



Masters and Wardens Association
The Proud seventeenth Masonic District



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Bro. Ed Rees
 Secretary
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Meeting of: September 5, 2009

Location: Orlando

Lodge Number: 69

Call to order by: Vice President Bill Valentino

Time: 9:00 am

with **65** Brothers present.

Pledge to the flag and Prayer: Before meal: X After meal:

Pass the charity basket! Charity plate totals: \$ 70.00

Introductions:

Grand Lodge officers: 0

Past District Deputies: 4

State Committeemen: 3

Past District Instructors: 3

Zone 5 Committeemen: 1

Past Masters: 35

17th District Committeemen: 6

Past Potentate/Past Monarch: 0/0

Worshipful Masters 17th Dist.: 8

Other Officers/ Brothers: 14

Senior wardens, 17th Dist. 6

District Instructor 17th Dist.: 1

Junior Wardens, 17th Dist. 3

District Deputy Grand Master: 0

Motion to accept minutes as published: Moved & seconded

Motion to accept Treasurers report subject to audit: Moved & seconded

Totals all funds: \$ 18,655.99

Bills: Payee, \$\$\$\$ (none / \$_____)

Motion to pay Bills: n/a

Note that Eola and Winter Garden lodges stated they did not receive notice of costs for the District Meeting. The Secretary will ensure a copy is mailed again.

The Treasurer reports that the CD's will be rolled into 3 month cycles until the interest rates improve – he feels there is no reason to lock into low interest rates for longer terms.

Correspondence:

We received the following event flyers:

- Knights of Saint Andrew – Luau Fundraiser – Sep 12, 5:00-9:00 \$15pp/\$25cpl at Harry Eisenberg's home – 1506 The Oaks Drive, Maitland, FL 32751.
- Oviedo's BBQ Fundraiser – Sep 12, 11:00-3:00, \$5.
- Zone 5 Warden's Workshop – Sep 12, 8:00-3:30, \$25 for materials, \$5 for lunch at Winter Park Lodge.

Sickness and Distress:

Jim Hamilton, PM of Mokanna, has been diagnosed with Cancer. He is traveling to Tampa in the next week or so for consultation on a course of treatment.

Jim Thompson, PM of Orlando 69 is in the hospital in rehab – 19 days since his hip replacement and he is still recovering. He is in Winter Park hospital.

Carson Elliott, PM of Eola, passed away last Thursday after battling cancer that spread from his lungs to brain. Please keep his widow, Anne, in our prayers.

Tony Stipich – the tumor has shrunk quite a bit, and his doctor visit frequency has been decreased, but he is not out of the woods yet.

Bro. Pat Fisher has been diagnosed with lymphatic cancer – and is beginning chemotherapy.

Eola 207's JD, Scott Lapland, is currently going through chemotherapy.

Bro Richard Leonard is having continuing difficulty breathing because of decreased lung capacity.

RH Steve Bynum's wife is currently dealing with health issues.

Bro Howard Evens (Orange Blossom) is waiting for a bed at the rehab center. He hasn't been able to get out of bed for over a year.

The fiancé of Lois, of the OES #46 at St Cloud lodge, who was progressing through the degrees in Michigan due to residency requirements of Florida, and was due to be raised during a courtesy degree, passed away before he could complete the degrees. This is quite a shock to Lois and the brothers of St Cloud lodge.

The mother in law of St Cloud 221's JW is in the hospital to recover from a stroke. The same brother's daughter, 19, is recovering from significant health issues.

Old Business:

The following lodges had paid their share of the District Meeting costs:

- Pinecastle 368
- Winter Park 239
- St. Cloud 221
- Composite 293
- South Seminole 364
- Mokanna 329

Brothers, please verify that your lodge has received notice and forward payment when possible. If you have not received a notice, please contact Ed Rees at 407-729-7203 or preferably, at Ed@ideadistillery.com to request a copy.

New Business:

Michael T. Rudd presented information about a program that Bahia Shrine is running to try and encourage new membership in the Blue Lodges and appendant bodies. Ill. Bob Amico has offered the Dining Room at Bahia, and the Cycle Unit will provide the cooking for a steak dinner to promote new members. The cost is \$25 to a brother who brings a non-mason friend, and their friend eats for free. You MUST bring a non-mason in order to participate in the program, on Oct 26, from 6:00-9:00. Dinner will be accompanied by a program kicked off by R.W. Chester A King who will educate the men present on Freemasonry, followed by a presentation on Scottish Rite by Keith Albright, followed by a presentation on York Rite by Harry Eisenberg, followed by a presentation on the Shrine by Mike Jewitt. The closing will either be by Ill. Bob Amico or R.W. Bob Morrow. M.W. Dale Gehrig has been involved since the pre-planning. A script of the meeting program will be provided to the particular lodges so they can run their own programs at a later date.

The inspiration for this program was from observing how a similar program worked in Toledo, OH. Of the 50 non-masons invited to dinner, 46 were initiated, and two years later, at least 40 are still very active in the lodges and other bodies. It is expected the brothers will follow-up with their guests five days after the program, as no petitions will be accepted at the program. The program in OH follows this same formula with much success.

Good of the order:

Update on the TN Cave degree – 336 brothers attended the degree, from over 120 lodges in 21 states. The District 17 and 18 team did a great job conferring the degree upon a brother from Winter Garden lodge, who has already returned his MM proficiency!

Next years' degrees include an EA degree from the Ontario lodges, and the MM degree will be by a TN Lodge in civil war costumes.

Bro. Greg Hoggatt provided an update on the status of Masonic participation in the cornerstone ceremony for the new Orlando Fire Headquarters. All approvals have been obtained (mayoral, fire chief) and the program is currently anticipated to happen at the end of October, based upon slip dates for contractors and various other activities. Greg will have an update at the next M&W meeting. There was some discussion among the Brothers present about the last cornerstone ceremony, and the lack of regalia, particularly omitted at the Grand Lodge's direction. It was noted that the Prince Hall Masons put on quite a show as they arrived in their regalia, and a **motion was made, seconded and passed that R.W. Chet King request permission**

of the Grand Lodge for Masons to wear appropriate regalia to the cornerstone event.

District school of instruction: Sep 9, 23 **Location:** Orlando 69

Traveling Gavel located at : Orlando #69
Traveling Cup presented to: Winter Garden #165

Lodge Announcements:

Memorial 17:

Will hold a short meeting after today's M&W meeting. All brothers are encouraged to join Memorial Lodge and attend the funerals in the district. The cost is a one-time fee of \$10.

Orange 36:

9/14 - EA degree practice

Orlando 69:

9/7 – Official DDGM visit
9/15 – EA degree
10/3 – PM & Widows dinner
9/12 – monthly lodge breakfast

Orange Blossom 80:

All in T/B

Winter Garden 165:

9/26 – PM & Widows dinner, 6:00

Eola 207:

9/16 – EA degree, 7:00

St. Cloud 221:

9/11 - spaghetti dinner

Winter Park 239:

9/15 – EA degree – 7:30
9/29 – MM degree TENTATIVE
9/19 – Open Books 9:00-3:00

Oviedo 243:

n/a

Composite 293:

9/7 – Lodge will be Dark

10/3 – Spaghetti dinner fundraiser – 11:00-6:00 - \$6

Mokanna 329:

10/17 – 50th anniversary celebration – 11-2 open house with dogs, burgers, live music.
3p program, 4p-7p BBQ dinner

S. Seminole 364:

9/7 – Lodge dark

9/21 – DDGM Official Visit. Dinner at 6:15

TENTATIVE called meeting sometime at end of Oct or beginning of Nov at old lodge property, outdoor meeting.

Pine Castle 368:

9/26 – Breakfast, 8-10

* Installation schedule change. Announced as 1/16 at 2:00, but subsequently noted that may change due to conflicts. Brothers from Scotland are to be visiting and will present an installation in authentic Scottish form. *[Ed's note: this date already has been selected for three other lodge installations, so the schedules will likely change]*

Mount Moriah 400:

n/a

Appendent Orders and Distinguished Guests:

Scottish Rite:

9/12 – degree master & committee chair meeting – 8am

10/10-11 – fall reunion

9/25 – Feast of Tishri at stated meeting

Grotto:

n/a

Shrine:

9/24 – men's luncheon – with Jack Hart , Executive Director of the East/West Shrine Game. \$7. 12:00-1:00

9/26 – Grand Master's Homecoming – it is suggested brothers call the Shrine to reserve a seat, as there is a limit of 400 people.

Lodges can earn a 20% commission on the sale of East/West Shrine Game tickets.

York Rite:

9/24 – District meeting – 6:30 dinner – Commandery & Council

9/26 – one day class – begins at 7:00 am

High Twelve:

9/21 – next meeting – Perkins at 6425 University Blvd, 12:00

12/4 - State convention cruise – must sign up by 9/24

Amaranth:

Heritage Court meets 2nd Tuesday at Mokanna #329

Youth Groups:

Wor. Ed Henderson asked that all lodges support the youth programs.

9/6 – Car Wash at Shrine Pancake breakfast

10/17 – University of Scouting at West Orange High School – 7:00-3:00

Widow's Sons Motorcycle Club:

Will be having a meeting on 9/7 at 10:00 during the Pancake Breakfast at the Shrine.

9/17-20: Run to Key West - \$360 for 3 night hotel package (Hotel just one block off Duval). Contact Mick McKinley if interested.

District Instructor comments:

R.H. Ed Sexton commented that he was very impressed with the number of degrees that are still scheduled with the change to long form initiations. He provided a reminder that District School of Instruction will be held on Sep 9 and 23 at Orlando #69. He noted that it is important to all brothers to attend and study whenever possible. R.H. Sexton also noted that Open Books is a great place to not only study, but a great place for fellowship, as there is no fixed program and allocation of time as at regular communications.

R.H. Sexton is working towards implementing a Lodge Officer Training course on or about Oct 31. Eola Lodge has already requested participation in this, and R.H. Sexton will be sending notices to the particular lodges to request interest in attendance, and provide more details.

DDGM Message:

R.W. Chest King's comments were passed on by W. Bill Valentino: R.W. King apologizes for his absence, but hopes all understand his need for life-lodge balance. R.W. Chet thanks all the lodges for their efforts to make the DDGM visits effective by limiting the business time during these meetings to allow R.W. King and the committeemen time for presentations. R.W. King also thanks the lodges and officers for the warm hospitality he and the committeemen have experienced at all the Visits to date, and looks forward to his future visits.

Next Meeting on: Oct 3, 2009 **location:** Eola #207

Closed with peace and harmony prevailing: **Time:** 10:15

with Benediction by: R.W. Ray T Cox, JR

Respectfully Submitted,

Bro. Ed Rees
Secretary Master's & Warden's