

FROM THE EAST

Hello my brothers,

Can you imagine it`s November all ready? Where has the time gone? They say every year is faster and faster I kind of agree to that statement too.

My brothers, last month we had a lot of things that occurred while we were dark the last few months. We discussed the insurance policy on the lodge and we informed the brothers present that Grand Lodge approved our BY-LAWS Changes. We will meet on the FIRST Monday of Every Month starting in November which will be November the 3rd. On that night we will have a Thanksgiving meal .So come on out and have a great meal and great socializing with your brothers . Also on December the 1st we will have our vote for the upcoming officers. Secretary will be sending out the changes in the upcoming Trestle Boards. Please read them and note the changes. With these changes I hope to see some of you who been unable to attend in the past.

Jerry A. Haywood

Worshipful Master

A letter to my Brothers

My Brothers;

Community Lodge just took a vote to change our meeting nights from the second and fourth Mondays to the first Monday of every month. This motion was made and discussed at a meeting that every member of the lodge was given due notice to be at. That meeting was poorly attended. The motion was made, seconded, discussed, and lay over the proper time with the vote being taken after due notice was given to all members of the Lodge. In other words everything was done by the book. Even after all that, there has been some resentment to this decision. This resentment is being made by members who, not only were they not at the meeting where the motion was discussed, but by members who never asked at the second meeting why the decision was made. It amazes me how anyone can be against a motion when they do not fully understand why it was made.

The world is a different place now than it was when the Lodge was chartered or even when my dad was Master. Nothing illustrates this more than the fact that most lodges offer digital newsletter, because people would rather read them on their phone or computer, than on paper. Back then, dad's worked, and went to lodge, moms stayed home took care of the house and the kids, kids came home from school and played outside until the street lights came on and then went inside for dinner, homework, and bed. Now days moms work too, kids are in football, baseball, soccer, anything to keep them off the streets at night. Dads are now helping with the housework, and the kids and most do not have the time or inclination to stay away from home as much as our fathers did. I personally never saw my dad on Monday nights, Tuesday nights, and various other nights during the month, because he was at a Lodge function. Men don't have time for Lodge like they used to.

Remember also, that stated meetings are the business meeting, and we do not have enough business to take care of, that requires two meetings a month. Any business we need to tend to, can easily be handled once month. There are too many meetings where we; open, read the minutes, have no petitions, no new business, no old business, and then we close 30-35 minute later. Our intention is to streamline everything so that all business can get handled at only one meeting a month. It is our hopes that people will be more willing to commit to come to lodge if it is only one meeting a month, than if there are two. They lose the excuse of, "I went to the first meeting, I can skip the second", or I will skip this meeting and I'll go to the second meeting". We did this to try to make attending these meetings seem more important; if they miss one meeting then then miss every meeting that month. We decided to change it to the first Monday of the month, to give those who go to Scottish Rite a chance to start attending our meetings, and because it's easier to remember the first Monday than the second or fourth. This was all done to try to get more members to attend the meetings, and make the meetings more meaningful.

I personally would rather see 15 to 20 brothers at a meeting once a month than 9 or 10 brothers at a meeting twice a month. For those brothers who have already convinced their wives to let them out of the house twice a month, maybe they will use that second night to go to District School or Masters and Wardens.

This decision was not made lightly; there was plenty of discussion by the brothers who were there, and everyone agreed to send it to a vote. This seems to most the best direction to take this lodge. If we are wrong and this does not produce the results we are hoping for, we can always change it back at a later date.

Fraternally,

Steve Whitmer P.M.



From The South

Brethren,

Ecclesiastes 3: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

The lodge has cut back to one meeting a month. Isn't it time you come back in to support your brothers? Please join us for the Thanksgiving Feast November 3.

Your Junior Warden,

Raymond F. Padgett



FROM THE SECRETARIE'S DESK

My Brothers, The dues notices should be arriving at your mail boxes soon. The dues are the same as last year even though there is an increase in the Grand Lodge per-capita per member. I hope that you will continue to support your Lodge by mailing in your dues for 2015 as soon as possible.

If you have trouble with paying the amount all at one time, please contact me and we can make other arrangements.

Don't forget that we have changed our stated meetings to the first Monday of the Month. I hope this change will allow more of you to get involved with your Blue Lodge.

Fraternally

Matthew K. Jones

MASONIC LOW TWELVE CLUB TRUSTEES 2014

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 – STEVEN SILVERS

OLIN S. WRIGHT LODGE NO. 79 – ROYCE YANCEY

DeSOTO LODGE NO. 105 – GREG WYNN

BRANDON LODGE NO. 114 – HERB WHISENANT

PORT TAMPA LODGE NO. 153 – KEN BALSLEY

JOHN DARLING LODGE NO. 154 – TONY DeANGELO

UNIVERSAL LODGE NO. 178 – ORLANDO PANDIELLA

A.W. WINDHORST LODGE NO. 185 – PAUL BARBER

TAMPA LODGE NO. 240 – BOB ALDERSON

TURKEY CREEK LODGE NO. 248 – A.J. AHRENS OR THURMAN BEVLIN

J.F. SWARTSEL LODGE NO. 251 – JEFF SKLEY

HOLYROOD LODGE NO. 257 – MIKE GOLDMAN

FELLOWSHIP LODGE NO. 265 – STEVE EDSON

PALMA CEIA LODGE NO. 290 – TOM SALINAS

COMMUNITY LODGE NO. 292 – ROBERT HERMAN

HIGH TWELVE LODGE NO. 317 – STAN RAKITA

TEMPLE TERRACE LODGE NO. 330 – DWIGHT BROWN