

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

Tom D. Waldron, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW • MEMBERS OF FLORIDA BAR



Estate Planning • Guardianship
Probate • Wills • Trusts • Real Estate

FREE Initial Consultation For Masons

321.725.7077 TomDWaldron.com
FREE DVD on Estate Planning

OVER 25 Years
Serving Brevard County 100 W. New Haven Ave • Melbourne, Florida 32901

DECEMBER 2025



MELBOURNE LODGE NO. 143 FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

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

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

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

Vol. 2025 Issues No. 12

Subscription paid automatically as part of
Annual Membership Dues. Published Monthly by
Melbourne Lodge No. 143, F. & A. M.

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)
Monserrat 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

THANK YOU to our Boosters and advertisers.

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

W:. STUART MAPES

Funeral services for W:. Stuart N. Mapes will
be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025,
at Beach Funeral Home, 1689 South Patrick
Drive, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937.
Calling Hours are from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with
Services to follow at 4:00 p.m. The Mapes
family has requested a Masonic Service.

W:. Mapes was a Fifty-Nine-Year-Mason and
longtime resident of Brevard County. He
affiliated with Beach Lodge No. 354 in 1976
and with Melbourne Lodge No. 143 in 2021.

Please join us in honoring the life and Service
of W:. Stuart N. Mapes, P.M., who served the
Masonic Community for over Fifty-Nine Years



Last publish date – 3/2024

TRESTLEBOARD ADVERTISERS



O: 321.253.9791
F: 321.256.5333
C: 321.684.2401

kgholston@cvstrategy.com
www.cvgstrategy.com

Kevin M. Gholston
Vice President

Certified SBA 8(a) Minority & Woman
Owned Small Business

Last publish date – 3/2025

TRESTLEBOARD ADVERTISERS

TRESTLEBOARD ADVERTISERS



Last publish date – 3/2024

TRESTLEBOARD ADVERTISERS



50% off

any entrée with the purchase of an
entrée of equal or lesser value

~ For current brother Masons ~

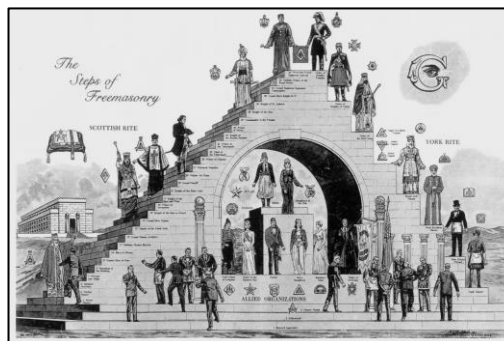
phone : 321.727.8944 www.skewersgrill.com

Last publish date – 2/2025

LODGE CHARITY SCHEDULE

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve that distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. It was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks, inspired by his wife Diane, who wanted to donate a homemade doll to a needy child but could not find an organization to accept it.



OPEN BOOKS

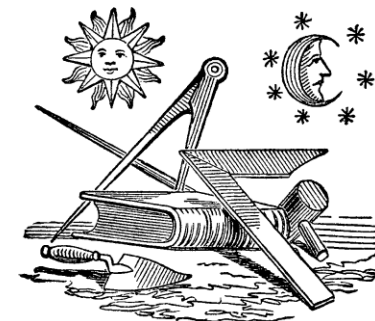
First Wednesdays 6:00 to 9:00 PM
Harbor City Lodge No. 318, F. & A. M.

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



From the East

"It is possible to depart from life at this moment. Have this thought in mind whenever you act speak and think." - Marcus Aurelius

Brethren,

The opening quote comes from the 16th Roman Emperor and Philosopher, the last of the "Good Emperors." While he was not a Freemason, he represented the Masonic penchant for achievement, philosophy and knowledge. This statement seemed appropriate to me, in light of our recent and irreplaceable losses.

We lost an active and esteemed member of our Lodge. PM Stuart Mapes passed to that house not built with hands November 8th. Worshipful Mapes was a regular attendee at Melbourne Lodge and an active participant in all our degree activities.

Funeral services for Stu will be at Beach Funeral Home, December 3rd, Reception at 2:00 PM and Funeral at 4:00PM. Melbourne Lodge No. 143 will conduct the Masonic Service, and we encourage all who knew Stu to join us.

Our collaborative Trunk or Treat event with Palm Bay Lodge No. 397 was well attended for our first event of this type. Discussion with attending members of the Palm Bay Lodge indicated an interest in doing another similar event for Halloween 2026. In addition to delivering seasonal sweets in a safer environment, some of the adult and teen participants also indicated interest in learning more about Freemasonry. (continued page 5)

From the West

2025 I almost over and it has been a great year. I am very confident that we will have a great year in 2026 with the advice and help off the Craft.

The Trunk or Treat event was held in our Lodge parking lot on November 7th and was a huge success. We had 14 trunks with lots of candy, and many costumes. The children and adults had a blast. Both Palm Bay Lodge No. 397 and Melbourne Lodge No. 143 were there to help.

The Table Lodge at Harbor City Lodge No. 318 on November 11th was a fantastic event.

December 6th Masters and Wardens will be at Gateway Lodge No. 384, and they will hold the election of Officers at this meeting.

Our installation of Lodge Officers will be December 29th, registration at 5:30 dinner at 6:00, followed by open installation. All family and friends are invited. Dinner will be catered by Skewers Mediterranean Grille, please come out and have a great evening.

Christmas will be here before we know it, so have a great visit with your family and friends.

Also have a Happy New Year!

Your Brother
Ernie Quick
Senior Warden

From the South

My Brothers,

As this is my last Trestleboard article as your Junior Warden, I wanted to express my deep gratitude to you all for the continuous support, ideas, and assistance with accomplishing our mission: beautifying our lodge and serving the highest quality refreshments. All of our workdays have been extremely successful and well-attended, and the kitchen crew has dedicated an unbelievable amount of time to preparing and cooking each dinner. I would especially like to thank my lady Miranda, whose willingness to sacrifice sleep ensured every ingredient was prepared in advance, and whose time, effort, and care carried through the cooking and cleanup that followed.

Since winter has arrived and the holiday season is in full swing, we will be serving two great dinners at our upcoming Stated Communications:

Monday, November 3rd: Hearty Beef Stew Dinner and Stated Communication

- Heart Beef Stew: A wintertime comfort classic recipe developed over many years: high quality beef chuck, potatoes, onions, carrots, and a secret blend of aromatics and spices.
- Buttered Egg Noodles: Perfectly seasoned and buttered egg noodles.
- Fennel and Apple Salad: The perfect contrast to beef stew: shaved fennel, green apple, toasted walnuts, parmigiano Reggiano, and a citrus vinaigrette.
- Dinner rolls

(continued page 5)

December 2025

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

Lodge Charity is Toys for Tots

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Stated Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM Lodge</u> <u>7:30 PM</u>	2	3 <u>Open Books Harbor</u> <u>City Lodge 6:00 to</u> <u>9:00 PM</u>	4	5	6 <u>Masters & Wardens</u> <u>Gateway</u> <u>Lodge No. 384</u> <u>8:00 AM Breakfast</u> <u>9:00 AM Meeting</u>
7	8	9	10 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	11	12	13 <u>Xmas Party</u> <u>Azan Center</u> <u>6:00 to 9:00 PM</u>
14	15 <u>Stated Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM Lodge</u> <u>7:30 PM</u>	16	17 <u>Entered Apprentice</u> <u>Degree</u> <u>7:00 PM</u>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <u>Merry Christmas!</u>	26	27
28	29 <u>Open Installation</u> <u>Dinner 6:00 PM</u> <u>Installation 7:00 PM</u>	30	31 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>			

From the East (continued)

The November Family Night at Skewer's Mediterranean Grille was well attended and included one of our new candidates and his lady.

Our December charity is Toys for Tots. We are conducting a charity raffle for the holidays. The prizes are two \$250 gift cards to Total Wine in Viera. Ticket donations are \$10.00 each.

On December 1st we will be voting for next year's Lodge officers who will be installed on December 27th .

This year has passed more quickly than I expected. It has been a full experience and one that I recommend to anyone who might be considering entering the Lodge Officer line.

We continue to hold our Wednesday degree practices. We are planning for an Entered Apprentice Degree, in December. 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.

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 display some Masonic emblem and always take time to answer any questions from potential brothers.

Fraternally,
W.: M.: Wally Jones

From the South

Monday, November 17th: Christmas Dinner and Stated Communication

- Spiral-cut Ham: Roasted ham glazed with brown sugar and spices.
- Brown butter-sage gravy: A light compliment to add to the potatoes and stuffing.
- Smashed potatoes: The perfect balance of crispy roasted potatoes and creamy mashed potatoes.
- Grandma Butalla's famous stuffing: Back by popular demand from our Thanksgiving dinner.
- Apple, Cranberry, Walnut Salad, and Blue Cheese Crumbles: A simple and fresh combination to contrast the ham.
- Eggnog: Fresh egg nog with holiday spices.
- Pecan pie: A perfect ending to a Christmas feast.

As the new year approaches, we will have one final workday to prepare the lodge for installation and the year of Masonic labor ahead:

Lodge Workday: December 13th, 2025, at 10am

I look forward to seeing you all at our next Stated communication!

Fraternally,

J.:W.: Stephen D. Butalla

Nancy Swanson

Nancy Swanson can be found in the kitchen during each of our Stated Communications serving meals and cleaning up afterwards.

Nancy Swanson been a Grange Member 51 years. The Grange is a family fraternity. The Grange was created by Freemasons after the civil war at the request of the US Government. The Grange uses farm Agricultural tools to teaches a moral way of life, as the masonic order uses architectural implements.

Nancy spent many years assisting her family on a Christmas Tree Farm where they also tended a large garden. As her parents became older she looked after them, which allowed them to live out their lives at home. After they died, I needed an assistant in the Sea Scout Program and she volunteered. She became fully qualified in BSA ways of Sea Badge and Wood Badge.

Nancy is a member of the Eastern Star; the Holy Trinity Melbourne Handbell Choir, the Church's Daughters of the King, the American Legion Auxiliary of Post #81, and The FL Native Plant Society.

District Website

Stay up to date with 17th District news with our new site.

17th Masonic District new website:
<https://thunderingdistrict.wixsite.com/seventeen>

From the East

"It is possible to depart from life at this moment. Have this thought in mind whenever you act speak and think." - Marcus Aurelius

Brethren,

The opening quote comes from the 16th Roman Emperor and Philosopher, the last of the "Good Emperors." While he was not a Freemason, he represented the Masonic penchant for achievement, philosophy and knowledge. This statement seemed appropriate to me, in light of our recent and irreplaceable losses.

We lost an active and esteemed member of our Lodge. PM Stuart Mapes passed to that house not built with hands November 8th. Worshipful Mapes was a regular attendee at Melbourne Lodge and an active participant in all our degree activities.

Funeral services for Stu will be at Beach Funeral Home, December 3rd, Reception at 2:00 PM and Funeral at 4:00PM. Melbourne Lodge No. 143 will conduct the Masonic Service, and we encourage all who knew Stu to join us.

Our collaborative Trunk or Treat event with Palm Bay Lodge No. 397 was well attended for our first event of this type. Discussion with attending members of the Palm Bay Lodge indicated an interest in doing another similar event for Halloween 2026. In addition to delivering seasonal sweets in a safer environment, some of the adult and teen participants also indicated interest in learning more about Freemasonry. (continued page 5)

From the West

2025 I almost over and it has been a great year. I am very confident that we will have a great year in 2026 with the advice and help off the Craft.

The Trunk or Treat event was held in our Lodge parking lot on November 7th and was a huge success. We had 14 trunks with lots of candy, and many costumes. The children and adults had a blast. Both Palm Bay Lodge No. 397 and Melbourne Lodge No. 143 were there to help.

The Table Lodge at Harbor City Lodge No. 318 on November 11th was a fantastic event.

December 6th Masters and Wardens will be at Gateway Lodge No. 384, and they will hold the election of Officers at this meeting.

Our installation of Lodge Officers will be December 29th, registration at 5:30 dinner at 6:00, followed by open installation. All family and friends are invited. Dinner will be catered by Skewers Mediterranean Grille, please come out and have a great evening.

Christmas will be here before we know it, so have a great visit with your family and friends.

Also have a Happy New Year!

Your Brother
Ernie Quick
Senior Warden

From the South

My Brothers,

As this is my last Trestleboard article as your Junior Warden, I wanted to express my deep gratitude to you all for the continuous support, ideas, and assistance with accomplishing our mission: beautifying our lodge and serving the highest quality refreshments. All of our workdays have been extremely successful and well-attended, and the kitchen crew has dedicated an unbelievable amount of time to preparing and cooking each dinner. I would especially like to thank my lady Miranda, whose willingness to sacrifice sleep ensured every ingredient was prepared in advance, and whose time, effort, and care carried through the cooking and cleanup that followed.

Since winter has arrived and the holiday season is in full swing, we will be serving two great dinners at our upcoming Stated Communications:

Monday, November 3rd: Hearty Beef Stew Dinner and Stated Communication

- Heart Beef Stew: A wintertime comfort classic recipe developed over many years: high quality beef chuck, potatoes, onions, carrots, and a secret blend of aromatics and spices.
- Buttered Egg Noodles: Perfectly seasoned and buttered egg noodles.
- Fennel and Apple Salad: The perfect contrast to beef stew: shaved fennel, green apple, toasted walnuts, parmigiano Reggiano, and a citrus vinaigrette.
- Dinner rolls

(continued page 5)