#### **New Jersey Grand Lodge Information**

Grand Master: Most Worshipful: John Eugene Margroff
Deputy Grand Master: RW Omar S. Morris
Senior Grand Warden: Bruce C. Golway
Junior Grand Warden: RW Bernard J. Madgey V
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer: MW Douglas R. Policastro
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary: MW Larry S. Plaskett
District Deputy Grand Master: RW Ken Carpenter
District Ritual Instructor: RW Vince Capone

18<sup>th</sup> Masonic District 2025 Grand Officers Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful Casey Huston GC Aid to the Grand Master: Scott P. Vicari, ATTGM

Laurel Lodge Distinguished Brethren
DB Richard P. Alspach\*, DB Raymond T. McManus,
DB John C. Read Jr., DB Robert S. Outlaw

**Laurel Lodge Honorary Members** 

MW William H. Sackett, Grand Master 1986 \*
MW Edgar N. Peppler, Grand Master 1979
MW Larry S. Plasket, Grand Master 2002
MW William H. Berman, Grand Master 2009
MW David A. Dorworth, Grand Master 2013
RW Chester H. Clark PGC
RW Keith A. Herman, PDDGM
RW Benjamin Foster PGC\*

GRAND LODGE WEBPAGE
WWW.NEWJERSEYGRANDLODGE.ORG

LAUREL LODGE WEBPAGE
WWW.LAURELLODGE237.ORG





TINYURL.COM/LAUREL237-FACEBOOK



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Please send correspondence to PO Box 127 Stratford NJ 08084 Address of Laurel Lodge 629 Stone Road Laurel Springs, NJ 08021 Constituted May 25<sup>th</sup>1922

## **Communications for April 2025**

You are cordially and fraternally requested to attend the following communications of Laurel Lodge No. 237, F&AM

## Friday April 4th 7:45PM Meeting

April 7th will be our first meeting. Dinner will be provided by the Worshipful Master at 630PM.

A \$10.00 donation is requested for dinner.

## A Dispensation has been granted to move our meeting to Tuesday April 22nd 7:45PM

Dinner will be provided by the Worshipful Master at 630PM. There will be masonic light and birthdays, followed by refreshments after lodge.

A \$10.00 donation is requested for dinner.

# See details in this Trestleboard regarding RW Michael MattesTrip

August 14th to 17th 2025

## Masonic Family Day Canoe Trip in Pine Barrens

Saturday June 28th See details in this Trestle Board.

By Order of Attest
RW Michael I. Mattes WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM
Worshipful Master Secretary

	Officer Line Continued	
Senior Deacon	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo	
Junior Deacon	WB Brian McGovern, PM	
S.M. Ceremonies	WB Bro Don Keppen, Jr. PM	
J.M. Ceremonies	WB Craig Woodruff, PM	
Senior Steward	WB Donald L. Keppen, PM	
Junior Steward	WB Keith P. Verrico, PM	
Marshal	DB Robert S. Outlaw	
Chaplain	WB Craig Woodruff, PM	
Tyler	Brother William F. Anderson	
Historian	Brother Jacob Keppen	
Proxy to GL	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo	
Director of Ritual	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS	
Webmaster	DB Raymond T. McManus, DB	
Dir. of Craftsmen	By Appointment - Need Volunteer	
Entertainment	By Appointment – Need Volunteer	
Sick and Visiting	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Auditing, Budget & Finance	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Blood Bank Chairman	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Photographer	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Masonic	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS,	
Education	RW Bernard J. Madgey, V GO / PDDGM	
Advisor to Officers	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Refreshments	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Funeral Coordinator	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Scholarship Committee	RW Frazier Alburger, PGT	
Building Trustees	3 Year: DB Bob Outlaw	
	2 Year: Brother Thomas J. Santangelo	
	1 Year: By appointment – Volunteer Needed	
Financial Trustees	3 Year: MW Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM	
	2 Year: WB Craig Woodruff, PM	
	1 Year: WB Keith P. Verrico, PM	
<u>Organist</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	

1	
2025 A.D.	Officer Line 6025 A.L.
	Worshipful Master
	RW Michael I Mattes, PGP – Janice
	Senior Warden
	RW Scott P. Vicari, PGP - Jacquelyn
	Junior Warden
	Bro Jay Colavita - Marianne
	<u>Treasurer</u>
	WB Robert Taylor, PM – Susan
	Secretary
	WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM - Beth
	,
	Secretary Emeritus
	RW Louis W. Bradley PGT*
	Treasurer Emeritus
	WB Charles W. Bell PM
	WB John R. Beetle, PM
	WB Whitney H. Myers, PM *
	MW Joseph H. Rival, PGM

## **Worshipful Masters Message**

How many times have you been asked what do you get out of Freemasonry? I think to each and every one of us it is something different. Personally, I have found one of the most special rewards to be you the brethren. There is something to be said for the comradery among men. Sit by any campfire and you will see it is almost instinctively programmed into us. My guess is that it meets a lot of the base needs we all need as animals. Fire for cooking and heat, and the comradery of others for safety and security. In todays society though the need for safety and security is not as necessary, but that base need still is strong. Take a look at you each and every one of us bring out the best in one another. We all bring our individual talents to the table and even if we do not see it initially those traits and talents rub off on one another. We incorporate those characteristics into our own self and on and on it goes. Keep shaping our society brethren let your light shine brethren.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Michael Isadore Mattes
Past Master 2020/2021/2022
Worshipful Master 2025
Mozart Lodge #121 F&AM
Past President 18th District
Masters and Wardens Association

#### The View from the West R.W.Scott P Vicari ATTGM

The reception for the 18th and 21st districts will be on Monday, April 14th. I am excited to have my second reception as a Grand Lodge officer, especially because I get to share this night with so many good friends and brothers of the 18th district, including my brother-in-law, Right Worshipful Brother Casey Huston. I'm a little apprehensive about the date, which is one of the worst dates in history. No less than three major tragedies occurred on this date:

- President Lincoln was shot on April 14th, 1865, in the Ford theater
- The Titanic struck an iceberg on April 14th, 1912, and eventually sank in the wee hours of April 15th
- The Black Sunday dust storm, one of the worst storms of the "Dust Bowl" swept across the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles on April 14th, 1935.

To add to that, April 14th, 1861, was the day that Fort Sumter was evacuated, ending the first battle of the civil war (the battle started on April 12th) which would go on to claim about 620,000 American lives. Interestingly, both commanders involved in the battle, the Union Commander Major Robert Anderson and Confederate General P.G.T Beauregard, were both Freemasons. You will be glad to know that no freemasons were involved in the assassination of President Lincoln, but that didn't stop some conspiracy theorists at the time from suggesting that John Wilkes Booth was a Freemason, and that he committed the deadly deed in the pursuit of some wicked plan of the fraternity. Thankfully, these accusations, coming some 39 years after the Morgan Affair, never gained any traction and were quickly disproved.

Out of the 2,240 passengers and crew of the Titanic, 29 were Freemasons. Nine were in First Class, six in Second Class, three in Third Class and the remaining thirteen part of the crew. The only Freemasons to survive the sinking were Bro. Doctor Will Frauenthal, Bro. Elmer Taylor, Bro. John Hardy, Bro. Arago Harrison, Bro. Herbert Pitman and Bro. James Widgery. The remaining 23 brothers perished in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. Anyone reading this message would no doubt not be surprised to learn that many of the brothers on the Titanic were reported to have acted bravely and selflessly, willingly sacrificing their lives for the sake of others. The Black Sunday dust storm displaced an estimated 300,000 tons of topsoil and forced the relocation of hundreds of thousands of people. I was not able to find records on the number of Freemasons affected by the storm, but I would guess it was significant. Here's hoping our reception doesn't hit any icebergs this April 14th!

Some data liberally taken from

"The Midnight Freemasons"- WB E. Gordon Mooneyham and Wikipedia.

## Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237 Continued \* Deceased # Served another Lodge

	Deceased # Servi	cu ano	ther bouge
1990	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *	2016	Gene G. Olson
1990	Donald C. Lever, PSGS *	2016	Eric Erickson #
1991	Stewart D. Walsh *	2017	John P. Gomen
1991	Ralph S. Hill, Jr. #*	2017	Scott Vicari #
1991	William H. Berman, PGM	2018	Joseph Abiuso PGC
1992	George W. Stott, Jr. *	2019	Edward S. Bohi
1992	Harry H. Wible # *	2020	William E. Roche
1993	Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM	2020	Michael Mattes PGP #
1994	Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS *	2021	Craig J Woodruff
1994	Charles A Castley PDDGM *	2021	Michael Mattes #
1995	Russell B. Hoyle, Sr.	2021	Casey Huston GC #
1996	Frazier R. Alburger, PGT	2022	Donald L. Keppen Jr.
1996	James E. Miller, PGC #	2022	Michael Mattes #
1997	Raymond B. Kingett	2022	Casey Huston GC #
1997	Jerry R. Barnish #	2023	Jerry R. Barnish
1998	Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC *	2024	Keith Verrico
1999	Scott D. Cianci		
1999	Frank M. Blizard, III #		
2000	Paul E. Burkhardt		
2001	Robert F. DiOrio		
2001	Donald. C. Sharp Sr. #		
2002	Leonard M. March, PDDGM		
2002	Craig J. Woodruff#		
2003	Eugene J. Applegate		
2004	Eugene O. Bathurst		
2005	Juan A. Caraballo, Jr		
2006	Moses R. Hayes, Jr., PGC		
2007	Richard J. McCunney, II		
2008	Michael E. Owsiak		
2009	Robert E. Kunze		
2010	Craig R. Thorpe		
2011	Brian J. Read, PSGS		
2011	George W. Niessner, PSGS #		
2012	Bernard J. Madgey, V JGW		
2013	Kevin D. Kloss		
2014	James A. Weisensee		
2014	Brian McGovern #		
2015	Robert A. Taylor		

## Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237 \* Deceased # Served another Lodge

* Deceased # Served another Lodge				
1922 Albert C, Stack *	1961 John P. Steffan*			
1923 Harry A, Beck *	1962 Harold H. Croom*			
1923 William S. Martin # *	1963 Charles F. Yost *			
1924 Arthur Scrimshaw *	1963 Benjamin Foster, PGC # *			
1925 Benjamin Forrest *	1964 Charles W. Engler, Jr.*			
1926 Elmer F. Giffin *	1965 Daniel A. Mullen, III *			
1927 Charles B. Giffin *	1965 Carl H. Gamp # *			
1928 John T. Reif *	1966 Edgar N. Peppler PGM #			
1929 Charles V. Osborne, Sr. *	1966 Albert L. Hann, PJGD *			
1930 Samuel G. Garrison, Jr.*	1967 Henry Baumert *			
1931 Charles P. Mills # *	1968 Robert E. Walsh, Jr.*			
1932 William R. Cannon *	1969 George E. Carpenter *			
1933 Noah C. Bender *	1970 Henry Sannipolli, PDDGM *			
1934 F. Maurice Goodwin *	1971 Leonard O. Beebe *			
1935 Michael Balent, Jr. *	1972 Robert D. Rowand *			
1936 Enos J. Jarvis *	1973 Louis W. Bradley, PGT*			
1937 Robert F. Ranken *	1974 Robert W. Bates, PSGD			
1938 John H. Fisher, Sr. *	1975 Frederick W. Knox			
1939 Oscar M. Hansen *	1976 Leroy See *			
1940 Albert F Neidinger PGP*	1976 John J. Eitel # *			
1941 Lawrence E. Gardiner *	1977 Roy F. Gutshall, Jr.*			
1942 B. Franklin Cope *	1978 John R. Beetle			
1943 Fred Humphrey *	1978 James J. Golley #			
1944 Charles. S. Schenick *	1979 Charles W. Bell			
1945 Ora L. Wooster, Sr. *	1980 Benjamin H. Read, Jr.*			
1946 Carl C. Caldwell *	1981 Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM			
1947 Benjamin A. Glatz *	1982 Warren E. Rival, PGC *			
1948 Joseph H. Matthews *	1982 Ronald A. Rocco #			
1949 Ralph E. Husted *	1983 Hugh C. Williams *			
1950 Thomas Milne *	1984 Walter C. Knett *			
1951 Ferdinand Herbst *	1984 Charles E. Oppido, Jr. #*			
1952 Charles Mannice *	1984 Larry S Plasket, PGM, #			
1953 Robert C. Osborne, PGC*	1985 Frank A. Applegate, Sr.*			
1954 Earl B. Hallowell *	1985 Henry Bubacz # *			
1955 Harry M. Ireland *	1986 Wilfred E. Wilson *			
1956 John M. Fisher, Jr.*	1986 Donald L. Keppen Sr. #			
1957 Albert C. Stack, Jr.*	1987 Robert F. Butler *			
1958 Whitney H. Myers *	1988 William E. Hand *			
1959 George F. McCann *	1989 Edwin W. Griffiths, Jr. #*			
1960 Harold T. Wolf*	1989 James E. Miller, PGC #			

#### Laurel Lodge Minutes Friday March 7th 2025

Lodge was opened at 7:45 p.m. by W.M. Mattes

Presented to the East:

R.W. K, Carpenter R.W. V. Capone W.M. M. Phillips W.B. J. Dickenson

R.W. Madgey V & R.W. P. Bouchert.

Officers and guest per register on Tyler's desk.

Investigation committee reported favorably on petition for reinstatement.

Brother Evan Graham has been elected for reinstatement.

Paid the bills.

Balance \$34,305.50 deposit of \$2,800 and paid \$817.77.

Exemplified the EA for Official Visit of District Deputy.

Closed lodge,

attest: R.W. C.Huston acting sec.

cc fie;G/V/

#### **Laurel Lodge Minutes Friday March 21st 2025**

Lodge was opened in form at 7:45 p.m. W.M. Mattes. W.M. asked for needed correspondence read. Insurance underwriter Fitchburg sent a notice of cancellation of insurance by July 1, 2025, for not making suggested repairs. Their suggestions were noted in letter form through our agent during the fall of 2024 and a subsequent follow up in 2025.

Bills to pay totaling \$2,221.88. Motion to pay by S.W. Vicari and seconded by J.W. D. Keppen Jr. Motion to pay passed. Note: due to illnesses an addendum will be published outlining the expenses. Treasurer's report was given and accepted and filed.

R.W. C Huston was received and presented to the brethren.
R.W. S. Vicari, Sr. Warden presented a motion to send \$200 to Filomena
Restaurant in Berlin, NJ. to hold December 20 for installation dinner.
Time will be around 4 p.m. after the installation in the afternoon around
1.p.m. W.B. Keppen Jr. seconded the motion and passed by the brethren.
W.M. Mattes discussed a pancake breakfast held Saturday March 15.
He contacted 7 prospects with two attending. One candidate presented a
petition. A prospect state he was interested in learning where the Templars
treasure is.

W.M. Mattes placed lodge on refreshment for a presentation by W.B. N. Vitesse on "Why Hiram Abif had to die." R.W. Huston closed lodge at 9:45 p.m.

Weather: clear and mild. 15 attending with 1 visitor.

attest: W.B. Jerry Barnish, Secretary

cc: file, G/V

Sincerely & fraternally, Jerry R Barnish, PM Secretary Cell 609-458-5122

## **Brethren helping Brethren Continued:**

#### Call or contact WB Moser for the following service:

**Financial Planning:** WB Moser is a second-generation financial planner with over 30 years' experience. I was the last Past Master of Florence Lodge in Woodbury.

Donald S Moser - DSM Capital Wealth Management Managing Director/ CCO <u>www.dsmwealthmanagement.com</u> 609/221-9276

#### <u>Call or contact Brother Kingett for the following service:</u> Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Elder Law

Donald L. Kingett, Esq. Offices in Gloucester County & Camden County 856-374-5800 or <a href="mailto:DKingett@KingettWarren.com">DKingett@KingettWarren.com</a>

#### Call or contact Brother Jay Colavita for the following service:

**Trident Protection Group** Contact Brother Jay Colavita (609) 481-8091 We're a full-service security agency providing armed or unarmed guards and K9 units. We specialize in event security (no size too big or small), executive protection, property and asset protection (facilities, fine arts, gems, and resources), and transportation.

Website: https://tridentprotection.org/

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Trident-Protection-2584900004858860">https://www.facebook.com/Trident-Protection-2584900004858860</a> / Email: tridentprotectionk9@gmail.com



## Contact WB Paul Burkhardt or Mark Burkhardt for the following Service: Burkhardt's Custom Countertops

Paul and Mark Burkhardt Owners/Fabricators 856-435-2020 / Burkhardtscountertops.com 648 7th Avenue Lindenwold, NJ 08021 Burkhardtscountertops@yahoo.com

Quality you can trust since 1983.

## **Brethren helping Brethren:**

#### Call or contact WB Olson for the following service:

GENE OLSON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LLC
1 WINDSOR ROAD GIBBSBORO, NJ 08026
License# 13794 Office (856) 782-0077 and Cell (609) 868-2218
Residential Electric Work | Commercial Electrical
Services www.olsonelectricnj.com

Gene Olson Electrical Contractors, LLC has provided dependable residential & commercial electrical services in Camden, Gloucester and Burlington counties since 1996.

#### **Call or contact Brother Halina for the following service:**

#### Trophies, Plagues, Medals and other Awards

FAMILY IMPORTS, LLC 630 N Black Horse Pike Blackwood, NJ 08012 Tel 856 228 6400 or <a href="mailto:familyonesow">familyonesow</a> (a) 1800 N Black Horse Pike Blackwood, NJ 08012 N Blackwood, NJ 08012

#### Call or contact WB Abiuso for the following services:

Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories and More.

#### J&J GUNWORKS

310 White Horse Pike Clementon, NJ 08021 856-784-1910 www.jigunworks.com

YOUR 2nd Amendment Store.

#### Call or contact RW Brian Read for the following Service:

**Alcoy's Spa Service Parts and Service** for Whirlpool Baths and Hot Tubs 800-322-7727

#### **Call or contact Brother Drexel for the following Service:**

#### DREXEL HVAC, LLC

27 Canyon Drive, Berlin, NJ 08009 - NJ Master HVACR Contractor #19HC00586400

Office – 856-809-9342 or e-mail <u>drexelhvac@hotmail.com</u> Sales/Service/Installation/Oil to gas conversions

## **Masonic Family Day in the Pine Barrens**

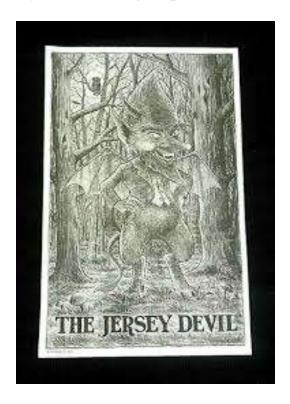
**Pine Barrens Canoe Trip** 

Saturday June 28th arrival is 10:00am
This is a 3 Hour (Tour) Canoe Trip down the
Wading River in the Pine Barrens.
RSVP cutoff is Sunday June 9th to WB Robert Taylor
856-834-3917.

Individual Payments will happen June 28th on arrival. For rates click:

https://www.mickscanoerental.com

Beware of the Jersey Devil. If you hear Banjo's paddle faster.



## WM Mattes Trip to Kingston TN



Join Worshipful Master Mattes on a Visit to Union Lodge F&AM for their annual Cave Degree

August 14th-August 17th 2025

Transportation to and from will be provided

Contact WM Michael Mattes with any questions

(856) 516-2061

Reserve your room by calling

Holiday Inn Express Harriman

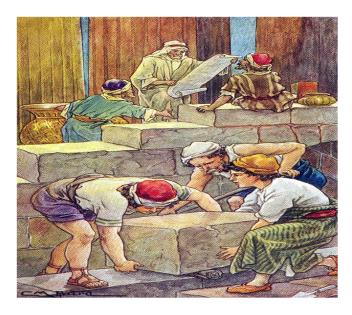
(865) 295-0001

Use block code: LML (only 18 rooms available)

## **Candidate Status**

Candidate Status				
NAME	STATUS	LAST	NEXT	NEXT
		DATE	STATUS	DATE
_	EA	1/20/23	FC	TBD
	EA	4/21/23	FC	TBD
	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
_	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
	EA	3/1/25	FC	TBD
	Mr.	1/17/25	EA	TBD

Brethren, many sets of hands make lighter work. Let us continue to work towards building a stronger Masonic Temple. If you have a question or concern, please contact Lodge Leadership promptly.



#### Dad Jokes

I'm writing a book about glue, but I'm stuck on the first chapter.

I have a clean conscious—it's never been used.

What happened when the blue ship and the red ship collided at sea? Their crews were marooned.

What do you call a line of men waiting to get haircuts? A barberqueue.

Why did the football coach go to the bank? To get his quarter back.

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He just wanted a bit more space.

What do you say to a rabbit on its birthday? Hoppy Birthday!

All vampires keep their money in a special place—the blood bank.

My boss told me to have a good day, so I went home!

I used to be addicted to the hokey-pokey until I turned myself around.

## **April Masonic Birthdays**

1967	56
1976	49
1976	49
1988	37
1990	35
1994	31
1997	28
1997	28
1999	26
2000	25
2005	20
2007	18
2007	18
2009	16
2009	16
2010	15
	1976 1976 1988 1990 1994 1997 1997 1999 2000 2005 2007 2007 2009



#### THE 18th & 21st MASONIC DISTRICTS

Cordially invite you to attend the official visit of

## Most Worshipful J. Eugene Margroff

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey
An open reception in honor of

Right Worshipful Scott P. Vicari Aide to the Grand Master – USS New Jersey Lodge No. 62

> Right Worshipful Evan S. Boggs Grand Chaplain – Woodstown Lodge No. 138

Right Worshipful Alfred Huston Grand Chaplain – USS New Jersey Lodge No. 62

Right Worshipful Keith A. Herman Grand Orator – Rising Sun Lodge No. 15

Right Worshipful Vicent M. Capone
District Ritual Instructor 18<sup>th</sup> District – Rising Sun Lodge No. 15

Right Worshipful Kenneth F. Carpenter, Jr.

District Deputy Grand Master 18<sup>th</sup> District – Collingswood Cloud Lodge No. 101

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Saffire Grand Catering, 1849 Cooper St., Almonesson NJ 08096-3808 Social Hour 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Reception 7:00pm

Mail Daymont to LISS New Jorsey Lodge DO Boy 772 Charmy His

Mail Payment to: USS New Jersey Lodge, PO Box 772 Cherry Hill NJ 08003-0772 Checks made payable to USS NJ Lodge **Cutoff date March 30th** \*No tickets will



be issued at door

De 1550eu de 0001.				
I would like <sub>.</sub> enclosed	reserva	tions @65.00 per person, t	otal	
Name		_Guest		
Email	phone			
District	Lodge	Title		
Tables of 8 may be reserved by providing a list of all guest's attending, see				
reverse				

2025 Building F	<u>und Benefactors</u>
Bro Richard A Greiner	Bro William R Terwilliger
WB Eugene Applegate, PM	Bro Jay Colavita
WB Bill Roche, PM	Bro Ricardo Pena
Bro William Campbell	WB Robert A Taylor, PM
Bro Wilfredo S Halina	WB Eugene O Bathurst, PM
Bro Kenneth J Cheeseman	Bro Joseph A Cruz
RW Leonard M March,	Bro James Griggs
PDDGM	
Bro Richard L Wooster	Bro Richard A Faunce
Bro Wallace Carey	Bro Joseph J Novello
Bro Kenneth W Cashin	RW Frazier R Alburger, PGC
WB Ronald Rocco, PM	Bro Charles D. McMaster
WB Craig J Woodruff, PM	Bro Joseph Armstrong
Bro Bill Hughes	Bro Robert F Brittain
RW Scott P Vicari, ATTGM	Bro Alvin Fitting
Brethren, Thank you!	