

<b>Lodge Officers - 2025</b>	
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

<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - 2025</b>	
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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## MARCH 2025



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**FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS**

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2300 DAIRY ROAD, WEST MELBOURNE, FL

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**JOHN "WALLY" JONES**  
WORSHIPFUL MASTER  
516-220-7147  
Email: [thurwulf@gmail.com](mailto:thurwulf@gmail.com)

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**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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Howard Holcomb, Lawrenceville No. 131, GA (4/2024)  
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**NOTE: (month/year) Last month to be published**  
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### Lodge News

## Melbourne Lodge Pilgrimage to The Masonic Home of Florida

### March 11<sup>th</sup>

**Meet up to caravan to St. Petersburg**  
**The morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Stay Tuned for Details**



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**OPEN BOOKS**

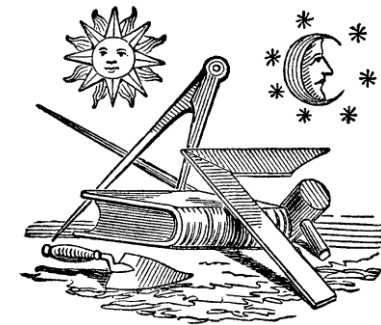
**First Wednesdays 6:00 to 9:00 PM  
 Harbor City Lodge No. 318, F. & A. M.**

- 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**

**March – Genesis House**



### From the East

*"Few delights can equal the mere presence of one we can trust utterly."* – George MacDonald

Brethren,

I chose the opening quote because it represents my personal experience whenever I am among my Masonic brothers. Those with whom I share this common experience.

February was an enjoyable month at the lodge, with the Traveling Man tradition well demonstrated. Our Lodge members visited and participated in multiple degree activities at other District 17 lodges. Additionally, we enjoyed visits from multiple masonic personages including a presentation regarding efforts to reenergize DeMolay in District 17, and a visit from prominent members of the Azan Shrine Divan, some of whom are Melbourne Lodge members.

Our February Family Night was held at Cantina Louie, a Mexican style restaurant we shall use again. The March Family Night will be held at Crystal's Asian Buffet.

We will 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.

(continued on page 5)

### From the West

Greeting to all our Brothers, family, and friends. I hope everyone had a great Valentines Day.

March 9th, at 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins. I know it seems like we just did this, well let's do it again. It is best to set your clocks to "spring forward". Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later than the day before. You can change your clock whenever it is best for you. If you choose to do it at 10:00p.m. set your clock to 11:00p.m. St Patrick's day is March 17th, and Spring begins March 20th. Enjoy this special time.

Just a reminder that we have open books at Harbor City Lodge the first Monday of each month from 6-9 p.m. and degree practice, or Masonic questions to be answered the remaining Mondays at our lodge starting at 6:30. Please come out to study and have fellowship.

I am hoping to start adding a question from the Masonic Leader Training in my future articles. This should be informative and fun! Our Lodge attendance seems to be getting better and several of our new Brothers are interested in being involved with helping in our lodge activities and they are bonding together with brotherly love. They are becoming great masons. Congratulations to them.

If our present Brothers would please reach out to any Brothers that have not been coming to our lodge meetings, to give them a call to see how they are doing and if there is anything we could help them with.

I wish everyone a wonderful month, have fun and be safe.

Your Brother Ernie Quick, Senior Warden

### From the South

Brothers,

The year of Beauty and Refreshment is off to an incredible start: I'm proud to say that although the previous month of February was the shortest of the year, we achieved a staggering amount. The largest contributing factor to this success was you, the Brethren of Melbourne Lodge No. 143. Our lodge workday on Feb. 22nd was an unbelievable success, thanks to the outstanding attendance and participation. It was a long day of hard work, but during this time we accomplished the following:

1. Stripping the floor wax and re-waxing all of the floors
2. Cleaning up the air handler area (weed whacking, pressure washing, etc.)
3. Cleaning out the gutters
4. Pressure washing the building.
5. Removing the tree limbs extending over the building
6. Weeding the gravel beds
7. Cleaning up the parking lot
8. Packaging silverware
9. Removing scuff marks and discolorations on the walls
10. Dusting in the lodge room
11. Cleaning and organizing the storage closet near the Secretary's office.

(We also finished pressure washing the curbs and sidewalks later that week.) This long list of labor-intensive work would not have been possible without the help and dedication of many people. The floor care project was accomplished via the generosity and hard work of B.: Jim Beckman and his colleague John Gandy III.

# March 2025

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

Lodge Charity is Genesis House

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <u>Masters &amp; Wardens</u> <u>8am – 10am</u> <u>Indian River 90</u>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <u>Stated</u> <u>Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge Opens 7:30PM</u>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <u>Open Books</u> <u>Harbor City Lodge</u> <u>6:00 to 9:00PM</u>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <u>Lodge Breakfast</u> <u>8:00 AM – 10:00AM</u>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <u>Fellowship Dinner</u> <u>6:30 PM</u> <u>Crystal Buffet</u> <u>3160 W. New Haven</u> <u>West Melbourne</u>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <u>Stated</u> <u>Communication</u> <u>Dinner 6:30PM</u> <u>Lodge Opens 7:30PM</u>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23/31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <u>Ritual Practice at</u> <u>Melbourne Lodge</u> <u>6:30PM</u>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>

### 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. We received one new petition and one new potential petitioner in February. When out and about wear some Masonic emblem and always take time to answer any questions from potential brothers.

Fraternally,  
W.: M.: Wally Jones

### Masonic Thought

The following was adapted from *Introduction to Freemasonry Volume II* by Carl L. Claudy.

#### The Stairs Wind

Consider the implications of the winding stairs as opposed to those which are straight.

The one virtue which most distinguishes man is courage. It requires more courage to face the unknown than the known. A straight stair, a ladder, hides neither secret nor mystery at its top. But the stairs which wind hide each step from the climber; what is just around the corner is unknown. The winding stairs of life lead us to we know not what; for some a Middle Chamber of fame and fortune; for others, one of pain and frustration. The Angel of Death may stand with drawn sword on the very next step for any of us.

Yet man climbs.

Man has always climbed. He climbed from a cave man savagery to the dawn of civilization.

### Masonic Thought (continued)

He climbed from slavery to independence, from the brutish to the spiritual. Through ignorance, darkness, misery, cruelty, wrong, oppression, danger, and despair, man has climbed to enlightenment. Each individual man must climb his own winding stairs through much of the same of the experience as that of his race.

Aye, man climbs because he has courage; because he has faith, because he is a man. So must the Freemason climb. The winding stairs *do* lead somewhere. There *are* wages of the Fellowcraft to be earned.

So, believing, so, unafraid, climbing, the Fellowcraft may hope at the top of his winding stairs to reach a Middle Chamber and see a new sign in the East...

Brother Jamie Hamilton

### Menu for Upcoming Meetings

In keeping with our commitment of providing you with the highest quality refreshments. Please see below for the menus for our Stated Communications in March:

#### Monday, March 3rd

- Traditional Chicken Pad Thai
- Thai papaya salad (Som Tum)

#### Monday, March 17th (St. Patty's Day Feast)

- Bangers and mash
- Buttered Cabbage
- Irish Soda Bread

### From the South (continued)

Finally, I list the committee meeting dates and times for the month of March below:

- Kitchen Committee: Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at 6:30pm
- Grounds Committee: Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 at 6:30pm

As a reminder, these meetings are open to the Craft; if you'd like to discuss ideas about beautifying our lodge, contribute to any of the ongoing projects, or just listen in, we would love to have you!

Our current Entered Apprentices must also be highlighted, as they have shown incredible dedication to our lodge: B.: Robert McCabe, B.: Joshua Morris, and B.: Kyle Rumsey (and his son Leo). Many other Brothers spent their entire Saturday laboring towards our goal of beautifying our lodge: W.: Wally Jones, W.: Mike Hampton, B.: Jay Rich, W.: George Swanson and his wife Nancy, B.: Vinny Spataro, and B.: Andy Kittren. I would be remiss to not mention our Secretary, W.: Ron Barker, who works toward bettering this lodge every single day—he was particularly instrumental in the procurement of supplies, connecting us with skilled brethren, repairs to the AC system, and ensuring that this feat was possible.

Fraternally,

Stephen D. Butalla