

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

SEPTEMBER A.L. 2011

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: BRO. BILL COBB

Brother Cobb is a 3rd generation Mason, His Grandfather was the Tyler and Musician for the Hathaway Lodge in Rome, New York. His Father was raised a Master Mason in 30 days while on leave during World War II. Brother Cobb remembers traveling to the Lodge as young man and play card games with his Grandfather. Brother Cobb says that he would have become a member of the same Lodge as his Father and Grandfather had he remained in New York, but after being Honorably Discharged from the Marine Corps, he moved to Florida.

While working in Ruskin, in 1984 a co-worker Mason referred Brother Cobb to Brother Jim Spangler, who gave him a Petition to become a Mason. Upon becoming a Master Mason, Brother Cobb taught several catechism classes. In 1986 Brother Cobb moved up North for 10 months and visited several Lodges in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Upon returning to Florida he again began teaching catechism classes to new Masons.

Brother Cobb enjoys cooking and prepared breakfast for the Grand Lodge of Florida during their meeting in Tampa during the 1990's. The Brothers at Hillsborough Lodge get to enjoy his specially cooked breakfast meals at least once a year.

R.:W.: Sam Pesola was the Worshipful Master who asked Brother Cobb to help with the Paul Revere Chapter of DeMolay. Brother Cobb's interest in DeMolay grew after he took several members of DeMolay sailing. Then after several visits to the Chapter was appointed to the DeMolay Advisory Council. As Chapter Advisor, you will find Brother Cobb at the Lodge every Monday evening working with the DeMolay youth.

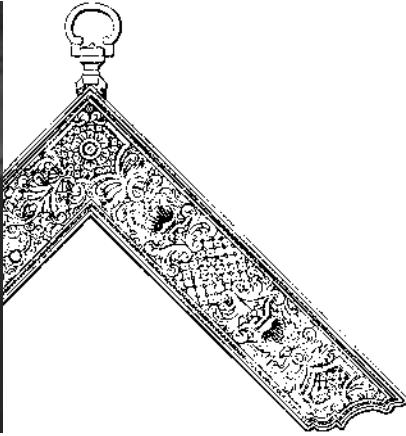


Brother Bill Cobb: Six hundred boys call him "Dad."

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Degrees on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Stated Communications on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Masonic Instruction every Thursday
Eastern Star meets on 1st and 3rd Saturdays
DeMolay meets every Monday

FROM THE EAST



My Brethren,

Congratulations to Brother Bill Cobb on his election by the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite as Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. Brother Cobb has earned this prestigious honor by having been a dedicated Mason, contributing member of the Scottish Rite and by serving DeMolay well for over 20 years. Brother Cobb is a good man and Mason. Next time you see him, give him a big congratulations.

R·W· Stephen Jacobson continues to serve Masons in Florida with his appointment by Most Worshipful Grand Master Jim Harris to serve as Zone 6 Chairman of Publicity and Public Relations for Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of the State of Florida.

Congratulations to Brother Kyle Ellis for earning his Silver Card. Brother Ellis is now instructing new Brothers in the Entered Apprentice Catechism and doing a fine job.

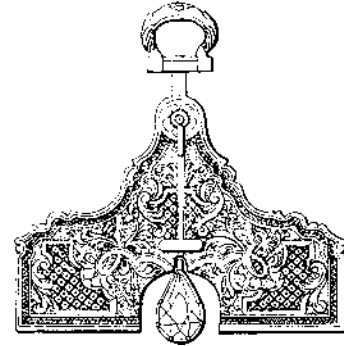
Also to be commended is our Senior Warden, Brother Joseph Gonzalez for mastering the Fellow Craft Lecture and our Junior Warden, Brother Steve Silvers for mastering the Entered Apprentice Lecture. Don't let the opportunity to hear them give these Lectures get away.

Junior Steward and Brother Daniel Blair was recently appointed as the Egypt Shrines Ambassador to our Lodge.

Our Junior Deacon, Brother Clifford Allen continues his visits to other Lodges while out of state. Congratulations to him for receiving the National Traveling Gavel from Alamo Lodge No. 44, San Antonio, Texas on behalf of myself and the Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. Brother Allen presented the Worshipful Master of Alamo Lodge with a Hillsborough No. 25 Lodge Pin. The National Traveling Gavel will be on display at the Lodge until an out of state Brother Mason visits and retrieves it for his Lodge or until one of our Officers takes it to an out of State Lodge.

Continued on page 6

FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

For the past two and a half months, the finance committee has been evaluating the financial position of the Lodge, specifically the rate of return in our investment account, membership rolls, and past operating expenses. We also gathered information pertaining to the current demographic of our members, average operating expenses of the Lodge, and future cash flow projections for 1, 5 and 10-year terms. The data collected by all the members of the committee paint a very clear picture of our past and the future direction necessary for our Lodge to prosper. The committee has adopted a 10-year plan to rebuild our investments and has identified several improvements required to secure the financial future of the Lodge. This plan requires an adjustment to our current dues and initiation fees, in addition to a structured, monthly deposit plan for our investment account.

On Tuesday, September 27, 2011, I will present this plan approved by the finance committee to all members present in Lodge, which will include a new annual dues structure, new initiation fees, and a deposit plan for the next 10 years. Proposed changes to our current BY-LAWS will be brought to the floor for approval during this meeting. These BY-LAW revisions would be scheduled to take affect for the 2012 Masonic year, and require a vote of the Craft. Please make every effort to attend this meeting, as it is vital that your voice is heard and vote counted.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to this meeting, please contact me via e-mail at: joe@gword.net. I'll be happy to address your e-mail as quickly as possible.

I hope to see you all at Table Lodge.

Fraternally,

Joseph Gonzalez

Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH



My Brothers,

What does Masonry mean to you? This is a question that each of us must answer individually. However, there are many Masonic values that we all share as a Fraternity. I ask each of my Brothers to ponder this question and try to find an answer. You will find that answering this question can be quite complex and not as easy as you may think. When you come up with your answer, I invite you to send it to me via e-mail at: mrsteve1@verizon.net. I would like to take some of these answers over the next few months and publish some of them in the Trestle Board. Of course I will not publish your name with your answer, unless you give me permission to do so. I think that this will help each of us learn a great deal about ourselves and possibly sharpen our view of Masonry.

By the time this Trestle Board hits your mailbox, we will have hosted our Family night on August 30th, honoring our first responders. I would like to thank W· Joe Citro for his hard work in making this event a great success. We are expecting to have a full house, and it will be great to see our lodge-room full. Several new Master Masons will be receiving their aprons, and presentations will be made to Jobs Daughters' and the Rainbow Girls' Charities as well as our educational scholarship presentations.

Table Lodge is here once again on Tuesday, September 6th. Tickets have been available through the Secretary's office, as well as from the elected officers of the Lodge. We are nearly sold out. If you have not purchased yours, try to buy one in the next week because they are going fast. This night has always proved to be a big success. We have a great program planned and hope to see you all there.

Fraternally,

Steven Silvers

Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Brethren,

Once again, I have been asked by my employer to work on projects outside the State of Florida. In my absence, W· Terry McLaughlin and R·W· C. Don Prosser continue to assist me with Lodge Secretary functions, and I thank them for their service.

September 6th is Table Lodge. I hope to see you all there!

September 13th will be a business meeting, we will vote on the degrees for Mr. Brian D. Mattox, and receive petitions for Andrew W. Dempsey, James F. Monrovia and James M. Roberts, and vote to accept Fellow Craft Raul Ramos, who is transferring from Orange Park Lodge in Orlando.

September 20th is a Fellow Craft degree for Brothers: Albert Canamero, Christopher Hutchinson, Ronald Le Clair Jr., Douglas R. Maclean, Brian M. Morales, Benny O. Rivera, and Jason C. Sampson.

Remember, September 30th is the deadline for paying your 2011 dues, or you will be suspended on that date.
















Fraternally,

Thomas C. Newton

Thomas C. Newton, PM, PDI

SEPTEMBER

A.L. 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 1 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	2	 3 Chapter 11 1 p.m.
4	 5 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 6 6:30 p.m.	7 DISTRICT SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL	 8 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	9	10
11	 12 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 13 Votes on the degrees for Brian D. Mattox; petitions for Andrew W. Dempsey, James F. Monrovia & James M. Roberts; and the transfer of FC Raul Ramos. Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	14	 15 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	16	 17 Chapter 11 1 p.m.
18	 19 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 20 FC Albert Canamero, Christopher Hutchinson, Ronald LeClair, Jr, Douglas R. Maclean, Brian M. Morales, Benny O. Rivera & Jason C. Sampson Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	21	 22 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	23 MASTERS & WARDENS MEETING Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL	24
25	 26 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 27 Vote on new annual dues structure, new initiation fees, and deposit plan approved by the Finance Committee. Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	28	 29 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	30	

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Please mark your calendars!

Sept. 27th - Stated Communication

To vote on new annual dues structure, new initiation fees, and deposit plan approved by the Finance Committee.

SEPTEMBER 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Food & Toy Drives for the Holidays



Remember to support the food drive. Thanksgiving is getting closer, and the Lodge hopes to make a nice donation to a local food bank. Shortly after that, we will be collecting toys for donation during the holidays.

Jeremy Hall, CFP®, CRPC®
Financial Advisor

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Tampa, FL 33610
tel 813 663 2081
fax 877 294 4865
toll free 877 357 0888
MN Insurance Lic. # 40231597
jeremy.hall@mssb.com

**Morgan Stanley
Smith Barney**



Above: Father and son — John E. Skillman III (r) and Kenneth R. Skillman (l) — at the Lodge of their ancestors, Taylor Lodge No. 23 in Salem, VA. John is a dual-member of Taylor Lodge and our own Hillsborough Lodge No. 25.



Above: Junior Deacon Clifford Allen receives the National Traveling Gavel from the Worshipful Master of Alamo Lodge No. 44 in San Antonio, Texas. Brother Allen hopes to one day return it to its Mother Lodge in White House, TN, just 15 miles from where he grew up. To read more about the National Traveling Gavel program, visit the website at: <http://americanmasons.com/gavelrules.htm>

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I extend a special thank you to Brothers Joshua Sussman and Brian O'Hair for installing the new columns in the foyer and improvements to the columns in the lodge-room. They look terrific and add a new dimension to our historic Lodge. A thank you to R·H· Brian Manne for installing the Trestle Board on the wall of the Lodge is also in order. Brother Jerry Olbrys pressure washed the entrance and sidewalk to the Lodge. That was a tough job. Please thank Brother Olbrys the next time you see him.

On August 30, the Lodge enjoyed a huge gathering of guests, family and Brothers for Family Night. The evening was opened by the Egypt Temple Shrine Honor Guard presenting the Colors after which we recognized the Hillsborough County's First Responders, Paul Revere Chapter of DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, Bethel 13, and the Order Eastern Star members. The Gaither Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to Kayla Freed, a recent graduate of Hillsborough High School and now a student at Hillsborough Community College. We presented Junior Miss Florida Job's Daughter, Erin Sleeper with an additional \$100.00 for the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment. We also presented Miss Leigh Dittman with a check in the amount of \$250.00 for her Philanthropy, The Leigh Dittman Foundation which helps fund the Shriners Hospital. Miss Dittman, by the age of 11, has raised over \$300,000.00 toward the Hospital's efforts to cure Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a condition she was born with, and as a repayment for what the Shriners Hospital has done for her and other children. Junior Deacon Clifford Allen presented the Lodge with the National Traveling Gavel, and Brother Geoff Newton presented the Lodge with a special award from his recent tour of duty in Kuwait. I presented 19 Aprons to new Master Masons and recognized 25, 40 and 50 year Masons with Grand Lodge awards.

I give a special thanks to R·W· David Meade for providing music from the organ on Family Night as well as W· Joe Citro for organizing Family Night and the recognition of Hillsborough County's First Responders. W· Robbins Denham deserves a thank you for assisting with the Apron Presentations and 25, 40 and 50 year awards.

We will be receiving the District Deputy Grand Master Tom Edwards and his party on September 13 on his official visit to our Lodge. I would like to see a large turnout for his official visit. Let's make Hillsborough Lodge look good for our DDGM.

There will be a very important Stated Communication on September 27 to discuss our long range financial health by our Finance Chairman, Senior Warden Brother Joseph Gonzalez. You don't want to miss this meeting as we will be discussing and voting on initiation and dues increases and By-Law changes.

I urge each of you to get involved and take part in all the many good things happening at the Lodge. There is

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



**Meets at Hillsborough Lodge
1st and 3rd Saturdays at 1 p.m.**

For more information, please contact:

Claudine Rogers, P.M., Worthy Matron
813-393-7490
Terry McLaughlin, P.G.P., Worthy Patron
727-412-4053

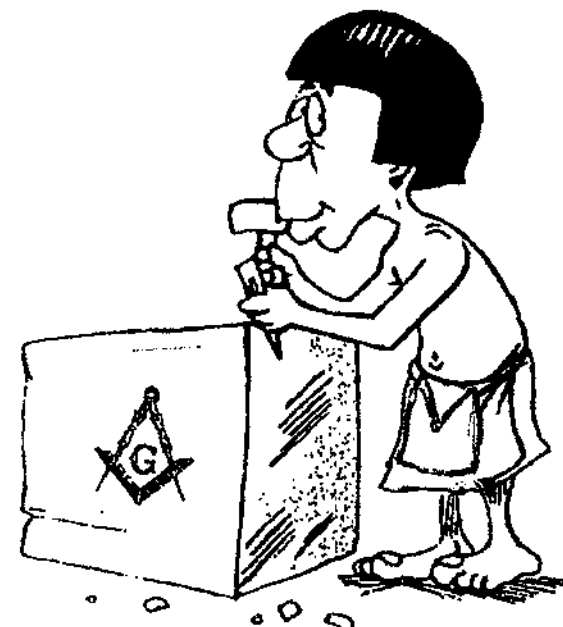
a place for each and every one of us to contribute to the great and historic traditions at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 and to improve ourselves as Masons in Masonry.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Lodge.

With brotherly love and affection,

John D. Hooker

Worshipful Master



HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

ORDER OF DEMOLAY

Paul Revere Chapter



**Meets at Hillsborough Lodge
every Monday at 7 p.m.**

For more information, please contact:


Brother Bill Cobb
Personal Representative to
the Executive Office of DeMolay
813-835-1793

Continued from page 1

Brother Cobb has been Chairman of Paul Revere's Advisory Council for over 20 years and has received the Cross of Honor, Honorary Legion of Honor and Advisor of the Year. In 2010 he received the Rainbow Grand Cross and in 2011 was presented the Knighthood Cross of Honor and was awarded Honorary Membership in DeMolay International Supreme Council.

Brother Cobb's service to DeMolay includes being District committeeman to Masonic Youth several times and twice, Zone 6 Masonic Youth Chairman and personal representative to the Executive Office of DeMolay. Brother Cobb is a past President and Treasurer of the DeMolay Unit of the Egypt Shrine.

He is a perpetual member of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, Scottish Rite and York Rite and in July was conferred with the Rank and Decoration of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) of the Scottish Rite.

We owe Brother Cobb many thanks for his dedication and work in making DeMolay successful for our youth. 

Left: Masonic art by Brother Brian O'Hair.



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 E-MAIL: HILLS25@VERIZON.NET
 WWW.HILLSBOROUGH25.ORG

Address Service Requested



2011 OFFICERS

- W.: John D. Hooker Worshipful Master
- Joseph Gonzalez Senior Warden
- Steven Silvers Junior Warden
- R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson Treasurer
- R.:H.: Tom Newton Secretary
- David Liniger Senior Deacon
- Clifford Allen Junior Deacon
- Damien Rodriguez Senior Steward
- Daniel Blair Junior Steward
- Joshua Sussman Chaplain
- Kermit Hines Tyler
- R.:W.: C. Don Prosser Historian
- W.: William Powell Organist Emeritus
- Len Whalen Chaplin Emeritus
- W.: Thomas Johnson Treasurer Emeritus
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 President

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Table Lodge



Sept. 6th

See you there!

Tickets \$35.00 • Ask a Lodge Officer or call (813) 229-2305 for details.