

LODGE OFFICERS - 2026

Ernie Quick, Worshipful Master	321 243-6479
Stephen Butalla, Senior Warden	941 769-0144
Jason Rich, Junior Warden	321 586-9158
Kirk Hall PDDGM, Treasurer	321 537-9047
Nathan St. Pierre, PM, Secretary	321 403-5651
Joshua R. Morris, Senior Deacon	321 848-5657
Kyle Rumsey, Junior Deacon	334 714-3426
George Swanson, Senior Steward	860 559-7459
Robert P. McCabe, Junior Steward	321 987-1896
Jamie Hamilton, Chaplain	205 447-3996
Alex Barbosa, Marshal	321 429-4562
Sam Woodard, Tyler	no phone

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - 2026

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

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FEBRUARY 2026



MELBOURNE LODGE NO. 143 FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

CHARTERED JANUARY 17, A.D. 1894 A.L. 5894
2300 DAIRY ROAD, WEST MELBOURNE, FL

ERNIE QUICK

WORSHIPFUL MASTER
321-243-6479
Email: erniequick@ymail.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: Nathan St. Pierre, PM 321 403-5651

17th Masonic District

Craig R. Boettcher D.D.G.M.

Phone. 321-298-2203 d17ddgm2025@gmail.com

Matthew S Green District Instructor

Phone. 321-610-8731

d17ddgm2024@gmail.com

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TRESTLEBOARD BOOSTERS

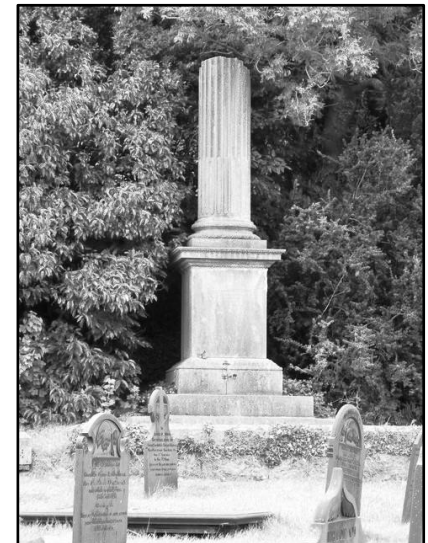
Howard Holcomb, Lawrenceville No. 131, GA (4/2024)
John "Wally" Jones, Melbourne No. 143 (12/2025)
Ken Kelley PM, Melbourne No. 143 (4/2024)
Jerry Mayo, Melbourne No. 143 (3/2025)
Roger McKay, PDDGM, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2027)
John Thorne, Melbourne No. 143 (3/2025)
Dan Wilder, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2033)
Robert Williams, Melbourne No. 143 (4/2027)
Kevin Gholston, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2024)
Monseratt Willams, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2024)
Eddie Smeen, Melbourne No. 143 (5/2025)
James Beckman, Melbourne No. 143 (2/2024)

**NOTE: (month/year) Last month to be published
THANK YOU to our Boosters and advertisers.**

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

W.: Joe Lentz passed to the Celestial Lodge
on January 29, 2026. Please keep Brother
Joe and his family in your prayers.



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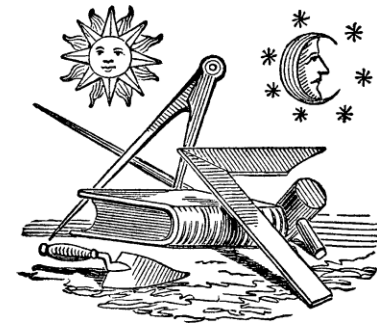
First Wednesdays 6:00 to 9:00 PM
 Harbor City Lodge No. 318, F. & A. M.

- 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	2nd & 4th Thursdays
Harbor City No. 318	2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Indian River No. 90	2nd & 4th Thursdays

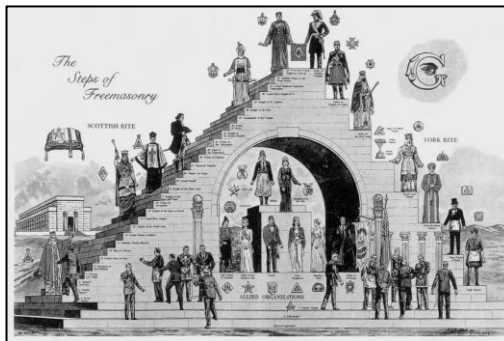


LODGE CHARITY SCHEDULE

Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation

The Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation Inc. was founded in 1995. Last year it provided 143,736 hours of adult daycare, 19,962 senior meals, transported seniors 82,748 miles, and provided 11,032 hours of in-home respite.

The organization is fully focused on serving both the client and the caregiver and is involved throughout the care process...from early detection to care after detection and everything in between.



From the East

Greetings to my Brothers, family and friends.

January has been a busy month. Getting the budget approved is always a good thing.

Our first officer's meeting for the year had a great turnout, all but one of our installed officers was there. We have our own Secretary, Brother Senior Steward George Swanson, our Senior Warden Brother Jay Rich made up a pot of coffee about halfway through our two-hour meeting, which was a very welcomed.

As a matter of fact, I think this great group of Masons should be referred to as "Team Fire". One after another, one idea then another Pow like magic. Results to follow.

We have a new Masonic flag that Brother Junior Ward, or our Brother Junior Warden says is of good quality and should last us a while.

E.A. degree practices will start on January 28th at 6:30 pm at our Lodge.

Monday February 7th is our Masters and Wardens meeting at Merritt Island Lodge No.353, breakfast at 8:00a am, meeting starts at 9:00am. this is open to all Master Masons, and all Officers of their Lodges should attend.

February 9th we will have our family dinner at Carrabba's Italian Grill located at 1575 Palm Bay Road Palm Bay Fl. Phone 1-321-956-1900, 6:30 pm, come out and join us and bring a car full of family (this includes all the kids) and friends. You will be served a great meal as always.

(continued page 6)

From the West

My Brothers,

As we leave the month of January and head into February, I wanted to briefly reflect on the excellent start of this Masonic year. The cigar night at Executive Cigar Lounge in downtown Melbourne was an incredible success with great conversation, cigars, and fellowship. Thank you to all who were able to join us!

Over the past month the Investigations Committee completed two home investigations. An Entered Apprentice Degree will be scheduled in the near future for these candidates; further details will be provided shortly. As such, we will be resuming our usual Wednesday evening degree practice, focusing on the EA degree. (As a reminder, Open Books occurs on the first Wednesday of each month, so for our first practice, we will be meeting at Harbor City Lodge at 6pm. If you want to learn a new part or just want to brush up on your degree work, please join us at Open Books on Wednesday, February 4th, at 6pm!) Please see the degree practice schedule below:

- Wednesday, February 4th, 2026: Open Books at Harbor City Lodge
- Wednesday, February 11th, 2026: EA practice at Melbourne Lodge
- Wednesday, February 18th, 2026: EA practice at Melbourne Lodge
- Wednesday, February 25th, 2026: EA practice at Melbourne Lodge

At the second officers meeting of the year, we discussed an array of topics, including the proposal for the establishment of a Widows' Program.

From the South

Brethren,

Today, after walking through the lodge with our WM, I felt it necessary to ask for ideas and potential solutions from you all. We know this lodge was built in 2000 and is now 26 years old. There are more than 20 items in need of replacement, and then many others can be repaired. Five of these items are health and safety-related and will be mandatory fixes, which will take the remainder of this year's budget. We should consider options to avoid the continued deterioration of the lodge exterior and interior.

By regular maintenance, we will ensure lower costs in the future as opposed to massive costs created by leaving things until it is too late. Please think of ways we can ensure our lodge is up to par and how we can fund all these repairs or replacements. Our senior warden has mentioned a building fund, and we should truly make this a priority.

Thank you for your consideration on this, and hopefully, we will be able to fix a good portion of the items this year. I hope everyone has an excellent month and comes out for dinner before the Lodge meeting. While we would enjoy having you stay for the meeting, you can come and enjoy a meal and conversation with the brethren if you are unable to stay. The suggested donation cost will remain at 10 dollars, and the menu for this month is below.

February 2, 2026

Baked Ziti, Garlic bread, Caesar salad, croutons, and tasty dessert.

February 16, 2026

Shredded brisket street tacos with topping bar
Street corn salad, yellow rice, and a dessert

February 2026

Melbourne Lodge No. 143, F. & A.M.
 Lodge Charity is Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <u>Stated Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30 PM</u> <u>Lodge 7:30 PM</u>	3	4 <u>Open Books</u> <u>Harbor City Lodge</u> <u>6:00 to 9:00 PM</u>	5	6	7 <u>Masters and Wardens</u> <u>Merritt Island</u> <u>Lodge No.353</u> <u>Breakfast 8:00 AM</u> <u>Meeting 9:00 AM</u>
8	9	10	11 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	12	13	14 <u>Lodge Breakfast</u> <u>8:00 AM</u>
15	16 <u>Stated Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge 7:30 PM</u>	17	18 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	26	27	28

From the West (continued)

As detailed at the second Stated Communication in January, we aim to hand-deliver flowers and cards to the widows of Melbourne Lodge twice a year. From our investigation into current flower prices, vases, cards, etc., we can accomplish this endeavor with a very modest budget. I'm pleased to inform the Craft that the first visit, including all necessary materials for flower arrangements, has been funded by an extremely generous brother who wishes to remain anonymous. My deepest gratitude extends to this brother. Our future work on this program has officially begun, as W:M:Quick has appointed a Widow's Program Committee. We are currently planning the Spring flower delivery; if you would like to participate in this process—whether it be delivering flower arrangements or just writing cards and creating the arrangements—please let me know. I know that this gesture, small as it may be, will make a difference.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the first Stated Communications in February!

Fraternally,
S:W: Stephen D. Butalla



From the Editor

Do you have something you would like to share with the Trestleboard? If so, please send an email to the editor at mailjbh@gmail.com.



Speculative Masonry

As we look toward the future of Melbourne Lodge 143, we must first ask ourselves a fundamental question: What is the express purpose of a Masonic Lodge? According to the classical teachings of William Preston, the architect of our ritual, a lodge is "any number of Masons assembled for the express purpose of explaining Masonry." This definition reminds us that our fraternity is, at its core, a speculative art. As Preston stated: "a regular system of morality conceived in a strain of interesting allegory, which readily unfolds its beauties to the candid and industrious enquirer."

In the modern era, it is easy for a Lodge to become a mere administrative body or a social club for external interests. However, the "grand design" of the Craft is the cultivation of the mind and the pursuit of hidden wisdom.

Speculative Masonry

This wisdom is not found in the busy rush of external programs, but in what our forebears called the "secret shade." This is a space set apart for contemplation. When we allow the "scope creep" of outside organizations to dominate our calendar, we risk losing the very thing that makes the Blue Lodge unique.

To improve our Masonic culture, we must reclaim the tiled Lodge as a sanctuary for intellectual and spiritual growth. This means prioritizing Masonic education not as a five-minute "program," but as the central activity of our communications. By focusing on the latent doctrines within our symbols, we provide the "sage philosopher" and the "industrious enquirer" with the light they truly seek. Our goal is to create an environment so profound and edifying that no brother would willingly be absent from our labors.

Next month, in Part 2, we will examine the Initiatic Emphasis, shifting our focus to the lodge's sacred duty to the candidate and how protecting the solemnity of our ritual ensures that the experience of the degrees remains a profound, lifelong catalyst for personal growth.

P: M: Nathan St. Pierre



From the East (continued)

February 18th we will have an officers meeting at 6:30pm, This should be a great fun and very informative evening.

I hope all have a wonderful time during this cool weathered month and I would enjoy seeing you at most of our events.

Your Brother,
W:: M:: Ernie Quick



From the West (continued)

Please keep the following Brothers in your thoughts and prayers.

- W:: Chris Gibbs
- Brother Richard McIntosh
- Brother Dan Wilder
- W:: and Mrs. Levey



The Pomegranate



The Pomegranate

It is appropriate to discuss the pomegranate during winter. Masons are surely familiar with certain aspects of the pomegranate, but are you aware that before modern cultivation the pomegranate had on average a total of 613 seeds? This is equal to the total amount of Mitzvot according to the Rishonim, 365 negative and 248 positive. Mythology tells a curious tale regarding pomegranates.

Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, was abducted by her uncle Hades and subsequently forced to marry him. Upon learning of her daughter's demise, Demeter became disheartened and depressed and neglected her duties as the Goddess of the harvest and agriculture, causing the earth and its plants to plummet into a catastrophic dearth resulting in the mass starvation of mankind.

Zeus, seeing how disastrous this was for humans, allowed Persephone to return to earth and her mother, thereby restoring the joy within Demeter, allowing her to tend all the plants and crops, resulting in the springing of life and ending the dreaded winter. Which raises the question "Then why do we have winter every year?". Because Persephone is required to return to Hades for a portion of each year. And "Why?" you ask... because she ate food of the underworld while she was there, and that food was the delectable pomegranate.

Brother Josh Morris