good men, who will benefit and grow from association with our fraternity. When out and about wear some Masonic emblem and always take time to answer any questions from potential brothers.

Fraternally,
W.: M.: Wally Jones

From the West (continued)

Please RSVP to R.W. Craig R. Bottcher at d17ddgm2025@gmail.com, please include your name, officers' position, lodge membership, and total attending.

I hope everyone has a great month and comes to as many events as possible. BE SAFE.

Ernie Quick
Senior Warden



Masonic History

B. Chris Ruli, FPS, is one of the living authorities on the Masonic career of Washington's dear friend, the Marquis de Lafayette. His recent article, "The Masonic Music and Poetry of Lafayette's American Tour, 1824–1825," details the enthusiastic reception of the Marquis de Lafayette during his final goodwill tour of the United States. As a revered hero of the American Revolution and a fellow Freemason, Lafayette's arrival in August 1824 sparked widespread excitement, particularly among Masonic lodges nationwide.

Grand Lodges and their constituent bodies organized numerous events, including banquets and balls, to honor Lafayette. A key aspect of these celebrations was the creation and performance of unique Masonic-themed music and poetry. These works, often reproduced in public newspapers and Masonic proceedings, celebrated Lafayette's service to America and his deep connection to Freemasonry, while also highlighting the fraternity's core values.

Notable examples include "Fayette's Return," performed at the Grand Lodge of New York's banquet, and "Lafayette, the Loved Mason," sung in Maryland. In Cincinnati, Lafayette Lodge even surprised him with honorary membership and a specially composed "Ode to Lafayette." Brother Ruli emphasizes that these artistic tributes, though less common today, offer invaluable insights into early 19th-century Masonic culture and its public engagement.

From the South (continued)

- Grounds Committee Meeting: Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6:30pm
- Lodge Work Day: Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 9am–12pm

I'd also like to highlight the incredible success of the District 17 Masters & Wardens (M&W) Association Inaugural Auction! We had an excellent turnout from the brothers of Melbourne Lodge in support of this mission, and I'd particularly like to thank Brothers Rich, Morris, McCabe, Quick, and W.: Jones for their help during and after the event. Most importantly, however, special recognition goes to our DDGM, R.:W.: Boettcher, and the M&W President W.: Sharp—their detailed planning, leadership, and indefatigable effort were the true reason this event not only occurred, but was an overwhelming success. In total, we raised \$5364 for the District 17 M&W Association which directly benefits all of the lodges of this district!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of my brethren back in lodge on September 15th!

Fraternally,

J.:W.: Stephen D. Butalla

District 17 News

17th Masonic District new website:

<https://thunderingdistrict.wixsite.com/seventeen>