

## 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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## APRIL 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](mailto:ml143@melbournelodge143.com)

Secretary: Nathan St. Pierre, PM 321 403-5651

17<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

Craig R. Boettcher D.D.G.M.  
Phone. 321-298-2203 [d17ddgm2025@gmail.com](mailto:d17ddgm2025@gmail.com)

Matthew S Green District Instructor  
Phone. 321-610-8731  
[d17ddgm2024@gmail.com](mailto:d17ddgm2024@gmail.com)

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John "Wally" Jones, Melbourne No. 143 (12/2025)  
Ken Kelley PM, Melbourne No. 143 (4/2024)  
Jerry Mayo, Melbourne No. 143 (3/2025)  
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John Thorne, Melbourne No. 143 (3/2025)  
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James Beckman, Melbourne No. 143 (2/2024)

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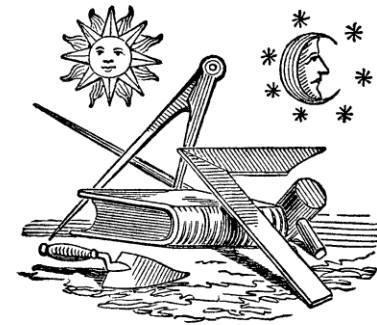
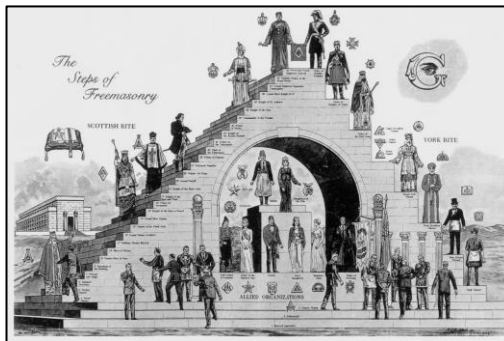
**ALL MASTER MASONS ARE INVITED**

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

**FROM THE EDITOR**

Have you some masonic research that you would care to share? Please send your information to the editor at mailjbh@gmail.com.



## From the East

Greetings Brothers,

We had many good events in March.

Masters & Wardens meeting on the 7th, combined with our family breakfast. On the 9th family dinner was held at Fiesta Aztec restaurant. Our Widows program met on the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 16th we held our St. Patrick's Day dinner, with a presentation by W. Br. Crist Gibbs on the meaning of the words to our Pledge of Allegiance written by Brother Red Skelton when he was 7 years old and many members were dressed in green.

We had an E.A. degree on the 25th, this was a great degree with Kyle Rumsey in the East. Everyone did a great job! Congratulations to all.

Cigar Night on the 27th was a great time with fun and fellowship and look forward to our next get together.

Events for April:

April 4th Masters & Wardens will be at Canaveral Lodge, breakfast at 8am meeting starts at 9am.

Our Lodge meeting is the 6th, dinner at 6:30pm meeting at 7:30pm. The 8th, 15th, and 22nd will be Fellowcraft practice, each having practice afterwards for our D.D.G.M.'s visit.

Lodge Cyclical:

Most Masonic Lodges are in an ebb and flow pattern. high and lows, ups and downs, its natural.

## From the West

My Brothers,

I wanted to thank all the Brothers who came out to Executive Cigar Lounge on Saturday, March 28, 2026, for our second cigar night event! Although I was not able to make it, I was informed it was a great event with excellent fellowship. The Widows Program Committee met last month and made good progress on establishing a plan for flower distribution in April: we now have a list of widows in the immediate area and have several quotes for the materials to construct a spring flower arrangement (vases, flowers, greenery, and cards). We will be finalizing these details at our Widows Program Committee on the second Thursday of the month. Later this month we will be meeting to create the floral arrangements and distribute them; this date will be announced at the second Stated of the month.

Important Dates — April 2026

Officers' Meeting  
Monday, April 27th, 2026, at 6pm

DDGM Official Visit  
Monday, April 20th, 2026 (dinner at 6:30pm, Stated at 7:30pm)

Degree Practice  
Wednesday, April 1st, 2026: Open Books at Harbor City Lodge at 6pm  
Wednesday, April 8th, 2026: FC practice at Melbourne Lodge at 6pm  
Wednesday, April 15th, 2026: FC and DDGM visit practice at Melbourne Lodge at 6pm  
Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026: FC practice at Melbourne Lodge at 6pm  
Wednesday, April 29th, 2026: FC practice at Melbourne Lodge at 6pm

## From the South

Brethren,

April is the month of Easter and Spring, when flowers bloom and the season of growth begins. The Lodge is being gradually improved by cleaning and refreshing some areas, with the Tyler's room on the road to be beautified.

For a long time, the walls have been home to a plethora of plaques, pictures, corkboards, and random fliers. We should look to our Tylers' room as a place of calm and beauty to better reflect upon the gateway to our lodge. We want to ensure the walls are free from defects and have masonic meaning and symbolism.

The next Lodge workday will be April 11th, in which we can clean up and organize some of the areas and closets, and complete some basic internal dusting and cleaning. This will help keep the lodge space in good order and clean for future events. Any help on Saturday April 10th would be much appreciated. Any brother with ideas or items they see needs fixing and can improve the Lodge is welcome to write them down on the paper in the Tylers' room so we can discuss options.

Menu for April 6, 2026:

- Ham
- Green bean casserole
- Au gratin potatoes
- Dessert TBD

Menu for April 20, 2026:

- Butter Chicken (Tasty curry)
- Basmati Rice and Naan Bread
- Peach cobbler/vanilla ice cream

Your Brother,  
J.:W.: Jason Rich

# April 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>Open Books</u> <u>Harbor City Lodge</u> <u>6:00 to 9:00 PM</u>	2	6	3 <u>Masters and Wardens</u> <u>Canaveral No. 339</u> <u>Breakfast 8:00 AM</u> <u>Meeting 9:00 AM</u>
4	5 <u>Stated Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30 PM</u> <u>Lodge 7:30 PM</u>	6	7 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	15	16	17
18	19 <u>Stated Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge 7:30 PM</u>	20	21 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	22 <u>Southern Brevard</u> <u>Scottish Rite Club</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	23	24
25	26	27	28 <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30 PM</u>	29	30	

### From the East (continued)

This year we have already spent all but \$300.00 of our Building Fund, most was spent on items no one ever see (safety, and replacement items.) Good news? Yes, it means we are getting things done. Bad, because it means we need more money.

As of the middle of March, your officers have come up with plans to remodel and upgrade our Tyler's room, and preparation room. Our Junior Warden has done massive research on this matter and reported it to the lodge at its last meeting. we now have almost \$1000.00 worth of furnishings and lighting being installed, all donated by our brothers. (there are no permits or drawing changes needed). So, what do we need now, Money, yes that magic word that gets every one's attention. We need money for flooring, money to complete the preparation room, and money to purchase and install equipment to lower our A.C. bill. Details should be available at our next meeting. Our Lodge is on the move to improve..

Hoping to see a large turnout at our first meeting in April. Let's enjoy this beautiful month and have fun.

Your Brother,  
W::M:: Ernie Quick

### From the West

Widows Program Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 9th, 2026 at 6pm

The Grand Communications this year will be held on Monday, May 25th through Wednesday, May 27th, 2026. If you haven't already made your hotel reservations, please ensure that you make them as soon as possible as the Rosen Plaza Hotel fills up quickly! I'm looking forward to seeing all of my brothers on Monday, April 5th for the

### From the West (continued)

Widows Program Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at 6pm

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Fraternally,

S::W:: Stephen D. Butalla

### Speculative Masonry

Part 3: Grounding Our Future in Traditional Basis

The final principle for our cultural restoration is what Shawn Eyer defines as the "traditional basis." This principle holds that every aspect of our lodge life should have a real foundation in the established usages and landmarks of the Craft. In an age where we are constantly pressured to "innovate" or adopt the practices of external groups, we must remember that our strength lies in our heritage. Tradition is not simply "what we've done for a long time," but the deliberate passing of wisdom from one hand to another—the Latin traditio.

A culture grounded in tradition values quality over quantity. This applies to our membership, our regalia, and our ritual. We should strive for excellence in our work, not because we seek to be "elite," but because we respect the "original plan

### Speculative Masonry

of Masonry." This includes selecting our officers based on "real worth and personal merit," ensuring that those who sit in the East are well-skilled in the teachings they are charged to diffuse.

By reclaiming the practice of presenting original orations and engaging in deep symbolic study, we fulfill the Master's duty to "diffuse light and instruction." We do not need new titles or special designations to do this; we only need a shared commitment to the classical vision of the Craft. As we move forward, let us evaluate every proposal by whether it supports our speculative purpose and initiatic focus. By doing so, Melbourne Lodge № 143 will become a beacon of Masonic Light, fulfilling the expectations of those worthy men who seek the mysteries of the Art.

This concludes our three-part series on cultural restoration. By embracing these classical principles—Speculative Purpose, Initiatic Emphasis, and Traditional Basis—we ensure that our lodge remains a sacred space for the pursuit of wisdom, honoring the legacy of our founders while building a vibrant, meaningful future for every brother of Melbourne Lodge № 143.

P:: M:: Nathan St. Pierre