



# LaBelle No. 379 F&AM

Trestle Board — January 2026

[LaBelleLodge379.org](http://LaBelleLodge379.org)



## Greetings from the East

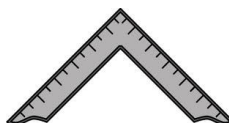
An old year is passed and a new one is beginning. We thank Izzy for his leadership the last three years as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. I hope that we can keep Lodge meetings the highlight of his week.

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



## 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 service-men (active or retired) to join our ranks. Email [edgar.lanham@gmail.com](mailto:edgar.lanham@gmail.com) for information about becoming a member.



## 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.**

## 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemasonry

The Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers is looking to enroll candidates for the 2026 Spring Reunion class on March 14th & 15th. There is an [online petition](#) on the Valley of Fort Myers website. Here you can learn about and become active in the 4th thru 32nd degrees of Freemasonry. If you enjoy ritual or the meaning behind it, the Scottish Rite may be for you.

To be considered for the upcoming class email [bob79sweet@duck.com](mailto:bob79sweet@duck.com) or [KLGourley1971@gmail.com](mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com).



## MARINE CORPS RESERVE



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.



list. They were those chores around the house I'd been promising to get done and regretfully 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.

Some Masonic brothers who are about to pass from the nine-to-five regime have ask 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."

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](mailto:philkeys@embarqmail.com)



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



## 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!

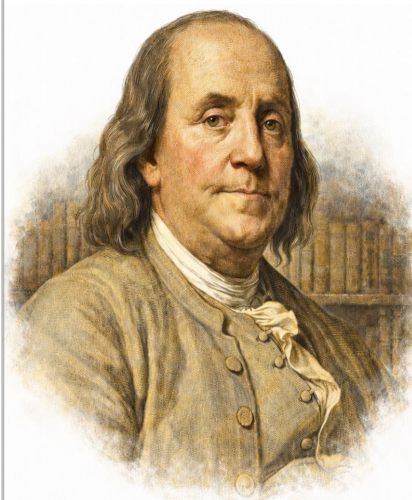
Also, as a friendly reminder, we have our beverage booth at *Smoke Under the Oaks* at Barron Park on January 10th.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

**George Benjamin**

Senior Warden

Email: [g.benjamin831@gmail.com](mailto:g.benjamin831@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](mailto:rwbruce2025@gmail.com)

**District Instructor**

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

[peacockddgm@gmail.com](mailto:peacockddgm@gmail.com)

## Local Appendant Bodies in Freemasonry



Scottish Rite



York Rite



Shriners



Eastern Star



Grotto



Sojourners