

The Trestleboard of  
Pythagoras Lodge  
#358 F. & A. M.

[www.dist6.com/pythhome.html](http://www.dist6.com/pythhome.html)



109 South Arnold Road  
Panama City Beach, Florida 32413

Regular meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Instruction & practice meetings are held each Tuesday at 7:00 PM

**Pythagoras Officers**

**Worshipful Master**

Dale A. Kiel  
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**Senior Warden**

Rick Hawks  
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**Junior Warden**

Don Coram  
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**Treasurer**

Gordon Hancock  
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gordonhancock@comcast.net

**Secretary**

Ken Thorndyke PM  
850-233-0109  
knjthorn@knology.net

**Senior Deacon**

Rich Allen

**Junior Deacon**

Daniel D. Massoni

**Chaplain**

James Thorndyke

**Marshall**

Archie Maynard

**Senior Steward**

Charlie Ray Skelton

**Junior Steward**

Michael P. Crilly

**Tyler**

Frank Robinson

**UPCOMING WORK**

**NOVEMBER, 2012**

**Date Event Time**

**Instruction will be held each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM**

**NOVEMBER**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Shaddai Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Outdoor Degree at Tupelo Lodge.
- 7<sup>th</sup> District Instruction at Scottish Rite, 7:00 PM
- 8<sup>th</sup> Family Night at Pythagoras. Dinner at 6:30, Stated meeting at 7:30 PM.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rite, 6:00 PM Exec and KSA, 6:30 PM Dinner, 7:30 PM Stated Meeting. Election of Officers
- 12<sup>th</sup> Parade in Wewa.
- 13<sup>th</sup> MM Degree at Acme Lodge. Dinner at 6:30, Degree to follow.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Masters and Wardens at St. Andrews Lodge 7:00 PM.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Shaddai Stated meeting, 7:00 PM.
- 19<sup>th</sup> District Instruction at Parker Lodge, 7:00 PM
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tanksgiving, Pythagoras is dark.
- 26<sup>th</sup> York Rite Council.
- 30<sup>th</sup> EA Widows night at Tupelo.

**FROM THE EAST**

The Christmas season is upon us. Thanksgiving and Christmas always fall on or near the dates of the November and December stated meetings. As a result, the Lodge will be dark on the second meeting nights in November and December. Recall also, the annual election of officers will be held on the December Stated Meeting night.

December 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date scheduled for the Lodges of the 6<sup>th</sup> District to ring the bells for the Salvation Army at the various retail stores in our area. As usual, Pythagoras will be ringing bells at the Beach Wal-Mart store. As always, the intent is to keep the tours as short as possible. The more volunteers we have, the shorter the time frame can be. Once again, this is a charitable effort which costs our volunteers nothing but their time. Further the Salvation Army is one of the charitable organizations that returns a high percentage of donations to the people they serve, making it a charity truly deserving of your efforts. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the entrance to the Lodge. I'm sure I don't need to remind you that the economy has not improved by much and there remain many, many Americans with out a job during this Holiday Season. Some children will receive only the toys or clothing that Charities provide. You can rest assured that your gift of a few hours of your time will go far to help the less fortunate at Christmas. Please make every effort to join your brothers in this worthwhile Endeavour.

Our Boston Butt sale has been a very successful program to raise funds to support the charitable donations of the Lodge. At present we have the capability to produce 80 butts on our cooker and have had to borrow cookers to produce more. We are in the process of building a second cooker with donated materials to increase our in-house capability to 150 butts. We need help in sanding, painting and assembling the cooker. Any help we can get from the Craft will be greatly appreciated.

I'll be taking one more shirt order this year. If you want one but have not yet ordered, let me know. My phone numbers are to the left of this message. Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Dale, Worshipful Master

**FELLOWSHIP**

Each Tuesday morning from 8 AM to about 10 AM the brethren gather for coffee and fellowship. There is really no set time, show up at your leisure. Come on out to the lodge to meet and greet your friends and brothers. This is not restricted to Masons only. Bring your neighbor or a friend who may be interested in Masonry. We hope to rekindle the interest of past members and perhaps encourage new.

Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> is Family night. As always, the Lodge will provide a meat and potato or rice dish. Please bring a covered dish to complement the meal. Vegetables breads and deserts are always a welcome addition to the main fare.

Family night is well attended. It is a success because of the interest of the brethren and especially the ladies. Our thanks to you all for your contributions to the meal and the fellowship we all enjoy. If you have any ideas to make the evening more interesting, please feel free to bring it up.

**WELCOME TO THE  
PYTHAGORAS WEB SITE**

The Lodge web site is available at  
[www.pythagoras358.org](http://www.pythagoras358.org)

If you go to that site and subscribe you will get an e-mail message any time something new is added to the site. The Trestleboard will also be there. Also please continue to send your e-mail addresses to Worshipful Ken so we can begin to send you the Trestleboard via e-mail. The more we can send by e-mail the less we will spend on printing and postage



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**FROM THE SECRETARY**

Brethren,

The 2013 dues notices will be out within the next two weeks. To those who pay promptly, Thank You! You have no idea how much time goes into preparing the notices and dues cards. But to send them out and have them returned because you have not kept me up to date with your address change frustrates me and costs money. Each of us have an OBLIGATION, paying your dues in a timely manner is one of them. Updating your address to prevent me from spending additional Lodge funds on postage to re-mail or send a second notice to you in July and third notice in October is a small request. But, I'm making that request now. Please pay promptly and keep your address up to date. If there is a circumstance that prevents you from paying your dues, please contact the Worshipful Master or myself. There are always ways to help a Brother in need. Failure to do the simple things will lead to you being suspended from the roles. There are approximately 15 people pending suspension for Non Payment of Dues. PLEASE DON'T BE ONE OF THEM.

Ken Thorndyke, PM  
 Secretary

**FROM THE GRAND MASTER**

Grand Master's Discourse

Volume 3, issue 14, October 19, 2012

**Ignorance is an epidemic.**

Dear Brothers,

As the year progresses and the Official Visits of the District Deputy Grand Masters continue to come in and we speak to the Worshipful Masters about the State of their Lodges, one theme continues to ring true through the conversations. This can be interpreted in two ways of which neither is good for our Fraternity. These two ways are: One, the fact that the Brothers are ignorant of their duties, and two that they are using ignorance as an excuse. I have pondered on this information for months and based on the evidence obtained I have come to the determination that it is not an excuse, it is far worse, it is an epidemic.

We are on the third year of the District Deputy Grand Master's reports and we still are working from the point of education as we discuss the information with the Worshipful Masters, whether in person or by phone, we hear this silence or see this blank look when some of the items are brought to their attention. It is really amazing that going into the third year with this program as well as the third year of the Masonic Leadership Training and yet we have so many Worshipful Masters not aware of their responsibilities. It seems that in our Lodges we have this concept that one man is elected for one year and this system is so deeply rooted in our DNA that to do otherwise is sometimes looked at as a dishonor for the Lodge to elect a Past Master or keep the Master for an additional year. Yet the downside to this situation that no one seems to mind is that we have Worshipful Masters in our Lodges with anywhere from 6 months as a Master Mason to 3 years tops becoming Masters of Lodges, with no experience in Masonry much less the requirements

of a Master and the worst case is that they do what they have seen in the short time they have been a member and think they know or understand what they are getting into. And even worse yet, they seek no help no counsel and in many cases those that may be there to assist are also not well informed.

My brothers, if this Institution is truly a Band of Brothers, we must act like one. We need to pool our resources and use it to our advantage. We need to expect more of these we place in charge, we need to make sure they are fully aware of their responsibilities and we need to make sure they are willing to live up to their commitment. At the same time we need to remove as many obstacles as possible, we need to be there to lend a helping hand, we need to be there in a supporting role, not in an "I told you so" role. In other words we need to work together for the benefit of our Particular Lodges and the Craft. We need to Possibly take a look at the newly elected or installed Masters in the District and have them meet with the District Deputies, MLT and Masonic Education Officers to conduct a small seminar just for the Masters that they may understand what is expected of them as described in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida and other Administrative guides. We need to eliminate that "deer in the headlights look" when they are approached two or three months later or 9 months later and they still look like they are surprised and constantly say they do not know. We need to determine once and for all whether they truly do not know or just do not care. Education will make the difference and as a Band of Brothers we need to step up in every District and have this seminar available for these Brothers who will be charged with leading us next year. Do not wait for someone else to do it, take charge, volunteer and if you need assistance, I'm here to help along with 300 plus Grand Lodge Appointees, Be a Leader, make it happen.

I ask the current Worshipful Masters to have an Officers meeting and there discuss the District Deputy Grand Master's Report with the Officers and devise a plan of attack for correcting the deficiencies. Do not leave it for someone else to start the ball rolling. Try to leave your Lodge in better shape than when you found it. It is your responsibility while you are still Worshipful Master, after all the report is of the conditions in which you are operating the Lodge. Share the information. Together you can make the difference and turn your Lodge around.

My Brothers, again there is no need for our Lodges to operate in such a state of disrepair by not following the requirement set by the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida. We, as responsible men and Masons, need to step up to the challenge, and if you only knew how easy it would be to turn things around, you would not hesitate for one second to do it. Ask for help. We are here at your beck and call.

Some of you may get the "we have been doing it this way forever" answer. Well, my Brothers, just because you have been doing it wrong forever does not make it right. What it means is that you need to change your ways and start demonstrating that an old dog can learn new tricks and look at what is going to take to do it right and make plans to carry the mission to a successful outcome, Don't be the Brother that drags the Lodge down. by holding them back from the fulfillment of their obligations. Let's work together. Be a force for good, "be a builder".