

January 2024 Trestleboard

Stated Meetings 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM **Ritual practice** Every Thursdays
7:00 PM; 6:30 Fellowship

2023 Lodge Officers

Supper starting at 6:30 PM. Donations are accepted. Ritual Practice, Receive petitions, Masonic Education

Worshipful Master	Jason Estes	321-591-9943
Senior Warden	George Gaspard	407-615-0732
Junior Warden	Austin Cowart	321-271-6219
Treasurer	Zachary Walters	904-891-6120
Secretary	W.: Kelly Corridan	
Chaplain	James Zuhlke	321-537-7210
Senior Deacon	Eugene Filipowicz	321-720-4258
Junior Deacon	Chris Lussier	727-403-1337
Senior Steward	Kyle Curt Gillard	321-223-2934
Junior Steward		
Tyler	R.:W.: Thomas Kruse	321-544-8440
Marshall	W.: James Hawkins	732-239-7271

	2023 Committees	
Activities & Events	George Gaspard	Austin Cowart
Board of Relief	W.:M.: Jason Estes	Jim Zuhlke
Charity	W.:M.: Jason Estes	Jim Zuhlke
Communications	George Gaspard	John Crosser
Finance	George Gaspard	Jim Cravens
Investigation	W.:M.: Jason Estes	As needed
Lodge Property	Austin Cowart	Allen Cowart
Masonic Education	W.: J. Hawkins	Eugene Filipowicz
Member Well Being	Jim Zuhlke	W.: Jim Hawkins
Petitions	John Heatherly	R.:W.: Tom Kruse
Vigilance	John Heatherly	W.: Jim Hawkins

Past Masters- 2023 Michael B. Kelly

Upcoming Lodge Activities		
January		
6 th	Installation	Lodge Installation begins at 6pm followed by a reception at the Village Idiot at 4 Harrison St. Suite 103 Cocoa, FL 32922
12 th	Steak Night Cancelled	
15 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Voting to start the year. Website presentation by Brother Ben Miles.
February		
5 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Agenda TBD.
19 th	Stated Communication (Business)	Agenda TBD.

Petitions and Progress We have a tentative date set for February 15th for the E.A. Degree for Michael Lester.

Birthdays in January

Daniel Bayler	Murray Delauter
Andrew Jacobs	Edmund Peresluha II
Robert Ware	James Causey
Melvin Ezell	John Millhouse
Alan Simberg	Jeffrey White
Dustin Celestin	Howard Harrington
Donald Nead	Mathew Todd
John Winchester III	James Charland
John Heer III	Timothy Parnell
James Trammell	John Zuhlke

Past Month Lodge Activities and Community Events

Our Holiday Dinner, on December 9th, was a great success and well attended. Thank you to all that helped and supported the Lodge dinner. It was great to see everyone and their families!



Messages from Our Officers

From the East

Greetings from the (Almost) East Brothers,

At the time writing this, I am proud to be the Worshipful Elect for our amazing Lodge. The line and I are excited to get the year started. Installation will be on January 6th and start promptly at 6pm, followed by a reception at the Village Idiot in Cocoa Village. The address is 4 Harrison St. Suite 103, Cocoa, FL 32922.

Thank you to S.W. George Gaspard who is working hard at getting our Social Media active so please 'Like' our Facebook page if you haven't already, and check for regular updates! We are also working on a new website, Brother Ben Miles will give a small presentation on the progress of the website at the January 15th Stated Meeting.

We have several events planned for the year. A family picnic in the Spring, and two fundraisers in the near future to raise funds for the Lodge, so keep an eye out for when those will occur.

My door is always open, or more literally my phone is always on, if there is anything I can do to answer any questions or help in anyway. This is a true humbling experience and I thank you for the opportunity to serve You, the Craft and our Lodge.

Fraternally Yours With Brotherly Love,

Worshipful Master Elect

Jason Estes

(321) 591-9943

Jbestes74@yahoo.com

Greetings from the West Brothers,

It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to serve the lodge as your Senior Warden. There are a lot of exciting things on the horizon for the 353! One priority for this year is seeking to reconnect with brothers who have lost touch with the lodge for one reason or another. We all recognize that “life happens,” but the hope is that we can bring our distanced brothers back to the 353 family. If you find yourself to be one of those distanced brothers, please know that you are welcomed and you are missed. We hope to see you back at lodge and look forward to having you involved again. Please also take note that the lodge’s Facebook page is now being utilized as a method of communication to the craft and public. If you have a Facebook account, please look up Merritt Island Lodge No 353 F&AM—Like and Follow! The hope is to also have our Instagram account reactivated in the very near future. Finally, having a candidate in the pipeline, I have begun scheduling E.A. practices to commence promptly on January 11, 2024, at 7:00PM. We will continue the tradition of meeting and sharing fellowship at 6:30 prior to practice, and will endeavor to go out for fellowship and refreshment after each practice. The newly installed officers will be in their respective stations/places for the upcoming E.A. degree.

I look forward to the ensuing year and cannot wait to see the amazing things that we achieve together!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year,

George C. Gaspard
Senior Warden

Greetings from the South,

Brothers of our beautiful lodge, I am extremely grateful to be elected to serve as your Junior Warden for 2024. We have exciting plans in the works to make this a fun year for our lodge! Hopefully everyone is as excited as I am to have Jason sit as WM! I look forward to seeing everyone at lodge throughout the coming year!

Brother Austin Cowart, Junior Warden Elect