



Mandarin Masonic Lodge No. 343 F.&A.M.

October 2025

From the East...

Brethren,

As the season of Fall settles upon us, we are reminded of change, growth, and the beauty that comes with new beginnings. It is with great joy that we welcome our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Arjan Bishka, who has now begun his journey in Masonry. May we each extend a hand of fellowship to him, guiding and supporting him as he learns the lessons of our Craft.

Looking ahead, we have an important event on the horizon: the Grand Master's Official Visit to the 8th and 9th District, to be held on Saturday, November 15th. Reservations are encouraged for the dinner, and I strongly urge all who can to secure their place early. However, I also wish to emphasize that even if you cannot make the dinner, your presence is still requested. There will be a tiled meeting following the dinner, and it is important that Mandarin Lodge be well represented.

Just as the leaves remind us of the cycles of renewal, may we take this opportunity to renew our commitment to our Lodge and our Brotherhood. Let us come together in strength, unity, and fellowship as we continue our Masonic journey side by side.

Fraternally,

Omar Rivera

Worshipful Master



From the South...

Greetings Brothers,

First off, please spread the word about the craft/business fair November 15th. If we don't get more vendors soon, it's going to be canceled. This is to help and raise money for our lodge.

Second, congratulations to our new EA and a good degree Monday.

I unfortunately, don't have much else to add since I was out of town the last three weeks and am still playing catch up.

Fraternally,

Daniel Bresling

Junior Warden

Newly Initiated Entered Apprentice
Bro. Arjan Bishka

Calendar

*Subject to minor changes.

October 2025

- 1- Open Books @ OP Lodge
- 2- Stated Communication
- 4- York Rite Festival
- 7- MLT 1-5 via Zoom
- 15- SOI @ Hyde Park Lodge
- 16- 3TF (TBD)
- 18- Outdoor Degree @ Amelia Lodge
- 18- York Rite Festival
- 22- NEFMA @Solomon
- 23- FL Grand Commandery Bible Project (RSVP with Todd Connor)
- 25- MM Degree @ Duval Lodge
- 31- Beefeaters (TBD)

November 2025

- 5- Open Books @ OP Lodge
- 5- SOI @ OP Lodge
- 6- Stated Communication
- 15- Craft Business Fair @ Mandarin
- 15- GMOV @ Scottish Rite
- 19- NEFMA @ Neptune Beach Lodge
- 20- 3TF (TBD)

2025 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Omar Rivera
(904) 864-9440

Senior Warden

Bob Davidson

Junior Warden

Daniel Breslin

Treasurer

Don Carter, PM

Secretary

Lou Govreau, PM

Marshall

Jan Lindahl, PM

Chaplain

Jack Krumbein

Senior Deacon

Carl Mankinen

Junior Deacon

Mitchel "Shane" Weaver

Senior Steward

Travis Reynolds

Junior Steward

Larry Mason

Tyler

Bobby Bethel

2025 COMMITTEES

Finance

Bob Davidson, SW
Larry Rogers, PM
Travis Reynolds, SS

Vigilance

Daniel Breslin, JW
Jack Krumbein, Chaplain
Travis Reynolds, SS

Petitions

Lou Govreau, PM, Sec
Shane Weaver, JD
Bobby Bethel, Tyler

Masonic Education

Todd Connor, PM
Lou Govreau, PM, Sec
Chairman- Ed Mann, PM

Board of Relief

Omar Rivera, WM
Bob Davidson, SW
Daniel Breslin, JW

Charity

Todd Connor, PM
Don Carter, PM, Treas
Larry Mason, JS

Lodge Property

Bob Davidson, SW
Daniel Breslin, JW
Carl M, SD

Community Relations

Jeff Starke, PM
John Young, PM
Larry Mason, JS

PAST MASTERS

1962 <i>C. P. Munger</i>	1983 <i>J. R. Knight Jr.</i>	2004 Charles Higgins
1963 <i>C. E. Futch</i>	1984 John Porter Hufman	2005 James C. Ruoff
1964 <i>W. H. Ange</i>	1985 Richard Gale Hornbrook	2006 David M. L. Randall
1965 <i>Walter Wilson Powell</i>	1986 <i>Richard Faye Mauro</i>	2007 William E. Avera III
1966 <i>M. D. Bish</i>	1987 Donald Wyman Carter	2008 George S. Blum
1967 <i>Billy Collier</i>	1988 <i>Joseph J. Frederickson</i>	2009 <i>Eddie E. Bides</i>
1968 <i>T. "Ira" Higginbotham</i>	1989 Christopher C. Ramsayer	2010 Nate Vargo
1969 <i>C. J. Bowden</i>	1990 Anthony "George" Colson	2011 Larry M. Rogers
1970 <i>R. L. Flynn</i>	1991 Henry B. Tucker	2012 Mike Minter
1971 C. R. Bell (PDDGM)	1992 <i>Elva Ray "Pete" Copeland</i>	2013 Larry M. Rogers
1972 John Ammond Peoples Jr.	1993 Walter Manfred Pace	2014 George Sarkees III
1973 <i>Earl Davis Waldrep Sr.</i>	1994 <i>Lenwood Earl Bucks</i>	2015 Angelo Echevarria
1974 <i>Donald E. Bush</i>	1995 <i>Gerald Dean Pugh</i>	2016 Jeff Starke (PDDGM)
1975 <i>Earl Herndon (PDDGM)</i>	1996 Earnest Jackson Strange	2017 David J. Gilpin
1976 <i>M. C. Cassidy</i>	1997 Jimmy J. Pace	2018/2019 Todd Connor
1977 <i>Nicholas Manos</i>	1998 <i>Siegfried Rohrbacher</i>	2020 Lou Govreau
1978 <i>Cecil Lenard Platt</i>	1999 Randy Carter	2021 John C. Young
1979 <i>Cedric Frank Thompson</i>	2000 <i>Paul Johnston</i>	2022 Jeff Starke (PDDGM)
1980 <i>G. Grayson</i>	2001 John Downes	2023 Edward Mann
1981 <i>T. Thompson</i>	2002 Charles Benham	2024 Jan Lindahl
1982 <i>Jerry Johnson</i>	2003 Larry M. Rogers	





Mandarin Lodge No. 343 F&AM
10950-60 San Jose Blvd #222
Jacksonville, Florida 32223-6671

Lou Govreau PM Secretary
Phone: 904.200.6517
Email: lougovreau@gmail.com

Stated Communication
1st Thursday of each Month
Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Brothers,

September 22, 2025

We hope this letter finds you well. As part of our ongoing efforts to uphold the values and effective governance of our Lodge, we wish to inform you of a proposed change to our current by-laws.

At our Stated Communication, held September 4, 2025, a motion was made, seconded and approved for a resolution to our Lodge By-Laws. This resolution would change our Stated Communication back to twice a month in lieu of once a month. With this proposed change we would have our Stated Communications on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. The Grand Lodge of Florida Digest of Masonic Law requires this motion to lay over 30 days before a vote to be adopted.

We encourage every member to review the proposed changes thoroughly. Your feedback, concerns, and suggestions are invaluable to us and will help shape the future of our Lodge. To facilitate open discussion, we invite you to attend the Stated Communication on November 6, 2025. Dinner will be at 6:30pm with Stated Communication beginning at 7:30pm. At this meeting, the proposed by-law change will be presented, and there will be an opportunity for questions and open discussion. Following this, a vote will be taken to adopt the change and in accordance with The Grand Lodge of Florida Digest of Masonic Law a member **MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE**. If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to provide input, please feel free to contact Wor.: Lou Govreau, Lodge Secretary, at secretary@mandarin343.com to submit your comments in writing prior to the meeting date.

The proposed by-law change has been carefully considered by the lodge leadership and aims to better serve our membership and ensure the continued prosperity and integrity of our organization. Your participation is crucial in this process, and we thank you for your ongoing commitment to our Lodge.

Fraternally yours,

Omar Rivera
Worshipful Master
Mandarin Lodge No. 343 F. & A.M.



FLORIDA FREEMASONS ANNUAL WASHINGTON D. C. TRIP VIII

Thursday December 4th -Sunday December 7, 2025

2025 Itinerary

Please RSVP to FLDCTRIP@gmail.com Book your flights and hotel ASAP.

Thursday Dec 4th Arrive Washington D.C. at your leisure, it's a free evening, however we have introductions and draw names for wreath ceremony participants at 6:00 p.m. in hotel lobby. Then we go eat somewhere in groups.

Friday Dec. 5th Morning: Friday Festivities are for the Brethren / Gentlemen and include Breakfast at hotel, Motorcoach transportation for the duration, to Arlington National Cemetery, Cost of Wreath (Florida Brothers Only), Cemetery Trolley Tour, Tyled Meeting and Dinner, attire is Business Suit and tie, comfortable shoes it's a long day. Total Cost for Friday Events \$150.00 per Brother

Breakfast 6:30—7:15 a.m. at Hotel, Motor Coach Leaves at 7:15 a.m. to Arlington National Cemetery 8:00 a.m. w/ Trolley Tour to Tomb of the Unknowns. Public Wreath Laying Ceremony at 9:15 a.m. by our Grand Master and three Brothers chosen by lottery. After Ceremony the Trolley will take us on the balance of tour. Reboard Motor Coach. We will then transport to the US Capitol for a guided tour, then lunch (on your own \$, it's a massive cafeteria) Time permitting possibility: Library of Congress, Supreme Court Visit. Then Motor Coach to George Washington National Masonic Memorial for a guided tour, around 4:30 followed by a tyled communication in the Lodge Room. Then a catered dinner. Following dinner we will reboard Motorcoach to visit the Lincoln, Viet Nam, Korean and Iwo Jima Memorials. Note: We have changed the late evening up in the past, therefore it is subject to change on the fly for weather and or additional monument visits. The Cost for Friday is \$150.00 per Brother (excluding Lunch at Capitol).

Saturday Dec. 6 Morning Free Time: Breakfast at Hotel 7:30 a.m.

Several Excursions are being planed by different Brothers, in the past Museum of the Bible, Congressional Cemetery, Smithsonian and National Archives. Fords Theater and others, do what you want or nothing at all.

Saturday Afternoon Leave hotel by Uber around 2:15 to Potomac Lodge No.5 Reception at approx. 3:00 p.m. Grand Line, DDGM, PDDGM TUX, Otherwise Business Attire (Suits and Ties) Installation of Lodge Officers Potomac Lodge No.5 Georgetown. 4:00 p.m. After the Installation a Ticketed Holiday Party (A buffet dinner cruise on the Potomac) is available, get your tickets here: <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/JGDGPMQP2GNR4/checkout/3WNEGAXQ3JSWJ5HSSVMBPD60>

Sunday or Monday: Return home at your will and pleasure.



2025 Committee R. W. Brothers Steven Silvers, Alan Cox, Randy Bolen, Greg Wynn, Bill Catsulis, R. W. Jeremy Barnes (DC Liaison)

TO RSVP

Zelle \$150.00 to 352-804-3981

Remit Check to:

Ernest Catsulis GM Account
11575 NW 167th Place



Flight Info / Transportation to DC

Book Your Flights to arrive on Thursday Dec 4th as close to noon as possible returning Sunday Dec. 7th, some Brothers will come in a day early and leave a day later. Groups Leave from Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville, West Palm, on nonstops to Washington Reagan (DCA)

Driving: If you have in interest in driving there are some Brothers who would gladly help with expenses rather than flying.

Hotel:

Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston
4610 N. Fairfax Dr. Arlington VA
703-243-9800 www.hinrlington.com
Group Name: Florida Freemasons

Double Rooms \$129.00 King \$129 + Tax per night which includes full breakfast for two in room. Room Block is from Wednesday Dec 3rd-Monday Dec 8th for those that want to come in early and stay later.

Approved for Distribution by MW Taleb T. Atala, Grand Master, September 23, 2025