

Noah Lodge No. 357

Trestle Board

AUGUST, 2023

**ATTEND THE AUGUST 14th MEETING!
GIVE YOUR INPUT FOR THE RENOVATION!**

**Labelle Lodge #379
180 Jaycee Lions Dr.
Labelle, FL 33935.**

We can carpool if you'd like to save some gas. Call an Officer to arrange travel from Noah – or from your home.

Noah Lodge Officers:

Worshipful Master	WB Ed Ciofani
Senior Warden	Br Jerry Krieger
Junior Warden	WB Dana McGrath – 239-995-5000
Treasurer	Bob Pantazes
Secretary	RW Michael O. Gardner
Senior Deacon	WB Derek Vaneske
Junior Deacon	Br “Manny” Aviles
Senior Steward	Vac
Junior Steward	Vac

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

I hope this letter finds all who are reading it in good health both for themselves and family.

Progress, progress, progress, 95% of the bad and ugly has been removed. It took 7 – 30 yard dumpsters to remove everything. The wood for the roof has arrived and soon a call to arms to the brethren to assist in the buildout of the new roof we will be sent. No summons of the craft should fall on deaf ears. I'm shooting for the first week of August. We had severe

amount of loss in our lodge and the path forward is not without its challenges. I truly believe we will overcome, and the lights will shine ever so brightly. There was a conversation held at the last meeting in regard to moving our meeting location to a space owned by Worshipful McGrath that's around the corner from Noah Lodge.

Look forward to seeing the Brethren's involvement!!

Warmest Regards Fraternally yours!!

WM Edward D. Ciofani



FROM THE WEST

Brethren All,

July 10th we had our meeting and our WM could not be there and I had to step up for the meeting. It is only by relying on my Brothers that I was able to conduct the meeting. Thank you to WM Jeff Tumbarello for attending this meeting to be the SW and Junior Deacon and having a split personality.

As we have heard the trusses for the lodge building at Noah 357 will be arriving very soon and we will need all the help we can get to assist in assembling them. This will be a large step to us having our building back making it a reality very soon. In the interim our JW WM Dana McGrath has offered a N. Fort Myers office space he has for us to conduct our meetings. If this is acceptable to the order please tell us... We would appreciate hearing from you and perhaps this closer location will bring more of

you, our Brothers, to the meetings. We have many decisions to make as to how the “Rebuilt Noah Lodge #357”, the building, can be remodeled and we sure need your input.

Please be sure to let us know of any Brother or others who may have sickness or distress so that we may assist them and do our primary work as Masons.

Fraternally,
Gerard (Jerry) Krieger, Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren All,

There are some GREAT messages and updates in this issue of YOUR Trestle Board. If I might add: You’re likely missing some good chow and great company at a fine Lodge (Labelle Lodge) if you aren’t attending our Stated Communications. We actually find time to have a little fun in these “interesting times” for Noah Lodge. Need a ride? I have one.

Fraternally,
Dana P. McGrath, Junior Warden

239-995-5000 ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT, Brother. Just dial it, I’ll be glad you did.

FROM THE TREASURER’S DESK

Brothers,

How does the lodge pay our bills? The mail is removed from the Lodge mail box by the Secretary; he has to decide if it is a new bill or a recurring bill. If it is recurring, he will write a “warrant” and sign it. The warrant is then passed on to the Worshipful Master to review and co-sign. If it is a non-recurring bill the secretary must read it at the next stated meeting for the membership to vote on.

The signed warrants are then passed to the Lodge Treasurer to pay. Most bills are paid by way of bank draft that is deposited directly into the vendor’s account or the bank mails a check. This way the payment cost no extra cost of postage to the lodge. After the warrant is paid it is returned to the Secretary to match the payment with the original bill.

Fraternally,
Robert Pantazes, Treasurer

July Meeting



A man walks down the street of his hometown and sees the old Masonic lodge closed and falling apart. He had left for the service and said when he returned home he wanted to join the lodge because as a child he was so impressed by the quality of men he met there. He recalled the fish fry's and barbecues he attended there, the Christmas parties and other events.

He saw an old lady walking down the street and asks her what happened? He recalled how he would see the members gather for meetings, holding events for the community and marching in the parade. Such great men, beacons of the town, men of influence but more importantly, just great men.

The old woman stated, " My husband used to attend lodge there. For decades he would spend countless hours working to prepare for events and meetings, oh how he loved being around his Brothers. He loved being a Freemason and so looked forward to the fellowship, he loved being surrounded by good men, like minded men who knew they was something bigger than themselves."

"But what happened? ", asked the man, "Where'd they all go?"

"Well son", said the old lady, "They died or moved away but it started down this path long before that. The Brothers stopped coming, they stopped working on the lodge, they stopped holding events. When the Brothers stopped attending, the events stopped, the people stopped coming, when the people stopped coming, the fundraisers stopped, when the fundraisers stopped, the Brothers were asked to pitch in to keep their lodge alive. Unfortunately, the Brothers has more important things to do. They would have all kinds of reasons why they couldn't come give a few hours of their time.

There used to be dozens but eventually there were just a few, my husband called them 'The faithful few'. Sometimes they barely had enough to hold meetings, they couldn't do Degree work because they didn't have enough members present, they couldn't grow because they couldn't bring in new men. Sadly as those faithful few aged, they just couldn't do it all anymore. They tried but after the events stopped, so did their relations with the town folk. The people who had enjoyed the events over the years lost interest in helping out. They drained what little money they had left to try and keep it open but it all dried up. After they closed my husband was miserable, it was the one thing he looked forward to each month and now it was gone."

The man looked on with tears in his eyes, such a great institution that did so much for its community was gone.

Our Lodges are not just buildings of brick and mortar, they buildings of Brotherly Love. Love held between Brothers of the order and shown to our communities but they can't survive on love alone. Like any great organization, it is the members who keep it going. Much like the crops of the field will die off without the rains, our Lodges will die off without its members. We all have other things that go on, that is life, but we must make every effort to set aside the time, as little as four hours a month, to attend meetings, do the work and maintain our temple. ~ Author Unknown

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Standard Schedule:

2d Monday Stated Communication/Dinner 6:15 pm Dinner / 7:30 pm Meeting

Visit our new web pages:

www.facebook.com/NOAH

([/www.facebook.com/groups/1497886923847952](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1497886923847952))

www.instagram.com/noahlodge357

(<http://www.instagram.com/noahlodge357>)

ON THE WEB:

www.noahlodge357.com

www.noahlodge357.org

(<http://www.noahlodge357.org>)

** It costs approximately \$150 per month to print and mail the Trestle Board. If you can receive it by email, PLEASE send your email address to:

secretarynoahloadge357@gmail.com

so that we can add you to the email list. We will also have a link on the FB Page each month.**

Material Has Arrived !!



Noah Lodge Past Masters

1966 Earl C. Lewis *
1967 Robert Thompson *
1968 Gordon Mason *
1969 Louis Foss *
1970 David Grant *
1971 Charles Nelson *
1972 Walter Stillwell *
1973 John R Lee
1974 James T Linton
1975 Bruce Cowart *
1976 Horace Welch
1977 Gerald Keeton *
1978 Alex Sibbald
1979 Robert Morrow *
1980 Fred Henninger *
1981 Upton S Higginbotham
1982 Charles J Christman
1983 Milton A Bayliss Jr. *
1984 Howard L Ekiss *
1985 O. Jay Hilderbrandt *
1986 Charles R Lawson *
1987 John A Dean
1988 John R Grabowski *
1989 O. Jay Hilderbrandt *
1990 Richard Bashaw *
1991 Norris W. Clark Jr.
1992 Stephen G Sibbald
1993 Alex Sibbald
1994 Dr. Mark C Means

1995 Floyd D Waddell *
1996 Dr. Rick A Means
1997 Larry G Hayes
1998 John A Dean
1999 Dana P McGrath
2000 Thomas Reedy *
2001 Lawrence Tomlinson
2002 Brian Harkins
2003 Mike Morrow *
2004 Jerry Timberlake *
2005 Robert Gilliland *
2006 David Dellinger
2007 Christopher Kelly
2008 Lawrence Tomlinson
2009 Thomas Reedy *
2010 Dr Rick A Means
2011 Larry Newton *
2012 Lawrence Tomlinson
2013 James Hamilton
2014 Rhett Tillman
2015 Michael W Gardner
2016 Robert Sabo
2017 Edward Ciofani
2018 Jeffery Tumbarello
2019 Michael O. Gardner
2020 Joseph Krieger
2021 Chris Pare'
2022 Michael O. Gardner

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