

"THE CHALK"

HARMONIA LODGE NO. 138

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

CHARTERED 1894

DISTRICT 25 - ZONE 7

M.:W.: GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA

126 Years of Masonry in West Palm Beach

May 2020

**All Masonic Meetings,
Activities, Events and
Functions continue to
be cancelled until
further notice by order
of M.:W.: John W.
Westerman due to the
COVID-19 Crisis.**

Stay Safe Brothers!

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From the East

Greetings Brethren,

We are now headed for May and the temperature is getting warmer. First and foremost, I hope and pray that you are all staying well and taking care of your family and loved ones during this COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and unprecedented challenging times. Wash your hands frequently and wear protective gloves and mask to keep you and your family safe. Under Directive No.4, it is the order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that he has cancelled the 191st Annual Grand Communication. Further, for all particular Lodges in the State of Florida all Stated and Called Communications, Masonic meetings and events continue to be suspended until at least June 1st, 2020 or later, by order of the M:W: John W. Westerman, III Grand Master. The Grand Master asks that all Brothers and their families should be the priority and to use common sense and be safe.

Congratulations to Bro. JC Rogers for being Mason of the Month for April 2020. Kudos go out to the Brothers that stepped up and worked tirelessly toward improving our Lodge property.

In closing, please continue to care for yourself and family during this crisis. Follow all protocols, stay safe and healthy, and if you think you have the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms, seek medical help immediately at your nearest medical facilities. Let's keep our social distancing and if at all possible please stay home with your family and play some board games like monopoly, playing cards, and family games, but be safe at all times. Also, check on needy Brothers to be sure they are ok and not in need.

Masonry is not just a Fraternity of good men; it's a way of life. May the Grand Architect of the Universe grant all the Brothers, Families, and Friends all the blessings now and forever.

Ray Rios
Worshipful Master
Make It Happen!



From the West

Greetings Brethren,

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and by direct order of Most Worshipful John W. Westerman III, all Masonic meetings, events and activities continue to be cancelled until at least June 1st. This may be extended even further depending on what is happening in the world at that time. The 2020 Grand Lodge communication has been officially cancelled as well. The top three officers of all Florida Lodges are registered already and will be voting electronically for the Grand Lodge elections in the very near future. The proposed legislation will be postponed and laid over until the next Grand Lodge Communication.

If you have the ability, please check on your Brothers and stay in touch. A phone call, email or text will go a long way in these stressful times. Let us all commit to caring for one another and showing our Brotherly Love. If any Brothers are in need of ANYTHING as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, please reach out to the officers or the Secretary in the Lodge Office and we will make sure you get what you need.

Hang in there. Stay safe, continue to follow all protocols, and see you on the backside of this outbreak.

Miss you all Brothers and miss our fellowship in Lodge!
Fraternally,
Brian Price, Senior Warden

From the South



Greetings Brethren!

It is hard to believe that it's been two months since we last saw each other in the lodge. I just wish that this pandemic was over. Unfortunately, there will be a lingering effect which will make all of us think twice before we go back to our normal socialization ritual. Social distancing will be the norm for the next few months. I'm a normally optimistic person but given the circumstances, I think people will be hesitant to go to gatherings. Virtual meetings for the lodge will not be the same in my opinion as most people, including myself, are yearning to socialize with the brothers personally and physically.

The 2020 Annual Grand Lodge Communication in Orlando has been officially cancelled by the Grand Master. I will continue to say, let's all be vigilant and stay home as much as possible so as not to catch or spread this virus. There seems to be no guarantee that we have it or not.

While this is going on, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to WM Ray Rios, WM Rob Gibbons, and Brothers Erasmo Gonzalez and JC Rogers for their dedicated effort in painting and beautification of the lodge property. When we all come back to the lodge, please acknowledge these fine brothers.

Together we can overcome this pandemic and we will all get through it.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us always!

Fraternally,

Sotelo Cruz, Junior Warden



Secretary Sez

Office Hours

Monday 1st & 3rd, 9 AM – 12 Noon

Monday 2nd & 4th, 1 PM- 9:00 PM (Meetings)

Wednesdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Thursdays 1:00–8:30 PM (Lodge of Instruction)

Brethren,

Although the 2020 Grand Lodge Communication has been officially cancelled, the Lodge continues its Lodge business. Receipts and Expenses have no mercy in the wake of the Pandemic. I am sure by now we are all missing Masonic interaction. There is no reason for you not to pick up the phone and call a Brother just to say Hi, and to see how they are doing.

This is a good time to check your wallet and see if you have a current dues card, and you might want to clean it out while you are there. Get rid of old cards, check to see if you are current and if your cards are signed. You might need to replenish the \$20.00 you have squirreled away deep in your wallet. Surprise, maybe you'll find one you didn't know you had.

Don't forget your Charity during these times. I just saw that the Salvation Army needed a 20 Cu. Ft. freezer in Port St Lucie. Hospitals are in need of assistance to help those on the front line with housing and meals. Time to check the elderly in your neighborhood. Groceries, Pharmacy, and just a Hello even thru the window.

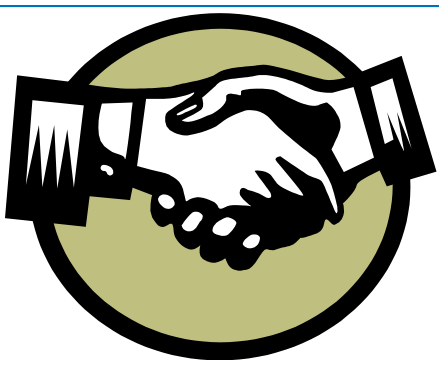
You are a Mason in your heart; you do not need a Lodge Building to carry on with your teachings and practice of Freemasonry. Queen Elizabeth said, "We will meet again." The President said even though we have some hard times ahead we will get through this. Thomas Paine said, December 23, 1776 "THESE are the times that try men's souls." He was speaking of the Revolutionary War, and a Crisis of the time. With friends and relatives all over the world, now is the time to pull together, reach out, pray, and be safe. Until we are together again, God Speed.

Remember Your Obligation Brothers!

David J. Reilly, Secretary

"Believe... and you're halfway there"

~M.:W.: Harry S. Truman, PGM



Lodge Officers for 2020

W.: M.: Ray Rios 561-578-3281	rayrios@comcast.net
SW Brian Price 561-644-7620	bigdog5841@yahoo.com
JW Sotelo Cruz 561-601-1219	scruez380sl@yahoo.com
SD Justin Shiver 561-346-6329	justin@justinshiverhypnotherapy.com
JD Mark Higgs 561-671-9194	tactsarge@hotmail.com
SS Fred Waymire 561-722-2251	fwfixit@bellsouth.net
JS Ferdinand Habijan 561-389-6561	flhabbijan@hotmail.com
Tyler Mark Garfinkel 732-742-1190	marksgarfinkel@gmail.com
Chaplain Tanju T.J. Comert 561-809-5115	tcomert@bellsouth.net
Marshall W.: Marco Sevilleja 561-346-7688	mfmsevilleja@yahoo.com
Musician Abner Pedraza 561-502-9843	abnerpedraza@yahoo.com
Secretary W.: David J. Reilly 561-615-7408	reillyharmonia@gmail.com
Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson 561-632-7278	joshelmintz1@gmail.com
Trestleboard W.: Tony Petrides 561-762-7234	meat11ball@aol.com



M.:W.: GRAND MASTER
John W. Westerman

M.:W.: GRAND SECRETARY
Richard E. Lynn, PGM

DISTRICT DEPUTY
GRAND MASTER
25th MASONIC DISTRICT
R.: W.: George H. Winterling
gw@jll340.com
561-762-5800

DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR
R.: H.: Roy Strohacker
rdstrohacker@bellsouth.net
561-329-2261



Palm Beach York Rite Bodies

Meets at Harmonia Lodge No. 138 F&AM

Chapter No. 24 Royal Arch Masons

Zabud Council No. 17 Royal and Select Masters

Palm Beach Commandry No. 18 Knights Templar



In Honor of Memorial Day this month, some words to reflect and ponder...

May has somehow snuck up on us, and with it comes Mother's Day, the approaching end of the school year, but most importantly, Memorial Day. Unfortunately to many, Memorial Day has become a day that marks the approach of summer and just another three-day weekend with great sales at the mall. In many cases the true sanctity and meaning behind Memorial Day has been lost and forgotten over time and replaced with commercialism and family vacations. However, the true meaning of Memorial Day goes far beyond barbecues and sales, so before firing up the grill or packing for the weekend vacation, we should take a little time to remember what it is exactly we are celebrating. The Memorial Day holiday dates back to the American Civil War, and at that time was known as "Decoration Day", and included the practice of placing flowers on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers for solemn remembrance. While it was originally founded to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War, today, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance to honor all of the men and women who have served and died in military service for the US Armed Forces.

One needs only to watch the nightly news or keep up with world events to realize how fortunate we are to live in a country governed by a constitution that guarantees our rights and freedoms. These freedoms that America enjoy are the envy of the world, yet we so often take them for granted. They came at a heavy price and were paid for with flesh and blood by the brave sacrifices of American servicemen and women, and with the tears of those whose lives were changed forever by the loss of a loved one. Let us pledge to rededicate ourselves to not take a single day for granted, to give thanks for all that we are blessed with, and to honor those who gave their lives in service to our great nation to secure our freedoms and way of life. God Bless the United States of America.

Instructive Tongue

The Tyler...one of the Lodges most important offices.

The Tyler (spelled Tiler in some Grand Lodges) is the guardian of the avenues approaching any Lodge. A Lodge is said to be duly tyled when the necessary precautions have been taken to guard against intrusion by cowans, eavesdroppers, or any unauthorized person. After the Lodge is opened, every Brother permitted to enter is vouched for as qualified to enter by the Tyler.

"Cowan" is an old Scottish word, meaning an ignorant Mason who puts stones together without mortar, or piles rough stones from the field into a wall without working them square and true. He is a mason without the Word, the apprentice who tries to masquerade as a Master. The "eavesdropper" in ancient times was a would-be-thief of secrets of houses (there was often a space between wall and roof for the purpose of ventilation). Because to hear he had to get close to the wall under the eaves, he received the droppings from the roof when it rained, and hence "eavesdropper". In these modern times, the eavesdropper is that bold man who forges a good standing card, or finds one and masquerades as its owner; the man who has read a so-called expose of Masonry and tries to get into the Lodge in order to ask for help. He is very rare and few Tylers will ever meet him. The cowan, however- the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft stopped for cause, the one-time member in good standing who now is dropped for one cause or the other- these not infrequently try to pass the Tyler.

Among his duties, the Tyler informs the Junior Deacon when a qualified Brother wishes to enter a Lodge. He also ascertains that each one who seeks to enter is properly clothed and informs them of the Degree in which the Lodge is then working. In many Lodges this officer is also custodian of the property and prepares the Lodge before it opens. It was not uncommon in earlier times for the Tyler to dress in elaborate multi-colored costumes and walk the city streets handing out notices of upcoming meetings. (most all of the prominent citizens were members of the local lodge.)



Grand Lodge 2020 Update

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, MW Grand Master John W. Westerman has cancelled the 2020 Grand Lodge Communication. Grand Lodge Line Officer elections will take place electronically by the Lodge's Master and Wardens in the near future, while all proposed legislation will be postponed until next years Grand Lodge.

Instructive Tongue

It cannot be too strongly asserted that Masonry is neither a religion nor a substitute for religion. Masonry seeks to inculcate in its members a standard of conduct and behavior which it believes to be acceptable to all creeds, but studiously refrains from intervening in the field of dogma or theology. Masonry, therefore, is not a competitor with religion though in the sphere of human conduct it may be hoped that its teaching will be complementary to that of religion. On the other hand, its basic requirement that every member of the Order shall believe in a Supreme Being and the stress laid upon his duty towards Him should be sufficient evident to all but the willfully prejudiced that Masonry is an upholder of religion since it both requires a man to have some form of religion belief before he can be admitted as a Mason, and expects him when admitted to go on practicing his religion.

Several of the Founding Fathers left us with descriptions of their basis religious beliefs, and Ben Franklin summarized those which he felt were "*fundamental points in all sound religion.*" This is the way he said it in a letter to Ezra Stiles, president of Yale University: "Here is my creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the universe. That he governs it by his providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we can render to him is in doing good for his other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion."

- Always forgive your enemies. Nothing annoys them as much. ~Oscar Wilde
- The difference between try and triumph is a little umph. ~Zig Zigler
- When you can't change the situation, change your attitude.

Harmonia Lodge Degree Status



Awaiting EA

Joseph Puleo

Awaiting FC

Mitchel Garcia Afon, James Rogers,
Emilio Olan

Awaiting MM

Hikmet Sir





Area Lodges District #25

Boca-Delray #171	4093 NW 4th Avenue, Boca Raton 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Boynton #236	2701 Quantum Blvd, Boynton Beach 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Gulfstream #245	Palmwood Lodge: 845 Bradley St., WPB 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Palmwood #303	845 Bradley St., West Palm Beach 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Bykota #333	421 Jennings Ave., Greenacres 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:30 pm
Jupiter Light #340	600 S. Loxahatchee Dr., Jupiter 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Garden #366	9463 Roan Lane, Palm Beach Gardens 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Lantana #372	Palmwood Lodge: 845 Bradley St., WPB 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

Harmonia Lodge Dress Code

For regular stated communications, degree conferrals, and lodge visitations, all Brothers are required to wear a suit or a sport coat and tie.



For regular stated communications, all Officers will wear black trousers, black tie, with black tux coat.



Charity for the Month

Melaleuca Elementary School

<http://www.melaleucaelementaryschool.com/>

The Box of Fraternal Relief is located in the Lodgeroom. Please donate what you can to this worthy cause.



2020 Lodge Committees

Finance

SW Brian Price (Chairman), Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson,
W.: Tony Petrides, Lou Babbit HPM, Sec. David Reilly HPM,
Bro. Peter Petrosky, Ed Griffin HPM

Vigilance

JW Sotelo Cruz (Chairman), Bro. Dave Porter,
JD Mark Higgs, W.: Marco Sevilleja

Petitions

Sec. David Reilly HPM(Chairman), Lou Babbit HPM,
Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson, Bro. Dave Porter, W.: Tony Petrides,
SW Brian Price, JD Justin Shiver

Masonic Education

Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson (Chairman), Sec. David Reilly HPM,
Lou Babbit HPM, Mike Hart HPM, W.: Tony Petrides

Board of Relief

W.:M.: Ray Rios (Chairman), SW Brian Price, JW Sotelo Cruz

Charity

SW Brian Brice (Chairman), Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson,
Lou Babbit HPM, Sec. David Reilly HPM

Lodge Property

JW Sotelo Cruz (Chairman), Bro. Scott McGary,
Lou Babbit HPM, Sec. David Reilly HPM, Bro. Dave Porter

Lodge Mentoring

W.: Edmund Rodas (Chair), SD Justin Shiver, W.: Marco Sevilleja

Community, Civic Improvement & Social Activities

JW Sotelo Cruz (Chairman), SD Justin Shiver, JD Mark Higgs

Investigations

Sec. David Reilly HPM (Chairman), Lou Babbit HPM,
Treas. W.: Joshua Johnson, Bro. Dave Porter, W.: Tony Petrides,
SW Brian Price, JD Justin Shiver

Communications, Trestleboard and Website

Greg Tammany(Chair), Sec. David Reilly HPM, W.: Tony Petrides

Visitors

Jim Kirby HPM (Chair), Bro. Greg Tammany, Mike Hart HPM,
Chap. Tanju Comert, Bro. Don Gonzalez, W.: Tony Petrides



Letters to the Editor (An open forum by Brothers, for Brothers)

We welcome any feedback to improve our Trestle Board! If you have any suggestions or input, a pressing issue, flustering problem, or you are just plain curious about any topic whatsoever, submit your comments in an e-mail to the editor at Meat11ball@aol.com. Thanks in advance for your valued input!