

Sugarland No. 281 Free & Accepted Masons

520 E. Sugarland Hwy
Clewiston, Florida 33440-0072

Trestle Board—March 2024



P.O. Box 72
Clewiston, FL 33440

Greetings from the East



Brethren: March is here and we find ourselves at the time of renewal. Soon we will have more hours of daylight signaling a time of growth. It is for each of us to ask ourselves what are we doing to grow. Are we communicating with the Grand Architect,? Are we contributing to our community? Are we a friend to our Brothers?

If there a Brother you have not seen in a while, reach out as a friend and see if they need anything. Sometimes a conversation can rekindle the spark that caused regular attendance to decline.

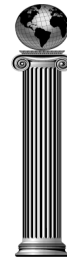
It is also time to prepare for the Grand communication. The Wardens will represent Sugarland No. 281 and cast their ballots that will shape the future of our Fraternity in the state of Florida. On March 21 Sugarland Lodge is expecting a visit from Ben Schwartz who will be running for Grand South. It will be an honor to host him that evening and learn, if elected, what this Brother will bring to the future of Freemasonry.

Please remember to keep Worshipful Cowboy Cote in your prayers. His procedures are underway and is in good spirits. Let us look forward to a productive spring and a time of growth for Sugarland No. 281.

W.: Tony Weems, PM

Worshipful Master

Phone: (863) 263-5513 / Email: kardsmart@yahoo.com



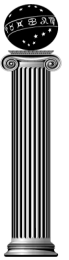
STATED COMMUNICATION FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY

Dinner at 6:30 PM

Communication at 7:30 PM



**MARCH 7
MARCH 21**



From the Secretary's Desk



As we begin March 2024, I would like to again remind my Brothers to continue working on your requirements to become eligible to be elected as a Lodge Officer. The required courses are Master Mason I, II, & III, along with MLT (Masonic Leadership Training). Please see me to begin or schedule the trainings you require, our Lodge's future depends on it!

I know that this will be a great year for us as we head into 2024, the 75th Anniversary of Sugarland Lodge No.281!

Respectfully & Fraternally,

W.: Richard Clemmons, PM

Secretary

Phone: (863) 227-7469 /

Email: brewtalone@yahoo.com



Message from the Trestle Board Editor & Publisher



I've been doing desktop publishing and creating monthly trestle boards for Labelle No. 379 and Sugarland No. 281, as well as the Spring & Fall Newsletters for the Scottish Rite of Fort Myers, for many years now. I would very much encourage any Brother that would like to submit an article for the "good of the order" to email me their submission. With the approval from the Worshipful Master, I will make sure your content is added to a future edition of our trestle board.

Most Fraternally,

W.: Kevin Gourley, PM

Social Media & Web

Email: KLGourley1971@gmail.com



2024 Officers

Worshipful Master

Tony Weems, PM

Senior Warden

Roy Gattone

Junior Warden

Tommy Rudd

Treasurer

Jon Basquin

Secretary

Richard Clemmons, PM

Chaplain

Jim Rusty Griffin, PM

Marshal

Joel Case, PDDGM

Senior Deacon

Khristian Moore

Junior Deacon

Jessie Gutierrez

Senior Steward

Juan Carlos Santana

Junior Steward

Mark Branaman

Tyler

Mike Moore, PM

District 22 Grand Lodge Officers

District Deputy Grand Master

R.: W.: Stephen Nelson

Email: stephennelson2@gmail.com

Phone: (772) 333-4973

District Instructor

R.: W.: Frank E. Kiefer

Email: Kieferfrank@icloud.com

Phone: (772) 341-7806

Quote of the Month

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined."

-Henry David Thoreau



Notes From A Chaplain

By Brother Phil Keyes, LaBelle No. 379 F&AM

This old story is true, at least as far as the long passing years allow, about two Civil War veterans who sought to homestead in the wilds of Florida's Everglades. About all either of them owned when they arrived at their claims were the clothes they were wearing so they were pretty disappointed when all they could see was sawgrass growing out of the swamp. One of them swore bitterly about his bad luck, turned and left in the direction he had come. The other one fashioned a snare so he could catch something to cook and eat for supper.

As the years passed the second man continued catching his food, working his land, building, dreaming, planning and slowly prospering. His traps yielded pelts he traded or sold. He dug a canal to drain his property and piled the dirt up to make a place for his cabin. He planted a vegetable garden, and built a barn. He could grow three crops a season that he sold in Palm Beach. He eventually married and started a family. He taught the lesson of his hard work as the way to grow and prosper.

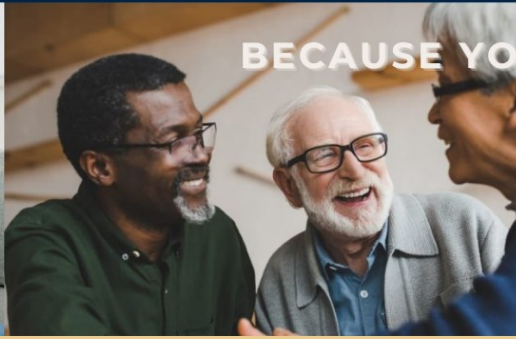
Eventually the children used the lessons their parents taught and developed successful lives for themselves around Lake Okeechobee. Today the grandchildren continue the practice of hard work, honest dealings, and perseverance, coupled with a formal education to become pillars in our community. The point of this story is that we can cuss our disappointments and runaway, or we can plow into what we have and see what grows.



PAST MASTERS

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------|---------------------|-------------|
| C.M. Pickle | 1948 & 1949 | Oswell L. Sutton | 1973 | Kevin M. Moore | 1997 |
| W.W. Perry | 1950 | Troy T. Cotton | 1974 | Ronald Evans | 1998 |
| Ezra E. Kelly | 1951 | Thomas Adams | 1975 | Wayne Wilkins | 1999 |
| James C. Jackman | 1952 | James Sorrells | 1976 | Glen R. Mickey | 2000 |
| W.J. Robinson | 1953 | T.W. Jack Wynn | 1977 | Alvin Akridge | 2001 |
| John R. Barton | 1954 | Bob Goedhart | 1978 | David J. Veale | 2002 |
| Floyd Andrews | 1955 | Melvin Keen | 1979 | Melvin Keen | 2003 |
| C.M. Giddens | 1956 | David Veale | 1980 | Teodoro "Ted" Reyes | 2004 |
| Lawrence E. Lee | 1957 | E. Edwards | 1981 | Richard Clemmons | 2005 |
| John Doty | 1958 | William Griffin Perry | 1982 | Melvin Keen | 2006 & 2007 |
| Robert E. Goedhart | 1959 | William "Bill" Thomas | 1983 | Teodoro "Ted" Reyes | 2008 & 2009 |
| John W. Wynn | 1960 | Wayne Wilkins | 1984 | John Cote | 2010 |
| Lewis W. Wethington | 1961 | John David Thomas | 1985 | Kevin M. Moore | 2011 |
| Thadis W. Wynn | 1962 | John Stanberry | 1986 | Kevin Nelson | 2012 & 2013 |
| John M. Drake | 1963 | James Armstrong | 1987 | Cecil O. Akin | 2014 & 2015 |
| Donald M. Galassini | 1964 | Wayne Wilkins | 1988 | Teodoro "Ted" Reyes | 2016 |
| Melvin C. Keen | 1965 | T.W. Jack Wynn | 1989 | William T. Maddox | 2017 |
| Abner H. Vann | 1966 | Price Wileman | 1990 | R.L. Marsh | 2018 & 2019 |
| Bobby Giddens | 1967 | John Drake | 1991 | John Cote | 2020 |
| Robert I. Pearce | 1968 | David J. Veale | 1992 | Kevin M. Moore | 2021 |
| W. Perry | 1969 | Wayne Wilkins | 1993 | R.L. Marsh | 2022-2023 |
| Robert Stacey | 1970 | Jim Griffin | 1994 | | |
| Carl E. Wilson | 1971 | Glenn R. Mickey | 1995 | | |
| Perl Corrington Spires | 1972 | Alvin Akridge | 1996 | | |

Trestle Board Editor & Publisher: W.: Kevin Gourley, PM
(2018-Present)



BECAUSE YOU'RE

You



Masonic Home of Florida

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1 OR 2
ROOM



1 OR 2
BATH



253 - 494
SQFT



MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM (MOSP)

The Masonic Outreach Services Program connects the Masonic Home of Florida to members of the Masonic Family, while also partnering with Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies to make a difference for their members and in their communities. Through the Outreach Programs, the Masonic Home is able to meet the changing and diverse needs of the membership through various assistance programs while working to strength, support and educate the Masonic communities throughout the state.

Masonic Outreach
SERVICES PROGRAM

(727) 308-4228

OUTREACH@MASONICHOMEFL.COM

*Empowering our Members to live well
and achieve meaningful and rewarding lives*

OUR MASONIC HISTORY: THE MASONIC HOME AND IT'S FOUNDER



The founder of the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg, Florida was Most Worshipful Governor Albert W. Gilchrist.

Albert W. Gilchrist was born in Greenwood, South Carolina on the 15th of January 1858. He was a descendant of the grandfathers of both George Washington and James Madison. He was a graduate of the Carolina Military Institute and a member of the class of 1882 of the United States Military Academy. Gilchrist was a civil engineer, real estate dealer and an orange grower in Punta Gorda, Florida. As a member of the Florida Militia, he resigned as Brigadier General in 1889 to enlist as at the rank of Private in Company "C" 3rd United States Volunteer Infantry, and served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, being mustered out as a Captain in 1889. He was a member of the Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy in 1896, a member of the House of Representatives from DeSoto County for the sessions of 1893 - 1895 and 1903 - 1905, and Speaker of the House in 1905. On the 5th of January 1909, was inaugurated as Florida's twentieth Governor, with his term expiring in 1913.

As a member of Punta Gorda Lodge no 115, Brother Gilchrist received his Entered Apprentice Degree on the 16th of April 1890, Fellowcraft Degree on the 17th of May 1890 and was raised on the 24th of May 1890. He served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1895. He later served The Grand Lodge of Florida as Junior Grand Warden in 1905 and 1906, as Senior Grand Warden in 1907 and 1908, and as Deputy Grand Master in 1909 and 1910.

At the Grand Lodge Session in 1911 the Brethren elevated our Brother to the highest office within the gift of Masonry, that of Grand Master; serving the people of Florida as governor at the same time.

At the Grand Lodge Session of January 1902, M.:W.: Gilchrist introduced the following resolution : "Resolved: First: That a Masonic Home and Orphanage shall be built in the State of Florida. Second: That the Most Worshipful Grand Master shall appoint a Committee, whose duty shall be to formulate plans for the effective carrying out of the same, corresponding with such Communities as may be desirous for the location of the home . To prepare approximate plans, and statements as to cost, and to report same at the next Grand Annual Communication."

Thus, the need for a Masonic Home in Florida was being brought to the attention of the Brethren in a very forceful manner.

At the Grand Lodge Session in 1913, M.:W.: Gilchrist reported to the Brethren the the Masonic Home Committee had on hand about twenty thousand dollars to apply to the purchase of a Home, and on the 19th day of January 1917, a committee of seven was appointed to search for and select a site. After much work and many considerations, it was decided that the Southland Hotel property in St. Petersburg was the most desirable location; hence on the 2nd day of July 1918, the property was purchased for the future site for the Masonic Home and Orphanage of Florida.

A letter was sent to all Lodges on the 10th day of February 1919 stating that on Monday the 7th day of April 1919, at the hour of ten o'clock a.m., the Masonic Home and Orphanage would be dedicated. **Thus on this day through the untiring efforts and vision of M.:W.: Albert W. Gilchrist, the Masonic Home of Florida became a reality, and was sent on its mission of Brotherly Love, relief and duty, and stands today as a monument to the memory of that Man of God, who gave so generously of his time and talent with which God had wonderfully blessed him.**

M.:W.: Brother Gilchrist served as Chairman of the First Board of Trustees of the Home and served as a Member of The Board until his death in 1926.