



Stated Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Mount Moriah Lodge No. 400 F. & A.M.
 Mark W. Plosila, Secretary
 Orlando, Florida 32809-6017



LODGE OFFICERS 2008

- Worshipful Master - Leslie R. Williams PM
- Senior Warden - Robert N. Simmons PM
- Junior Warden - TBA
- Senior Deacon - John Cabibbo
- Junior Deacon - Luther B. Pender
- Treasurer - Melvin H. Roe PM
- Secretary - Mark W. Plosila PM
- Marshal - TBA
- Chaplain - "Val" McLaughlin PM
- Senior Steward - TBA
- Junior Steward - TBA
- Tyler - Thom H. Doran PM

**PAST MASTERS, AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS,
 PAST GRAND MASTERS & UD MASTER**

- "Val" McLaughlin – PM Miami Temple 1981
- Ralph Lott – PM Boca-Delray 1982
- Keith W. Dean * - 1982 – PGM 1999
- Wesley M. Jester – PM Composite 1995
- Gary A. Johnson – PM Composite Lodge 1999
- Thom H. Doran – PM Oviedo Lodge 1997
- UD MM Lodge 2000
- PM MM Lodge 2001
- PM MM Lodge 2008
- Melvin H. Roe – PM MM Lodge 2002
- Leslie R. Williams – PM MM Lodge 2003
- Cornelius Kruchten * – PM MM Lodge 2004
- Mark D. Griffis – PM MM Lodge 2005
- Mark W. Plosila – PM MM Lodge 2006
- Robert N. Simmons – PM MM Lodge 2007

* Deceased



From the East



May 2009

My Brothers: This is to remind you that the Lodge will be dark on May 5th due to the absence of your WM and SW. Here is some Masonic philosophy for you!

From the East:

IN A MASONIC LODGE all ranks are leveled and all distinctions do nothing. The general and the private are equals within the sacred walls of the Lodge; and the laborer, the professor, the mechanic; and the industrialist, the common man and the famous meet upon that level which only Masons can truly understand.

Masonry has prided itself, that it regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors; and that it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man which should recommend him to be made a Mason. These principles are impressed upon every candidate many times as he passes through the ritual of the degrees. If any one thing may be said to be stressed more than any other it is this insistence upon equality. It is also said that every man should be accorded that respect which is due him because of his achievements, but no true Mason expects anything more than respect from other Masons.

Why, then, are there some Blue Lodges which require all officers to appear at all communications dressed in formal clothing? Does this tend to promote the idea of equality? Does it create a desire to attend Lodge on the part of those who do not have (or want) formal attire? Or, does it make him feel out of place or on a lower level than those who strut in tuxedos?

When an officer of such a Lodge is asked such questions he explains formal dress "adds dignity and impressiveness to the ritualistic work and proceedings of the Lodge..." This may be true but what kind of dignity? The stonemason who observes the judges of a supreme court, clothed in black robes and sitting in high-backed chairs upon elevated benches, is impressed with the dignity of the court. But is there any equality there? These judges have the power to take away his property, his wife, his children even his life.

There are those who would go to the other extreme. Recently, on a hot summer day, an Entered Apprentice Degree was being conferred by a team without coats and a man who presided in the East wearing a battered straw hat and a wad of tobacco in his cheek, with no tie and his shirt unbuttoned at the neck. The candidate was not impressed; in fact, he never returned to receive the other degrees. Contrasting this was a Master Mason degree conferred in a country Lodge which had the ancient pot-bellied stove for heat no carpets and painted boxes for pedestals and an altar. Yet, the proceedings were highly dignified. The team was composed of two farmers, one merchant, a lawyer, a rural mail carrier, a teacher and a certificate teacher of the work. It was impossible to determine, from appearances or actions, the occupations of any of them: The rural mail carrier, a teacher and Master: The candidate was almost overwhelmed with the great lessons of the degree, expressing a desire to begin working in the Lodge as soon as he could prepare himself.

Then there are those Lodges whose members seem to think they are superior in some way to members of other Lodges, and want to convert their meeting places into country clubs or town clubs, hoping to attract "high class" men as members. Is this Masonry, or merely a means of indirectly soliciting members? Can one Masonic Lodge be "better" or more "high class" than any other?

These are challenging questions in this fast-changing world. They merit serious discussion. Many believe that the attitude of the Masonic Fraternity should change to meet these conditions; that the mere recital of ritual is not attractive enough to bring rank-and-file members to Lodge meetings; and insist that something more must be offered.

Fraternization with other members at Lodge meetings, usually mentioned as a central attraction, has little to offer. The active workers and officers are too busy for anything more than friendly greetings and the others are mostly old men whose minds dwell in the past. What is there to do besides sit in uncomfortable chairs and watch incompetent degree teams stumble and falter in conferring the work? Most Lodges have tried socials and evenings of entertainment for members and their families. Attendance is seldom good. Therefore, few of these are planned.

Some Lodges are now planning to build recreation and entertainment facilities around a centrally located Lodge hall. Some plan to add a golf course, swimming pool and other facilities where members and their families may enjoy themselves or the families can amuse themselves while members are attending Lodge meetings.

What would be the cost of all these things, and how high would dues and assessments have to be to pay for all this? Would this attract the well-to-do who could afford such luxuries and drive away the common man? Wouldn't this make greater Masonic snobs out of the members of such Lodges? After all, Masonry must be kept upon the level of equality and Masons must meet upon that level: otherwise, it will deteriorate into a social fraternity and lose its identity as Masonry, ancient and unchanging.

True Masonry needs nothing more than its landmarks and its ritual to make it attractive to every good man, when it is properly viewed. The difficulty seems to be that we expect Masonry to be all things to all men. It was never intended to be that.

When Masonry has conferred its degrees and taught its members the sublime principles for which it stands, it has laid that foundation upon which to build a righteous life; and its work is finished. From there on, it is up to the individual members to practice brotherly love, relief and truth, acting upon the plumb of rectitude, meeting upon the level of equality and parting upon the square of virtue and morality.

In that case there can be no Masonic snobs. Words to live by: It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

Leslie R. Williams WM
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 400 F. & A. M.

May Events

- 05/05/09 Mount Moriah Lodge No. 400 Stated Communication – CANCELED**
05/05/09 MM Degree @ Winter Park – 6pm
05/09/09 Corn boil @ Mokanna from 11am – 4pm
05/11/09 EA Degree @ Mokanna – 7:30pm
05/13/09 District School of Instruction @ Pine Castle Lodge #368 – 7:00pm
05/15/09 FC Degree @ Mokanna – 7:30 pm
05/16/09 One day Degree @ Eola –9am (accepting courtesy candidates)
05/16/09 MM Degree @ Mokanna – 9am
05/19/09 Mount Moriah Lodge No. 400 Stated Communication – 7:00pm
05/20/09 District School of Instruction @ Pine Castle #368 – 7:00pm
05/25/09 Grand Lodge – Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive, Orlando
05/26/09 Grand Lodge
05/27/09 Grand Lodge

From the Secretary's Desk



Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Plosila PM

Mark W. Plosila, Secretary
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 400

P.S. I would like to express a special "thank you" to W.: Bob Simmons for creating the template that was used to prepare this Trestleboard.