



LaBelle No. 379 F&AM

Trestle Board — January 2026

LaBelleLodge379.org



Greetings from the East



An old year is passed and a new one is beginning. We thank Izzy for his leadership the last three years as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. I hope that we can keep Lodge meetings the highlight of his week.

We have a real good slate of officers this year and I'm looking for a banner year. I hope that we can find ways to make meetings more appealing; easy said, not easy done. Any and all suggestions are welcome.

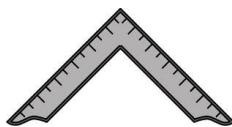
Our installation is scheduled for January 13th. If you would text me an RSVP of the number you will have attending, it would be much appreciated.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

W.: Bill Maddox, PM

Worshipful Master

Phone: (863) 673-2192



STATED COMMUNICATIONS SECOND & FOURTH TUESDAYS

January 13

6:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Meeting



January 27

6:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Meeting

The Installation Ceremony for our 2026 Officers will be held at our first Stated Communication on January 13th.

National Sojourners

The local chapter of the National Sojourners, Melvin W. Byers #503, is having their 2026 Officer Installation on **Saturday, January 24th** at Perkins Restaurant in Lehigh Acres at 3:00 p.m. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

[National Sojourners](#) is a patriotic fraternal organization for Master Masons who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces

and focusses on promoting Americanism, patriotism and good fellowship. It connects military service with Masonic principles, supporting and fostering youth leadership through activities like flag ceremonies, educational programs (ROTC/JROTC), and community engagement.

We are always looking for fellow servicemen (active or retired) to join our ranks. Email edgar.lanham@gmail.com for information about becoming a member.



MARINE CORPS RESERVE

TOYS FOR TOTS



Thanks to the tremendous effort of the members of our Lodge and the community, LaBelle No. 379 was able to raise a significant amount of funds this past December to purchase bikes and other toys for underprivileged children in Hendry County.

Chaplain's Corner



Many of the Freemasons I meet nowadays have retired from active employment and now spend their days pursuing a variety of interests. My personal retirement has been on-going for nearly 25 years and I am blessed to have found a number of satisfying interests that have benefitted me spiritually and health wise. The first hurdle I had to overcome was the fear of not having enough income to sustain the lifestyle I so enjoy.



Some Masonic brothers who are about to pass from the nine-to-five regime have asked my opinion about how to use their extra time once retired. In thinking over their question I can best sum up my experience with "live with a purpose."

Back when I was a newly retired person I first began completing the past-due promises on my "honey-do"

list. They were those chores around the house I'd been promising to get done and regrettably some of them were years old and nearly forgotten so the fix became a replacement rather than an easier repair. One I'm thinking about in particular where broken floor tiles in the laundry room. I had to replace all the tiles since the old ones couldn't be matched.

I also volunteered more at the church I attend which has proven to be a blessing, and to participate more in Lodge activities. A number of community activities have also provided me with a great amount of satisfaction and pleasure.

Retirement and staying busy teaches one how to forget about working for financial gain and allowing the good you can do for others to be reward enough.

Phil Keyes

Chaplain

Phone: (863) 675-3813

Email: philkeys@embarqmail.com



Greetings from the West



As we cross into the New Year, I am grateful and honored that you have placed your trust in me to serve in the West as your Senior Warden.

This year, I not only challenge each and every one of you to set personal goals and strive for improvement, but to also be more than just members of this great fraternity and become an active part in our future at LaBelle Lodge. Whether your participation is through charity and the events we attend, or just simply coming to more stated communications and spreading Brotherly Love, we would all be happy to see you again. I know that together we can make this a great year!

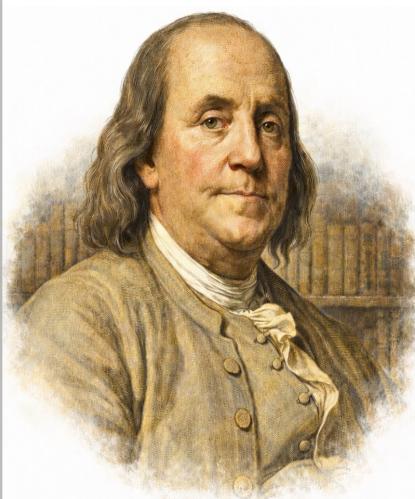
Also, as a friendly reminder, we have our beverage booth at *Smoke Under the Oaks* at Barron Park on January 10th.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

George Benjamin

Senior Warden

Email: gbenjamin831@gmail.com



"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."

— Benjamin Franklin

2026 Officers

Worshipful Master
Bill Maddox, PM

Senior Warden
George Benjamin

Junior Warden
Ernest Hollingsworth

Treasurer
Bob Coleman

Secretary
Ed Lanham, PDDGM

Chaplain
Isidro Lopez, PM

Marshall
Antonio Weems, PM

Senior Deacon
James McVay

Junior Deacon
Matt Rense

Senior Steward
Jacob Cuellar

Junior Steward
Mike Nguyen

Tyler
Kevin Gourley, PM



DISTRICT 24

District Deputy
Grand Master

*R.W.: Bruce Rivera
(239) 297-9400*

rwbruce2025@gmail.com

District Instructor

*R.W.: Scott Peacock
(617) 271-4331*

peacockddgm@gmail.com

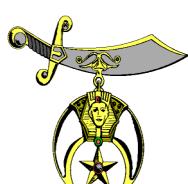
Local Appendant Bodies in Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners