

## 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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## MAY 2025



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

### JOHN "WALLY" JONES WORSHIPFUL MASTER

516-220-7147

Email: [thurwulf@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ml143@melbournelodge143.com)

Secretary: Ron Barker, PM 321-403-5651

17<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

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

Phone. 321-610-8731 [d17ddgm2024@gmail.com](mailto:d17ddgm2024@gmail.com)

Craig R. Boettcher DI-District Instructor

Phone. 321-298-2203

[d17districtinstructor2024@gmail.com](mailto:d17districtinstructor2024@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)  
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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## Lodge News

## Congratulations to Fellowcrafts

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



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## OPEN BOOKS

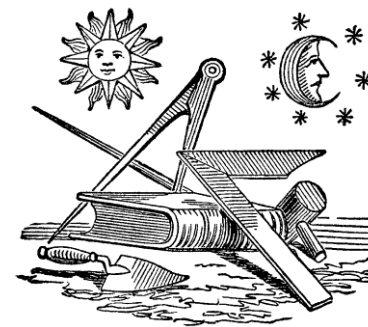
First Wednesdays 6:00 to 9:00 PM  
Harbor City Lodge No. 318, F. & A. M.

- 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

### May – Brevard Alzheimer Foundation

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

Our goal is to keep families together for as long as possible.

### From the East

*I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground where all men are equal and have one common interest.*

Theodore Roosevelt

Brethren,

I chose the opening quote because it comes from one of our more famous Masonic Brothers. It describes the environment that I enjoy when among my Masonic Brothers, and that makes me more grateful for being in such company.

April was a busy month at the lodge. Our degree team passed four new Fellow Crafts and initiated one new Entered Apprentice. We received two new petitions in April. Additionally, we launched our Dinner and a Movie raffle. I encourage you to buy a ticket and actively endeavor to sell them to your friends. Our raffles support our monthly charity activities.

Our April Family Night was held at Fiesta Azteca Mexican Restaurant and was well attended. The May Family Night will be held at Ciao Italian Grill, 1400 N. Harbor City Blvd Melbourne, May 12th at 6:30 PM.

We continue to hold our Wednesday degree practices and monthly open books participation. 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.

### From the West

Greetings to all my Brothers, families, and friends,

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice weather. Well, here it is May and soon it will be vacation time for many families. So, reach out to someone you have not seen in a while and see how they are doing maybe invite them for a visit or even a picnic. Do more of what makes you happy.

Our Grand Lodge Communication will be held this year on May 26, 27, and 28th. It is a gathering of masons from not only Florida, but many other states and countries, and is open to all Master Masons. It is a great time of fellowship, learning, fun and good food.

If you know of any Brothers that would like to attend our Lodge, please invite them. We will always make them feel at home.

We are continuing our Lodge degree practices and learning studies on the last three Wednesdays of the month. Please come out and join us, ask questions, and be part of our degree team. There is always a need for more help making our degrees more successful.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Your Brother Ernie Quick  
Senior Warden



### From the South

Brothers,

As we move further into the year, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for all the brothers who have put in so much time and energy into beautifying the lodge and helping to prepare the meals. Without your help, the vision of beauty and refreshment we are so diligently pursuing would not be possible.

We are continuing our commitment of bringing you the highest quality refreshments—this month will be even better than the previous month! We have an incredible Cinco de Mayo Celebration and Feast planned for the first Stated Communication, and an equally delicious offering for the second Stated Communication; please see the respective menus below:

Monday, May 5th (Cinco de Mayo Celebration)  
Carne Asada Street Tacos (corn tortilla, marinated skirt steak, onions, cilantro)  
Chili-lime chicken tacos (corn tortilla, cotija cheese, purple cabbage, pickled onion, crema)  
Refried Pinto Beans  
Mexican Red Rice  
Esquites (Mexican Street Corn)  
Homemade Roasted Salsa Verde and Salsa Roja  
Homemade Guacamole

Monday, May 19th  
Cuban Sliders (Smoked Ham, Homemade Pulled Cuban Roast Pork, Dill Pickles, Swiss, Mustard, and Mayonnaise)  
Tostones (Fried Plantains) with Garlic Mojo and Spicy Aioli  
Cuban Black Beans  
Cilantro Lime Rice

# May 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 <u>Masters &amp; Wardens</u> <u>9am – 10am</u> <u>Merritt Island Lodge</u>
4	5 <u>Stated</u> <u>Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge Opens 7:30PM</u>	6	7 <u>Open Books</u> <u>Harbor City Lodge</u> <u>6:00 to 9:00PM</u>	8	9	10
11	12 <u>Dinner</u> <u>Ciao Italian Grill</u> <u>1400 N. Harbor City</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	13 <u>Grounds Committee</u> <u>6:30pm</u>	14 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	15	16	17
18	19 <u>Stated</u> <u>Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge Opens 7:30PM</u>	20	21 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	22 <u>Kitchen Committee</u> <u>6:30pm</u>	23	24
25	26	27	28 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	29	30	31

### 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

### Masons in History

The Marquis de Lafayette was a French aristocrat and military officer who played a significant role in both the American and French Revolutions.

Lafayette entered Freemasonry in 1775. He was a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Knights Templar. In the Scottish Rite, he received degrees in the Cerneau Supreme Council of NY and was made a 33rd degree Mason and Honorary Grand Commander.

Lafayette's early Masonic membership is debated, with some accounts suggesting he was made a Mason in France before arriving in America, while others suggest his initiation occurred in America, potentially at a military lodge in Morristown, New Jersey, or at Valley Forge. Regardless of the exact timing and location, Lafayette's Masonic involvement is well-documented.

General Lafayette visited America in 1824-25 and was received with great aplomb. While at a cornerstone ceremony in South Carolina he was welcomed by Abraham DeLeon, Worshipful Master of Kershaw Lodge No. 29 in their native French language.

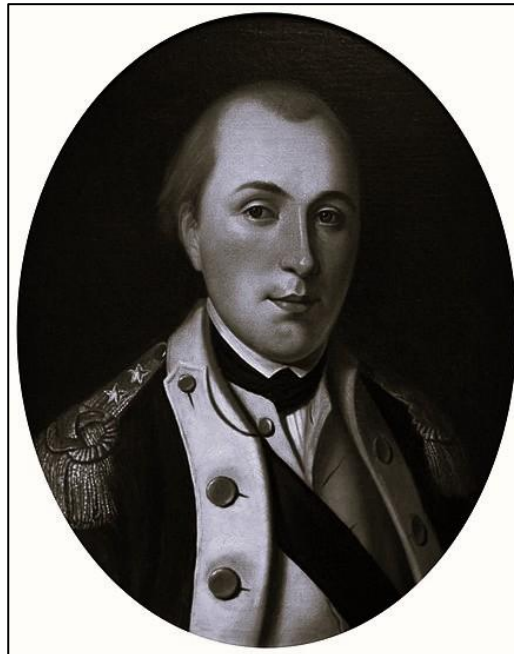
### Masons in History (continued)

Lafayette being overjoyed at this reception removed his Grand Masters Jewel of France, approached Bro. DeLeon and placed it around his neck as a personal gift and souvenir.

This medal presently resides at Mariner's Lodge No. 2 in Charleston SC.

Lafayette faced challenges in his own country during the French revolution. As a moderate, he attempted to straddle the line between prevalent radical ideas and his own more centrist perspective.

He led the assault on the Bastille and sent his friend George Washington the massive iron key taken from its gate. Later however, he publicly denounced demands to behead King Louis and Queen Marie Antoinette.



### From the South (continued)

Moving to our efforts in beautifying the lodge, each week we are focused on completing items on our dynamic to-do list started at the beginning of the year. Of the many items accomplished this past month, I'd like to highlight the installation of a brand new propane tank which replaced our aging one—thank you Brother Jay Rich for spearheading this effort. As usual, we will have our Kitchen and Ground Committee meetings in May on the following dates:

- Grounds Committee: Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 6:30pm
- Kitchen Committee: Thursday, May 22nd, 2025 at 6:30pm

These meetings are open to the Craft and I encourage you all to attend—we would like to hear your feedback and ideas about what can be improved! Finally, I would like to remind you about our next lodge workday, which will be on Saturday, June 21st, 2025 at 8am.

Fraternally,  
Stephen D. Butalla, J.:W.:

### District 17 News

**17th Masonic District  
The Thundering 17  
Representing Florida's Space Coast**

**District 17 has a new website:**

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

Get online and keep up to date with important events in your district.