

# TRESTLE-BOARD



Volume 21, Issue 12

Ridge Masonic Lodge No. 398 Floral City, FL

December, 2018

[Our Website](#)

Facebook Page: [Ridge Masonic Lodge No. 398](#)

## From the EAST



Membership in the brotherhood of Masons means many things.

It means being part of an unbroken tradition that stretches back over 500 years to a time when guilds of freemasons traveled throughout Europe laying the stones of the great Gothic cathedrals.

It means sharing the values of our nation's founding fathers; men who believe in the brotherhood of man are firmly rooted in the Constitution of the United States and that of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It means becoming a better person while helping to improve the quality of life for others.

It means forming deep and lasting friendships that transcend the boundaries of race, religion and culture, as well as those of geography.

But most of all, being a Mason means the kind of deep satisfaction that comes only from selfless giving; from doing for others without asking, or expecting, anything in return.

**Sharing the Traditions of Our Founding Fathers**  
Masons were active in Massachusetts even before 1733, the year the first Provincial Grand Lodge of Masons was formerly organized by Henry Price. Today, the Grand Lodge in Boston remains the oldest continuously operating Masonic organization in the Western Hemisphere.

In its early years, Masonry numbered among its members some of the nation's most influential citizens - among them George Washington, Henry Knox, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock and Paul Revere.

In Massachusetts, many of those who participated in the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and the Battle of Bunker Hill were Masons. Many of the patriots who participated in the Boston Tea Party were believed to be Masons and others, such as Dr. Joseph Warren, who was a Grand Master, sacrificed their lives in the struggle for independence from British rule.

The values that were important then - loyalty, patriotism, liberty, courage and faith - are just as important to Masons today. The principles upon which this country was founded are deeply embedded in Masonic tradition.

Worshipful Master - Ben Edney

### Past Masters

R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2017
W.: Dennis Suarino	2016
R.:H.: Peter A. Carter	2015
W.: Pete Raymond	2014
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2013
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2012
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33	2011
W.: Charles "Chuck" Taylor*	2010
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2009
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2008
W.: Henry Oppenborn, Jr. 33 *	2007
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2006
W.: Robert "Buzz" Bernard	2005
W.: Charley Rhodes*	2004
W.: Charley Rhodes*	2003
W.: James McIntosh	2002
R.:W.: John "Lucky" Lee	2001
R.:W.: Robert "Slim" Owen 33°	2000
R.:W.: Paul Miller	1999
R.:W.: Paul Miller	1998

## From the WEST



### Improving Yourself and Those Around You

Basic to most of the world's great religions is the belief in what some might call the "old fashioned" values of honesty, fair play and unselfishness in dealing with others.

Freemasonry shares many of the same beliefs; and, through its traditions and teachings, attempts to instill in its members both the desire and the means to improve themselves and the lives of others.

However, while it may adhere to many of the same values associated with a religious faith, Masonry is not a religion. It is a brotherhood of men from every country, sect and opinion, joined in a common effort to make themselves better people to ease the suffering of others, and to make the world a better place.

To achieve these goals, Masonry does not promote itself or its individual members. Instead, it teaches by example. New members are not recruited; they are attracted by the example of good men performing good works and living good lives.

No one is asked to join the Brotherhood. To become a Mason, one must ask.

### Having Friends Wherever you Go

Who becomes a Mason: anyone and everyone, accountants, businessmen, teachers, contractors, professional men and laborers. Masons come from all walks of life and all levels of income. They represent every race, creed and culture.

In Masonry, it doesn't matter whether a man is a bricklayer or physician, a waiter or the mayor of the city. All are on equal footing in the Lodge room.

The creaminess and practices of the Masons have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. No matter where a Lodge is located, its members share the common bond of having passed through the same degree work, rites and rituals.

Because of this, members can find brother Masons wherever they go. In Massachusetts alone, there are over 300 lodges with nearly 70,000 members. Across the country and around the world there are Lodges in virtually every city and most smaller communities.

It is a good feeling to know that wherever a man's travels may take him, he has friends that he can depend on and trust.

**Lucky Lee: Senior Warden**

**All the officers wish to thank the members of the Lodge for allowing them to serve in their respective positions this year and with your continued support, for the coming years as well.**

**Thank you all!**

**May you have a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.**

*Merry Christmas*

### Happy Birthday To:



Wayne Reedy

Dec 12

Jesse Renfroe Jr.

Dec 14

Fred Basehore

Dec 26

John Grace III

Dec 27

### 2018 Trestle-Board Boosters

**Fred & Dottie Basehore  
Buzz & Gwen Bernard  
Whitey & Margie Cassell  
Ben Edney  
Chris Edney  
Lucky Lee  
Brian & Paula Lee  
Ed & Lil Gingrich  
Hank McInturff  
Dave Murray  
Slim & Anita Owen  
Pete & Mary Raymond  
Jesse & Heather Renfroe  
John & Carol Ross**

**Be a BOOSTER!**

**\$10.00 will get your name here for a year.**



**LAP Day for  
December 11  
Will be at  
Rookies  
In  
Spring Hill**



**Greetings from the South**

Committing Yourself to a Code of Moral Ethics  
Freemasonry is build upon three basic tenants -  
Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Brotherly Love is the  
practice of the Golden Rule. Relief embodies charity  
for all mankind. Truth is honesty, fair play and  
adherence to the cardinal virtues.

These moral lessons are taught during three  
ceremonies, or "degrees" through allegory and  
symbolism using the traditional stonemasons tools.  
The First Degree uses the gavel and gauge to remind  
the new member of his dependence on others and  
subordination to God. In the Second Degree, the  
square, level and plumb are used to reinforce the  
central moral lesson of brotherly love and service. And  
in the Third Degree, the trowel and other tools  
encourage the candidate to reflect on the end of life and  
on the value of faithfulness to his promises.

After the Third Degree, members may move into other  
branches of Masonry such as the Scottish Rite, York  
Rite, and Shrine.

Masons are not a secret organization. However,  
because Masonry values confidentiality and trust, many  
of its rites and rituals are secret except to the  
membership.

Giving Freely of Yourself and Asking Nothing in  
Return

Of all of the cardinal virtues, none is more valued in  
Masonry than selfless giving. Examples of Masonic  
charity are legion.

Nationally, Masons contribute nearly \$2 million every  
day to relieve suffering and for the enrichment of  
mankind. Masons are founding sponsors of the Shriners  
Burns Institutes and the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled  
Children, both of which offer their services free of  
charge.

**J.:W.: Chris Edney**

**The Chaplain's Corner**

Masons are also responsible for the Scottish  
Rite Museum of our National Heritage, the  
Masonic Retirement Home in Charlton, The  
Knights' Templar Eye Foundation, and  
Schizophrenia Research programs; in addition  
to supporting such programs as Drug Abuse  
Resistance Education (DARE), DeMolay for  
Boys, Rainbow for Girls, and hundreds of  
other programs nationally and locally.

Here in Massachusetts, Masons are the largest  
group of blood donors to the Red Cross, giving  
over 20,000 pints annually.

The satisfaction derived from these endeavors  
cannot be measured in ordinary terms. We will  
say, however, that it is in helping others that  
man most helps himself.

May God bless you all.

R.:W.: Slim - Chaplain

**God Bless America**

**Officers 2018**

- Wor. Master (352)637-5073 .....Wor. Ben Edney**
- Senior Warden (352)795-9561 .R.:W.: Lucky Lee**
- Junior Warden (352)697-3763..Bro. Chris Edney**
- Treasurer (352)726-8714 .....Bro. Robert Taber**
- Secretary (352)628-0668 .....W.: Robert Bernard**
- Chaplain (352)815-3307..R.:W .: Robert Owen 33**
- Senior Deacon (352)220-4706 .... Bro. Brian Lee**
- Junior Deacon (352)257-9495 .Bro. David Murray**
- Senior Steward (352)503-759 .Bro. Mark Sullivan**
- Junior Steward .....TBA**
- Tyler .....TBA**