

Lehigh Acres Lodge #344 Free & Accepted Masons

Trestle Board—June 2017

1717 2017



Celebrating 300 years of Speculative Freemasonry!

WWW.LEHIGHACRESMASONICLODGE344.ORG

PHONE: (239) 369-1953

Greetings from the East



June 24th marks the 300th anniversary of Speculative Freemasonry. It was that day and month in the year 1717 that the Premier Grand Lodge of England was formed.

It is a bit humbling to serve as Worshipful Master

during such a pinnacle year in the history of the Craft. Each and every one of us should also feel very proud to be a part of such a noble fraternity during this time. Whether you realize it or not, you belong to a chapter of Masonic history.

Additionally, June 24th also happens to be St. John's Day for John the Baptist, a patron saint of Freemasonry.

In commemoration of both St. John's Day and Speculative Freemasonry's 300th Anniversary, I would like to invite all Brother Masons, families and friends to our stated communication the evening of June 26th starting with dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Lyons Hall at the Lodge. We will open the Lodge room for public ceremony.

Additionally, for a special presentation, we have the Sojourner's Heroes of '76 attending to perform their Flag Ceremony. This is a great learning experience about the history and flag of our country. The Sojourners also perform this ceremony in period costumes which makes it even more unique.

For the two stated meetings in June officers and brethren can dress in cooler attire—business casual; dress pants and polo shirts are recommended; no shorts or flip flops. With summer quickly approaching, it is only fitting that we dress more comfortably.

It was voted last month that Lehigh Acres Lodge #344 will go dark for the months of July, August and September. However, we are expecting a couple of Called Communications to take place (most likely) in July to confer Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees—we will make sure all brethren are informed when these degrees are officially scheduled.

Safe Travels and Godspeed,
W.: Kevin Gourley
Worshipful Master



Important Dates:

06/05 Officer Meeting / Ritual Practice

7:00 PM

06/12 Stated Communication

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Meeting

06/19 OFF NIGHT— NOTHING SCHEDULED

06/26 Stated Communication

(St. John's Day Celebration)

(Freemasonry 300th Anniversary Celebration)

(Sojourners Heroes of '76 Flag Presentation)

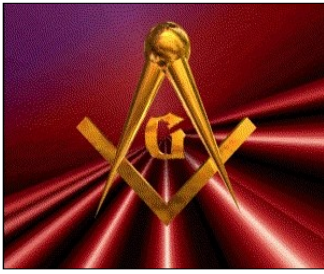
6:30—7:30 PM Dinner

7:30—8:00 PM Tyled Meeting

8:00 PM OPEN TO PUBLIC for Presentations

1110 Ashlar Avenue

Lehigh Acres, FL



Birthdays for June

*Happy Birthday
to the following Brothers:*

Danny Moss—6th

Arthur Pokorny—13th

Gerald Pokorny—13th

Frank Caveliero, Jr.—23rd

Heiko Segieth—24th

Fred Natoli—28th

Robert Meyer—28th

June Anniversaries in Freemasonry

Guy Waltman—61 Years

James Bolla, Sr.—36 Years

Douglas Compton—27 Years

Michael Mitchell—21 Years

Quote of the Month

Unless we are better husbands, fathers, sons, or brothers, we aren't following the teachings or living the obligations of Freemasonry. From the home, life broadens into relationships of the community in which we live. We should expect to find Masons in the forefront of every worthwhile community activity.

—Author Unknown



Greetings from the West



Thoughts on increasing Lodge Attendance by Jordan S. Levitan, P.M. Norfolk Lodge No. 1 from the February 1987 Short Talk Bulletin of the Masonic Service Association.

The Lodge Investigating Committee:

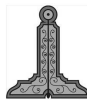
The Masonic life of the prospective candidate begins with the Lodge Investigating Committee. A committee that consists of one Past Master, one line officer, and one member at large represents a cross section of the lodge.

The Master who dispatches the committee to the candidate's home with clearly defined directives takes the first step in laying a solid and dependable foundation. In its visit with the petitioner and his family, the committee should emphasize what Freemasonry is and what it is not. Their discussion should include the following:

1. The purpose of our Ancient Order is to build temples in the hearts of men;
2. The pursuit of excellence is one of Freemasonry's noblest aims;
3. Freemasonry is religious in nature, but it has no creed or theology, and it is not incompatible with one's religious beliefs;
4. Freemasonry has an obligation to the community, but it is not a service club;
5. Freemasonry stands for citizenship of the highest caliber, but it does not engage in political activity;
6. Freemasonry emphasizes one's obligations to assist the needy, but it is not a welfare organization;
7. Freemasonry is not a benevolent society providing insurance benefits; a Mason must make proper provisions for the protection of his family in the event of illness or death.

These and many other points are proper for the Lodge Investigating Committee to discuss with the petitioner and his family. This approach enables the petitioner to gain a better understanding of our principles and purpose, and the lodge can better judge his motives in seeking membership.

W.: Jim Bolla, Sr.
Senior Warden



Charity of the Month

<https://www.cancer.org>

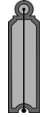
Greetings from the South



As we head into summer with full force we find our thoughts drifting towards vacations, BBQ, trying to keep cool, more BBQ, entertaining the kids, and of course more BBQ. Okay, that may be only me, but in truth we do find our priorities changing during the summer. Just because the Lodge is Dark doesn't mean we have to forget about one another. Spread some Light & Love and check on a Brother.

Wishing All my Brothers & their Families a Wonderful Summer.

By the Knife, Fork & Spoon,
Bro. Fred Natoli
Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk



Just a reminder brethren, there are still a few members that have not paid their 2017 dues.

Fraternally,
Bro. Mike Frisby
Secretary



Updates and Information from 188th Grand Lodge of Florida Communication

<i>Legislation</i>		<i>Grand Lodge Vote</i>
Resolution as to Eligibility of Junior Warden of Particular Lodges	NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 19, under Eligibility, Regulation 19.03.2 (page 183) be added to read as follows: 19.03.2 Every Brother who is nominated and elected to the office of Junior Warden of any Particular Lodge shall have completed Master Mason Exam I, Master Mason Exam II, and Master Mason Exam III before his installation to that office.	PASSED
Resolution to Increase Membership Retention and Participation by Allowing Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Participation in Conferring Degrees		WITHDRAWN
Resolution Regarding Committee on Work Members	NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the wording in Article IX, Section 7, of the Constitution be amended in part to read "The Committee on Work shall be composed of not fewer than ten nor more than eighteen members, of which one shall be the State Chairman, another may be a Vice Chairman, and at least one of which must be Spanish speaking." (2017)	FAILED
Resolution Regarding A Revised, Digital Version of the Adopted Work		WITHDRAWN
Resolution to Amend Chapter 48 Masonic Home, Trustees of Masonic Home and Emergency Relief Admission of Non-Masons to the Masonic Home under the Private Pay Plan	NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Chapter 48 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to allow the Board of Trustees, with continued oversight from the Corporate Board, to allow admission to the Masonic Home of Florida to be extended to qualified non-Masons on a Private Pay basis, always reserving beds for Florida Masons	PASSED

Legislation		Grand Lodge Vote
Resolution to Change the Election of Lodge Officers	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law Section 7.02 of Regulation 24.05 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Uniform Code of By-Laws, be amended as follows: 7.02 Manner and Method of Election. – In the election of Officers, nominations shall be made in writing to the Lodge Secretary prior to no later than the opening of the first Stated Communication in December November and no other nominations will be accepted thereafter. The written nomination shall also include a statement from the Brother making the nomination that the nominee has agreed to accept the position if elected. The nominee shall also make a statement in writing stating that he will accept the position if elected no later than the opening of the first Stated Communication in November and no other acceptance letters will be accepted thereafter. Discussions regarding nominees for office may take place among Brethren, but not in open Lodge.</p> <p>A majority of all votes cast, respectively, shall determine. In each succeeding ballot for the same office, when more than two (2) members are voted for, the name or names of the Brother or Brethren having the lowest number of votes, shall, by order of the Master, be dropped; and all votes cast in derogation of said order shall not be counted. (2017)</p>	PASSED
Resolution on Dual Members Qualifying for a Lodge U.D.	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that inasmuch as dual members enjoy all the rights and privileges of regular members, that dual members be added to the list of eligible members to sign a petition for a Lodge U.D. and Regulation 42.07 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to reflect such change.</p>	PASSED
Resolution on Requirements of Amending Lodge By-Laws	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Regulation 24.04 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to reflect the requirement of only one copy of amendments or new sets of By-Laws. 24.04 A Lodge adopting, revising, or amending By-Laws shall forward an original and three copies signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon to the Grand Secretary who shall forthwith examine the same as to form, regularity of procedure, and compliance with Masonic Law.....</p>	PASSED
Resolution on Emeritus Status of Masonic Home Residents	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Regulation 26.09 be amended to reflect the fact that a resident guest should not be placed on the Emeritus List of a Lodge if he is otherwise exempt from dues and per capita and that only resident guests of the Masonic Home who are admitted under the Life Care Plan will be automatically placed on the Emeritus List of the Lodge of which he is a member unless otherwise exempt from dues.</p>	PASSED
Resolution on Dues Card	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to allow for a printed facsimile or graphic of the Seal of the Lodge on the plastic dues cards, amend the requirement of the signature of the Lodge Secretary, and require the signature or printed signature of the Grand Secretary on the plastic dues cards.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to rescind the requirement for the Lodge Secretary to issue annual dues cards to Perpetual Members and/or Life Members.</p>	PASSED
Resolution for Lodge Co-Ownership of Property	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we allow co-ownership of a property or building by two or more Lodges in the form of a Masonic Center Association.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chapter 28 LODGE PROPERTY, LODGE BUILDING, AND LODGE ROOM of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida reflect the underlined changes in Regulation 28.01 to include the new language.</p> <p>28.01 WHEREAS, each Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction is by Act of Legislature incorporated as a separate and independent body, politic, and corporate, and as such has all corporate powers, including the right to acquire, own, hold, and convey real and personal property under its Masonic name as set out in its Charter.</p> <p>THEREFORE, all Particular Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction are instructed that title to any property hereafter acquired by such Particular Lodge, either by gift, purchase, or other means, shall be held in the name of such Particular Lodge as set out in its Masonic Charter or in the name of a Masonic Center Association. All Particular Lodges are prohibited hereafter from placing the title to any of their Masonic buildings in any name other than their own unless they are organized for co-ownership in the form of a Masonic Center Association. All property ownership transactions involving a Masonic Center Association must be pre-approved by the Grand Master.</p>	PASSED
Resolution for Masonic Center Association	<p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we allow Masonic Associations to be formed consisting of two or more Lodges for the purpose of co-ownership of a property or building.</p>	REJECTED
Proposed Resolution to Amend Regulation 5.02	<p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Regulation 5.02 be amended to encompass background checks.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each candidate for election in the Grand Lodge Line sign a statement that he does not object to having his background check information being distributed to the Craft.</p>	REJECTED

Order of the Eastern Star

LEHIGH ACRES CHAPTER 291

Dark for the Summer—No meetings.



Rebekah Lodge

Dark for the Summer—No meetings.



Independent Order of Odd Fellows

LEHIGH ACRES LODGE 2009

Dark for the Summer — No Meetings



2017 Officers for Lehigh Acres Lodge #344

Lodge Instructor: W.: Kevin Gourley

Phone: (239) 849-1534

Email: KLGourley@embarqmail.com

Lodge Mentor: W.: Robert Lippek

Phone: (239) 600-9084

Email: blippekg@gmail.com

Lodge Catechism Instructor: Bro. Fred Natoli

Phone: (239) 895-6488

Email: Natolif2@gmail.com

Lehigh Acres Shrine Club

Meeting Every Fourth Thursday

Location: China Star Restaurant

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Business Meeting: 7:00 PM



All Shriners, Master Masons, and their ladies are welcome to attend for dinner.

Call one of the following for more information:

♦ Noble Bill R. Jones (President)
(239) 368-6474

wri509@aol.com

♦ Noble Jim Bolla, Sr. (Secretary)
(239) 368-8065

shrinerjim@hotmail.com

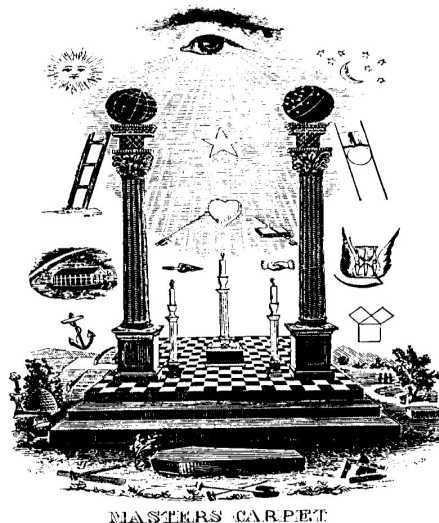
Master Mason Association of Southwest Florida

- ♦ President: W.: Dan Akard
- ♦ Vice President: Bro. Michael Gardner, Jr.
- ♦ Treasurer: R.:W.: Joe Smedley
- ♦ Secretary: R.:W.: Jeff Nowak
- ♦ Social Media Director: W.: Robert Lippek

Business Meeting Every Fourth Wednesday

Dinner: 6:30 PM

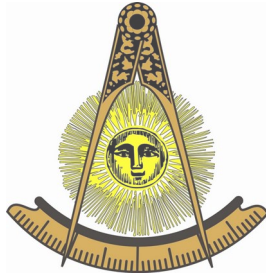
Meeting: 7:30 PM



MASTERS CARPET

ROBERT BERNSTEIN*	1962
WALTER RIDGE*	1963
GRADY RYMER*	1964
THOMAS BOSWELL*	1965
LEON HURTADO*	1966
WILLIAM BEEMAN*	1967
FRANK LYONS*	1968
THOMAS BOSWELL*	1969
CHARLES GOEHLE JR*	1970
THOMAS BOSWELL*	1971
CHARLES GOEHLE JR*	1972
PAUL MELOY	1973—1974
JAMES FOSTER*	1975
ROY C. ROBERTS*	1976
WILBER FRENCH*	1977
PAUL WILLIAMSON*	1978
JAMES BURGETT*	1979
RONALD TEMPLIN*	1980
JOHN BEDNAR*	1981
ERNEST SAMUELSON*	1982
HOWARD SPOERKE*	1983
WALTER REESE*	1984
ROBERT CAMPBELL*	1985
PAUL GOEHLE	1986
WALLACE BATEMAN*	1987
LEWIS FISH	1988
TED BLOCK	1989
ROBERT HOEPPNER*	1990
ALBERT SAMUELSON	1991
ANDREW STANFORTH*	1992
J. DOUGLAS WRIGHT	1993
HOWARD SPOERKE*	1994
HARRY HOPKINS*	1995
CLIFF AYERS	1996
KENNETH LAVINE*	1997
JEROME MASSEE*	1998
WILLIAM HORSELING*	1999

PAST MASTERS



CHARLES MARTIN	2000
KENNETH LAVINE*	2001
HELMUT REIMER	2002
JAMES ROSE*	2003
CARL PETERSON	2004
JONATHAN HAMMETT	2005
RALPH MCDONALD*	2006
MICHAEL CROUCHELLI	2007
GUY WALTMAN	2008
JOHN CARTER	2009
JASON HOLLINGER	2010
WILLIAM HORACIO JR.*	2011
PAUL GOEHLE	2012-2013
G. RICHARD CURETON	2014
DANIEL AKARD	2015
ROBERT LIPPEK	2016

** Indicates Deceased*



2017 Officers

Worshipful Master
Kevin Gourley

Senior Warden
James Bolla, Sr.

Junior Warden
Fred Natoli

Treasurer
Daniel Akard

Secretary
J. Michael Frisby

Senior Deacon
Robert Lippek

Junior Deacon
Robert Sweet

Chaplain
Charles "Bill" Martin

Tyler
Michael Crouchelli



District 24 Grand Lodge Officers

District Deputy Grand Master
R.:W.: Mike Gardner

District Instructor
R.:W.: Jeff Nowak