



Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 Free & Accepted Masons

321 E. Dakin Avenue

Kissimmee, Florida 34741

Regular Stated Communications - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30 P.M.

Richard A. "Big Rick" Overbee, Jr.

Worshipful Master

PH. (407) 423-1636 PCS (407) 310-9279

<http://www.orangeblossom80.org>



.....TAKE TIME TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

SEPT	1 st	at 8:00 A.M.	.....Master's & Warden's Association meets @ WINTER PARK Lodge.....
SEPT	3 th	at 7:30 P.M.	..... Stated Communication for OBL80 Lodge with Dinner @ 6:30PM LABOR DAY MEETING.....
SEPT	8 th	at 8:00 A.M.	..... Osceola Shrine Club Breakfast Meeting at St. Cloud Fat-Boys.....
SEPT	12 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... District School of Instruction At Oviedo Lodge.....
SEPT	14 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... Osceola Scottish Rite Club Meets at St. Cloud.....
SEPT	17 th	at 7:30 P.M.	..... Stated Communication for OBL80 Lodge with Dinner Program @ 6:30PM.....
SEPT	22 nd	at 7:00 P.M.	..... OBL80 GIVE KIDS THE WORLD VOLUNTEER SERVICE DAY AT GKTW ON BASS RD.....
SEPT	24 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... Called Communication for OBL80 Lodge conferring Entered Apprentice Degree (By all New OBL80 Masons).....
SEPT	28 nd	at 6:30 P.M.	..... Orlando Valley Scottish Rite Meets at Scottish Rite Center, Winter Park.....
OCT	1 st	at 7:30 P.M.	..... Stated Communication for OBL80 Lodge with SPECIAL Dinner @ 6:15PM for all.....
			..... NEW!! A Special PROGRAM!! Visit from Masonic Home Administrator Lisa Tsotsos.....
OCT	3 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... Called Communication for OBL80 Lodge conferring Fellowcraft Degree (W. Jim Davis PM in East).....
OCT	6 th	at 8:00 A.M.	..... Master's & Warden's Association meets @ ORANGE BLOSSOM Lodge BREAKFAST SERVED!!.....
OCT	10 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... District School of Instruction At OBL80.....
OCT	12 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... Osceola Scottish Rite Club Meets at St. Cloud.....
OCT	13 th	at 8:00 A.M.	..... Osceola Shrine Club Breakfast Meeting at St. Cloud Fat-Boys.....
OCT	15 th	at 7:30 P.M.	..... Stated Communication for OBL80 Lodge with Dinner @ 6:15PM for all.....
OCT	20-21 st	at 7:00 P.M.	..... Orlando Valley Scottish Rite FALL REUNION AT WINTER PARK.....
OCT	24 th	at 7:00 P.M.	..... District School of Instruction At OBL80.....
OCT	26 th	at 6:30 P.M.	..... Orlando Valley Scottish Rite Meets at Scottish Rite Center, Winter Park.....
OCT	27 th	at 9:00 A.M.	..... District Wardens Work Shop at Scottish Rite Center State Chairman W Bob Cunningham PM.....
NOV	5 th	at 7:30 P.M.	..... Stated Communication for OBL80 Lodge with Dinner Program @ 6:30PM for all.....
NOV	19 th	at 7:30 P.M.	..... Stated Communication for OBL80 Lodge with Dinner Program @ 6:30PM for all.....

Greetings from the East:

My Brothers, A lot has happened since our last issue of the **OBL80 TRESTLEBOARD**. As many of you know, my job has changed drastically and I must now report to work in Leesburg daily, working the dreaded 4-12 MID shift. Since I was in the hospital, in May again, for infections related to my Diabetes, it was decided I must now work inside, to reduce the chances of further infectious injuries caused by the outside work I was doing. Just my luck, the only available position was 50 miles away! But, even though my cable tow has been stretched to such a length, I continue to work whenever, and wherever, I can to promote the cause of Freemasons, our Lodge and our District. Due to this personal burden on my time, the Trestleboard writing to each of you has suffered, I extend my apologies to each of you, but we have in place now a substitute to gain information about the activities of the Lodge. Please copy down this URL and use it to find out what is coming up at the Lodge:

<http://www.orangeblossom80.org>

This in no way will replace the **OBL80 TRESTLEBOARD**, but will be a source of Lodge information and activities for you to always view at your convenience. **Bro. John Dickson**, is webmaster and is doing a wonderful job of getting this Lodge on line and in time!

This past summer has been a whirlwind of activity. Our lodge has increased in number by 16 new Master Masons, with degrees being conferred almost entirely by members from our own Lodge. **W. Johnny Brock, W. Jim Fisher, and W. Jim Davis** have begun a new and exciting School of Instruction at the Lodge, with a twist. It occurs on Sunday Morning with a get together breakfast, usually at some predetermined restaurant in the area. The Twist is, most of the Brothers arrive and travel on their motorcycles! You don't have to have a motorcycle, but a brisk morning run to some new destination helps to whet the appetite, then eating a hearty meal, and returning to Lodge for instruction, makes a full morning, and keeps you on your toes. Don't worry, car pooling is encouraged, you don't have to have a bike to participate. Please join us every Sunday morning at the Lodge for a fun day of travel and learning.

We have had 2 beautiful Bible/Apron ceremonies for 12 Master Masons who have completed all three levels of their catechism in front of the brethren at the Lodge. **W. Ernie Elliot** did a superb job each time of the beautiful Bible ceremony. 14 Rainbow Girls from Boston, Massachusetts, who volunteer each summer at Give Kids the World, were our guests for the second presentation and made their 2nd annual trip to visit OBL80 in August.

In July, our Lodge sponsored the 1st ever, Memorial Motorcycle Run to the Masonic Home in St Petersburg. Participating brothers from all over the 17th District attended. Your Lodge received recognition from the Masonic Home Administrator, **Lisa Tsotsos**, and our Grand Master, **MW Robert P. Harry**. We were further commended by the Grand Master for having had all our Elected Officers present for the Masonic Home Board Meeting. It is a rare occurrence when any Lodge can get their main officers to the home for a meeting, and the Grand Master takes extreme pride in recognizing the Lodges who do participate and support the Masonic Home. In October, **Lisa Tsotsos** has scheduled a visit to our own Lodge on Oct. 1st, with a presentation regarding the various venues of utilizing the home and answering your questions. Please make plans to attend.

I guess the big news from Grand Lodge in May was, our Lodge was honored with not one, not two, but THREE State Committee appointments and one Grand Lodge Officer appointment. **RW Tony Stipich, PDDGM** was appointed GRAND PURSUVEANT along with

getting a Gold Collar to wear all year, in addition, he is also named **State Chairman, FH100 Committee, W. Bob Cunningham, PM** was appointed to **Chairman, Warden's Workshop**; and myself was honored to receive, for the 2nd year in a row an appointment to the **Grand Master's Arrangements Committee**. That's 4 State appointments from our Lodge. Many Lodges go for years without any such recognition of just one appointment. OBL80 is both humbled and gladdened that the work and efforts of their brothers have been thusly recognized at this State level.

Continuing at the District level, **W. Johnny Brock PM**, has been appointed Child ID Chairman; and **Bro. Raymond Overbee** was appointed District Photographer, by **RW Burt Brim DDGM** of the PROUD 17th! It should make us all very proud that our Lodge continues to be a leader and strong influence in our District.

Bro. Bernie Stevens would like for us to all remember that we have a commitment each month to **Give Kids the World**. Please make every effort to attend and assist in our duty to serve our community by being on time and working the entire shift. We were severely short at the August dinner, with most of the regular attending people being out of town, it really made a poor showing for our adopted charity. Try to help out if and when you can. Between us and our Boy Scout Troop 240, we have donated over 3000 hours to GKTW. Please give **Bro. Bernie** a call if you can help out, or be a reserve. There is not a greater feeling to be had.

At the first meeting in September, a motion was made and approved to amend our bylaws and raise the dues of the lodge from \$45.00 to \$75.00, along with an increase in application fees for Orange Blossom 80. The proposed new fees are \$125.00 for initiation, \$75.00 for passing, and \$50.00 for raising a new Mason. ACCORDINGLY, per the Grand Lodge Digest Chap 27.03. This Trestleboard is serving as written notice to the craft of the proposed preceding amendment and change to our by-laws with discussion and voting on acceptance at the next Stated Meeting. As you know many things have increased in cost over the years due to inflation. Our dues are the lifeblood of our lodge and the primary source of income. In order to secure our future, and rest assured that our lodge can continue to exist, we must consider this. The dues we now pay are based on the economy of 16 years ago. Back then, Gas was under \$1.00 a gallon, Bread was 20 cents a loaf. Now inflation has ballooned all our payments, and your Lodge must also bear the weight of these increased costs. How very hard it would be if you had to pay your bills today with the money you were making nearly 2 decades ago?? This is the dilemma, we are faced with. Your input is earnestly desired, and all voices will be heard. Please attend, and support your Lodge.

Lastly, this is an all call alert to all PAST MASTERS. I want to display in the hall corridor a picture of each year's officers that we can collect. Please send me a copy of any pictures you may have, (which I will return) so that I can scan and make a portrait of the officers for your year. The lodge is looking better than it ever has, and I want every one remembered that had a part in building this wonderful Lodge home for us. Also, please make every effort to search your records and memory for any reference to HONORARY members that were made during your tenure as Master here. We want to recognize the honorary members with a plaque for their efforts in supporting OBL80, and sadly our records do not show any instances of Honorary Members recorded that we can find. If you possess an Honorary Membership card to OBL80, Let me know.

Fraternally in Freemasonry,

WM Richard A. "Big Rick!" Overbee, Jr PM