



TAMPA BAY LODGE No. 252



APRIL/MAY *Trestleboard* 2020

354 MAIN STREET SAFETY HARBOR, FL; WEBSITE [HTTP://WWW.TNTPC.COM/252](http://www.tntpc.com/252)

FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and healthy. At the start of the year it was my intention to improve communications between the lodge and the craft. I believe we have made strides in this with updating our calendar, Facebook posts, phone calls, and mass emails. Publishing a Trestleboard is an extension of this effort. I have managed to stay in regular contact with many of our brothers, however I realize I cannot effectively communicate with the entire craft and therefore believe his trestle board will be a great help.

These are unprecedented times, and it is my hope each of you are practicing social distancing. Whether you agree or disagree with the way this situation has been handled evidence shows it is working. We will all come through this together. With that being said, I ask that we remember why we became Masons and keep our passions within due bounds. We should strive to get along with everyone without causing conflict. This is one of the most important lessons I have learned through this fraternity and something I embrace and love.

I believe you received the email I requested from our Grand Master. In his message he informed us that our lodges are closed until at least June 1st. He also advised that the Grand Communication in Orlando is cancelled this year. I would like to provide more insight into the basis for these decisions but I passed onto you all the information that was provided.

With our Tampa Bay Lodge having been shut down for three months (and hopefully no longer) I have decided this year we will not follow our normal practice of going dark for the months of July and August. Our bi-laws allow us to go dark for up to three



months each year, but do not require us to do so. Being an active lodge, I do not see how going dark would be beneficial and have therefore chosen not to this year.

We have several items on the agenda for March including several petitions, catechism give-backs, award presentations, and the normal day-to-day business. Understanding these activities will take quite a bit of time, I am considering issuing a Called Communication to move some of these items ahead. More about this will be released via emails and announced at our next Stated Meeting - once I have discussed the matter with my officers. I just want to give the Craft an idea of what I am thinking to keep our Lodge moving forward, and not overburdening members with marathon meetings.

Also, on the horizon for upon our reopening is the possibility of two Masonic Funerals to be held at Tampa Bay #252. As you are aware, our Brother Al Chabot passed away. I have not heard from his family about their intentions, but I assume they will want to give Al the privilege of a Masonic Funeral. There is another family that has reached out to Tampa Bay Lodge requesting a Masonic Funeral for a brother from Illinois that last lived in our town. It is my hope that both

funerals will have an excellent turn out from the brothers of #252.

Lastly, I want to ask the degree team to pay special attention to our Senior Warden's emails as he is considering ways in which we can schedule degrees together. As most of you are aware, we have a candidate for an EA degree, a brother ready to be passed to FC, and two more brothers awaiting to be raised to MM. As soon as the Grand Master provides his blessing to resume meetings, we will set dates and send email notices to everyone.

I also want to thank our Junior Warden for his efforts to keep everyone connected throughout this epidemic. Brother Valle has by himself put together the virtual meetings on Zoom and he has continued to do so, giving many of the brothers that mental break needed during these times. I am not one to do virtual chats - however I am grateful for his efforts for those of you that have been participating.

Brothers, I sincerely hope that you all are well, and not letting this situation become a mental drain. We will be together again soon, and I look forward to seeing you all over a wonderful JW meal. Until then, if any brother needs anything, please reach out to any of our officers and we will do our best to assist.

Fraternally yours,
Michael R. Hartwick WM



FROM THE WEST

Brothers,

We are in an unprecedented time with the COVID-19 Virus. As most of you probably know by now our Grand Communication has been cancelled this year and by Order of the Grand Master no Masonic meetings can be held until at least June 1, 2020. While I miss seeing all of my Brothers and attending Lodge meetings, we must remember that the well-being and safety of our Brothers and their families must always come first. Our JW Rusty has set up weekly Zoom get togethers on the internet. The details are posted on our Tampa Bay Lodge Site on Facebook. These Zoom meetings allow us to stay in contact and check on our mutual well-being. By Orders of the Grand Master, no Lodge business is to be conducted on these Zoom Meetings. Thank you, Brother Junior Warden, for taking on this project!

We have a lot of Degrees pending upon our return to Lodge. To date we have One candidate for the Three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry, one who will be ready to be Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft and two ready to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. We have Father and Son Brothers who have petitioned our Lodge to become members by means of a Demit, and Past Grand Master of New Jersey MW Bill Berman has petitioned to become a dual Member of Tampa Bay Lodge. I am sure W. Mike has several awards to distribute as well so we will be busy upon our return.

I would like to applaud our Worship Master on having this Trestleboard go out to our members to keep in contact! The most important thing during these trying times is to remain safe and take care of yourself and your family. If there is anything that I or any of your Lodge Officers can do to assist you or your family,

please do not hesitate to contact us. God Bless you and your family, God Bless the United States of America and God Bless Freemasonry.

Ronald L. McMillan, PM, PDI, PDDGM
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

Fraternal Greetings from the South,

Harmony being the strength of all institutions, especially ours. With the current world situation this is particularly poignant. My brothers, indeed how good and pleasant it will be when we can again dwell together in unity.

Our upcoming Fish Fry, that was scheduled for May 16th, has been cancelled. Please keep in mind our Annual Family Picnic scheduled for July 11th and our Shrimp Boil for September 26th.

I want to thank all of the brothers who have supported my weekly virtual video conference call. I believe that this allows us to catch up and have a few laughs from the comfort of our homes. While the bonds of our time-honored institution can never be broken, we utilize modern technology to further our bond of brotherhood. I wish all well and cannot wait to see you all very soon.

Bro. Rusty B. Valle,
Junior Warden



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE:

16th - **STATED MEETING:** Dinner at 6:30pm, labor begins at 7:30pm

19th - **3rd Friday in Safety Harbor:** In front of Lodge, 6pm til?

JULY:

11th - **FAMILY PICNIC:** 12-4PM, John Chestnut Park (Shelter #10)

17th - **3rd Friday in Safety Harbor:** In front of Lodge, 6pm til?

SEPTEMBER:

15th - **STATED MEETING:** Dinner at 6:30pm, labor begins at 7:30pm

18th - **3rd Friday in Safety Harbor:** In front of Lodge, 6pm til?

26th - **ANNUAL SHRIMP BOIL!!**

OCTOBER:

16th - **3rd Friday in Safety Harbor:** In front of Lodge, 6pm til?

20th - **STATED MEETING:** Dinner at 6:30pm, labor begins at 7:30pm

31st - **SAFETY HARBOR HALLOWEEN PARADE**

TAMPA BAY LODGE NO. 252 - - OFFICERS 2020



WORSHIPFUL
MASTER
Michael Hartwick



SENIOR WARDEN
Ronald McMillan,
PDDGM



JUNIOR WARDEN
Rusty Valle

SECRETARY
W.: Christopher
Adkins

SENIOR DEACON
Bro. Mathew Gordon

SENIOR STEWARD
Bro. Johnny Sears

CHAPLAIN
Bro. Tom Farkas

MUSICIAN
W.: Mark Lemacher

LODGE INSTRUCTOR
R.:H.: Mike Rhoades

TREASURER
W.: Kelfryn James

JUNIOR DEACON
Bro. James Bahm

JUNIOR STEWARD
Bro. Jeffrey Graff

TYLER
Bro. Jay Martin
Minier II

MARSHALL
W.: Aaron Cardenas