



THE VIRGINIA MASONIC HERALD

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SUMMER 2023

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Most Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle at the
Centennial Cornerstone Laying Ceremony.

The Virginia Masonic Herald

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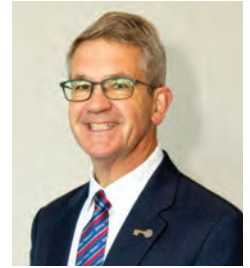
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Mission and Vision Statement of The Grand Lodge, A.F. and A.M., of Virginia

The mission of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to teach and perpetuate a way of life that promotes the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and to assist its Lodges to grow and prosper.

The vision of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to be the premier organization composed of men of integrity and character, who are honest, true to their word, believe in God, are devoted to family, charitable in their community, and courteous and helpful to each other.

<https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/>

Masonic Herald Deadlines

Fall Issue	August 1
Winter Issue	November 1
Spring Issue	February 1
Summer Issue	May 1

The Grand Master's Message

Who is that Man in the Mirror?

I am frequently asked about the future of Freemasonry in general and the Craft in the Commonwealth in particular. The question immediately puts me in mind of two Thomas Paine quotes. The first is from *The Age of Reason* and the second from his truly revolutionary treatise *Common Sense*:

“I have always strenuously supported the right of every man to his own opinion, however different that opinion might be to mine. He who denies to another this right, makes a slave of himself to his present opinion, because he precludes himself the right of changing it.”

—Thomas Paine
The Age of Reason

“A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defense of custom.”

—Thomas Paine
Common Sense

My opinion today is rooted in a lifetime of experience, evolving, and changing with knowledge and time. Paine was right in the first quote to encourage men to think for themselves. Twenty-seven years ago, when I first came to Masonry, I am not sure I would have thought of the power the Craft has to mold the world around us. Today, however, I see the need for Freemasonry everywhere I turn. Where has civility gone? Where have intellectual debate and tolerance gone? And, most importantly, what has become of the generosity of mankind and the willingness of man to care for his fellow humans? The future of the Craft lies well outside our Lodge room walls,



Grand Master
M.:W.: Donald Ellis Strehle

where it must reestablish its roots in our communities. Our brightest future lies in making every good man, who encounters us, want to learn more about the Craft and ask to approach the West Gate.

Paine’s second quote can be applied to so many aspects of life. Just because we learned how or what our response should be in any number of past situa-

tions, does not mean that the response was or remains relevant. We broadly agree that recruitment is not the purview of a Freemason – only those who want

to be among us and approach us should join. We have embraced this thought so fully that for decades we have interpreted recruitment as obstruction to all forms of outreach, engagement, and awareness. We have shunned the spotlight to the point that many think the Craft is dying out and no longer relevant to this age.

I hope we can all agree this is not true. Our definition of recruitment should not be so broadly interpreted. There was a time, when it went without saying that Freemasonry was alive and vibrant. For many reasons, that time has passed. It is time again to let the world know we are alive, and our Fraternity is vibrant. Recruiting a man and making men aware of what our Fraternity offers are two different things, and the latter should not be shunned. Blatant acknowledgment of this fact may be jarring, but Paine's second quote says conversion comes with time. We should not be reluctant to say who we are and what we do for everyone. Such a change of behavior may be unsettling, but time generates familiarity, acceptance, and eventual comfort. Change is the only constant in life. Tomorrow the Craft will be different, and so will you.

The Entered Apprentice’s lecture teaches, “By the exercise of brotherly love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one common family, the high, the low, the rich and poor, who are created by one Almighty Parent and sent into the world to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle, Freemasonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise remain at a perpetual distance.” These



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The Grand Master's Message

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are not merely quaint words from ritual. They are the mortar that binds our Lodges together.

If we were to put our Lodges up to the mirror test, what would we see? Would our buildings and grounds be attractive, inviting, and well-kept? Increasingly, our front door is on the Internet, so we ask ourselves about the modernness, readability, and inviting nature of our Lodge websites and social media pages. Do both our facilities and Internet presence illustrate Lodges that are alive and active? What does our membership look like? Does our membership look like the communities in which we meet? The mirror test tells you where to start, if you want to increase your membership. Make your physical and virtual presence more interesting and meaningful to the men you want to join you.

Lodge health and Lodge pride are inextricably connected. If we are not proud of who we are and where we meet, there is work to be done. Masonry is full of diverse types of Lodges that have different aims in fulfilling the work of the Craft, but the underlying constant for those Lodges that do their work well is a unified desire to want to be together and share light with the world. There are many ways to improve Lodge health, but never forget the universal connector for every Freemason: our ritual. It is what separates us from clubs and associations. Perhaps a catechism coach and candidate could exchange questions while performing yard work. A second section degree team might recite its lines while putting a fresh coat of paint on the fellowship hall. We do not need to force the bonds of Fraternity. Ritual reminds us of our obligations to ourselves, our Brothers, and to humankind.

Once we have improved the reflection we see in our mirrors, we should move

to the greater image of the communities we environ. Simply asking the question, "Does my Lodge reflect my community?" can be a powerful exercise. If the answer is "no," you see where there is work to be done. If the Lodge does not reflect the community socially and demographically, we should consider "Why?" and adjust our outreach efforts. If the Lodge seems healthier than the community, we should consider "What can be done?" and increase our charitable works. If the Lodge is not reflected in the community at all, we should consider "How?" we became disconnected and strive to rejuvenate community relationships.

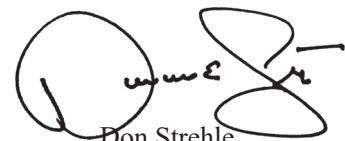
The Grand Lodge of Virginia has, over the past quarter century, worked to grow as a Craft and better live into our obligations. I realize that is a bold statement, but every Worshipful Master who sits back and says, "Men will come to us if they are interested," misses the point. It is incumbent upon every Lodge to confront bias head-on. For years, we have made "coming to us" nearly impossible. If our communities have diverse populations, our Lodges should have diverse populations. Our Craft is built upon universality. It is the responsibility of every member, and especially our Worshipful Masters, to lead their Lodges toward realizing that universality.

Some of you will read this article and may become irritated or uncomfortable. Masons should explore, keeping open minds, where our irritations come from or why we are uncomfortable. We can only grow into better men when we are willing to confront the areas in which we need to improve and the Masonic Lodge is a place where Brothers can have discussions on that which irritates and discomforts us. Let us ensure that we are fully informed, drawing conclusions from firsthand experiences and

factual data. Let us dive into those areas of our personality that would deny any man the light of Freemasonry. Making this difficult exploration together can only serve to strengthen our bonds with our Brothers and facilitate our growth.

The emphasis on community service this year is designed to drive home the point that we should strive to be the epicenter of our communities. We should know them. They should know us. Our membership should permeate the entirety of our communities, if we are to leverage this great tool we have for bringing better civility to the world. If we are not the epicenter of our communities, we should not be afraid to examine ourselves. "These generous principles are to extend further; every human being has a claim upon your kind offices." That charge is pretty clear.

I will leave you with a quote that I try to live by. It is taken from a charge given at a Saint John the Baptist Feast in 1797. "Live and act as Masons, that you may die as Masons; be always ready to give an answer to those that ask you a question; give the right hand of affection and fellowship to whom it justly belongs; let their color and complexion be what it will; let their nation be what it may, for they are your Brethren, and it is your indispensable duty to do so." These words from Prince Hall are immortally relevant to all Freemasons and mankind. I challenge every one of you, my Brother Masons, to extend the right hand of affection and fellowship, so we might spread more light and, through the good works of our Lodges, truly make the world a better place to live.



Don Strehle
Grand Master

Most Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle Itinerary 2023

June 2023

- 16 Official Visit Districts 37 & 38
- 17 Official Visit Districts 22A & 22B
- 20 SP&I Meeting
- 20 MAHOVA Solstice Dinner
- 21 GLO & MAHOVA Board Meeting
- 23 Lunch Scottish Rite House of The Temple 300th Anniversary Masonic Constitution
- 23-24 Rainbow Grand Assembly
- 24 Official Visit District 19

July 2023

- 1-5 Imperial Session Shriner's International, Charlotte, NC
- 7 Official Visit District 40
- 8 Official Visit District 41
- 11 Chickahominy Lodge No. 286
- 13-16 Job's Daughters International Ferrum College
- 14 Official Visit District 39
- 18 SP & I Meeting
- 19 GLO & MAHOVA Board Meeting
- 20 James Stanley Johnson Golf Tournament 10:00 a.m. tee time
- 21 Official Visit Districts 15A & 15B
- 22 Official Visit Research District - Peyton Randolph Lodge No. 1774
- 22 Saturday DeMolay Annual Conclave Christopher Newport University
- 26-27 Job's Daughter Supreme Session, Wisconsin
- 29 Red Cross of Constantine, Winchester 9:00 AM
- 29 Official Visit District 29

August 2023

- 1 Springfield Lodge No. 217
- 3 Berkley Lodge No. 167
- 4 Official Visit District 21
- 5 Fredericksburg Lodge celebrating George Washington raised as a Master Mason (Sat.)
- 8 Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21
- 11 RJSA School 9:00AM, Official Visit District 25
- 12 Official Visit District 4
- 15 SP & I Meeting
- 16 GLO & MAHOVA Board Meeting & Presentation of 70-Year Veteran's Award to Brother Robert A Harrison- Lunch after Board Meeting
- 18 Official Visit Districts 47 & 49

- 19 Official Visit District 44
- 20-23 Scottish Rite Biennial Session
- 25 Official Visit Districts 48 & 50
- 26 Official Visit District 45
- 28 Meridian Lodge No. 284 Masonic Home 12:00 noon
- 28 Spotsylvania Lodge No. 26

September 2023

- 1 Official Visit District 35
- 2 MacArthur Memorial Norfolk 9:00 AM
- 2 Hiram Club of Tidewater
- 7 Norfolk Lodge No. 1
- 7-10 MASA in Virginia Beach
- 15 Official Visit District 27
- 16 Prince Hall Grand Annual Communication
- 18 Herndon Lodge No. 264
- 19 SP & I Meeting
- 20 GLO & MAHOVA Board Meeting
- 21 Warwick Lodge No. 336 Golf Tournament
- 22 Official Visit District 31
- 23 Travelers of Washington DC 43rd Anniversary and Installation 6:00 PM
- 27 Great Bridge Lodge No. 257
- 28-30 Scottish Rite Conference - Alexandria Valley
- 30 Wreath Laying at ANC

October 2023

- 5 Warwick Lodge No. 336
- 6 Masonic Home Board of Governors Retreat
- 7 Masonic Family Day
- 8 A Day of Thanksgivings - MAHOVA Cole Chapel 10:00 AM
- 10 Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
- 13 Official Visit to District 12
- 14 Official Visit Districts 1A & 1B
- 17 Concord Lodge No. 307
- 19 Stated Communication at Hamilton-Thompson Lodge No. 37 Grand Master of West Virginia

November 2023

- 2 Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge No. 42
- 3 Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 presents Portrait of Grand Master at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
- 7-12 Grand Annual Communication in Richmond



Most Worshipful Donald E. Strehle and Right Worshipful Matthew T. Szramoski, Grand Junior Warden, at the grave of the first Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful John Blair, Jr. The grave of Most Worshipful Blair is located in the churchyard of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. These pictures were taken after following a Divine Service held at the church in conjunction with the Bicentennial Celebration of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Virginia.

Everything I Need to Know About a Good Menu Or How a Kitchen Nightmare Comes to Be

Right Worshipful Matthew T. Szramoski, Grand Junior Warden

We are probably all familiar with the sometimes abusive Chef Gordon Ramsay. He has had numerous television series showcasing his culinary skills and his sometimes abusiveness toward others as he seeks to push them. I do not approve of his language, but I do approve of his goal to make each individual reach their greatest potential and find success. One of his most popular shows was *Kitchen Nightmares*, where Gordon would visit a failing restaurant and spend two or three days trying to correct their issues with both management and staff.

I always find it interesting that in Freemasonry, we are looking for a knight in shining armor to solve our attendance, membership, and fiscal issues. Each year, at conferences like this and many others, both in the Grand Lodges and in the appendant bodies, we are introduced on an annual basis to speakers with a new program or solution that will turn the tide. I believe these presentations are well-intentioned, but I do feel they will all fail, as they have in the past. I regret to say that there is no silver bullet that will save or grow Freemasonry.

I firmly believe membership is not the problem. I do not think innovations in our ritual are wise. I do not think social media will help much. I am the first man nominated in Virginia's Grand Line, who was born after the baby boom generation. Interestingly, I find the solution transcends all generations and is pretty simple, if we want to strengthen the Masonic Fraternity, not just today, but for tomorrow as well.

I think we can take lessons from *Kitchen Nightmares*. Gordon does not invent new solutions or look for innovations. Instead, he sticks with a program that he knows will consistently work. While the situation at each restaurant has different problems, they are all solved with the same steps. Let us see

how they would translate into a Lodge.

First, like a restaurant, a Lodge must be inviting. I am talking about the building here, not the members. Lodges do not have to be fancy or expensive facilities, but they do need to be maintained and clean. What kind of image do we project when a visitor who is not a Mason attends an event when the bathroom has mildew growing, the ceiling is leaking water, and the carpet has tears and excessive wear? Sounds silly, huh? Not really. First impressions are lasting impressions, and most folks will view a building poorly maintained as a sign of decline or lack of interest. Modest or regal, we need to realize that maintaining our infrastructure is almost as important as maintaining our Brethren. Gordon will tell you that a poorly maintained, dirty restaurant will fail eventually. Do you think the same will happen to a Lodge? We take care of things we care about. We would not for those that we do not care about.

Second, the restaurant must be welcoming. How is your Lodge? Are all members and visitors greeted with a handshake and a hello? Do you properly introduce the Brethren at every stated communication? Do you think we should take a few minutes to recognize our visitors who did not have to attend tonight? Too often, we hear a Worshipful Master say we are busy tonight, so I will skip introductions. We cast aside a few moments to welcome our visitors and members, but we have no problem debating the location for the picnic for half an hour. It is a big mistake, everyone should be made to feel special each month! Would you continue going to a restaurant where the waiter or waitress did not greet you in a friendly manner, thank you at the end of dinner, and then invite you to come back? It is a shame we cannot provide that minimal amount of hospitality on a regular basis.

Third, the menu must be enticing. Gordon will often say the menu is too large, it should be smaller. Focus on what you are supposed to be doing and offer the best quality menu. How often today, in trying to find the silver bullet, are we trying to do too much in the Craft Lodges that will result in making Freemasonry too little for too few? Our Fraternity was founded to take good men and make them better by utilizing the lessons taught in the three degrees and having faith in the Great Light of Masonry. Stated communications are too often disorganized and boring, with poor ritual. This is not enticing. We should encourage the officers to excel in their ritual. The business portion should be organized, timely, and conducted appropriately. We should not hold committee meetings on the floor, that is why we have committees! In each degree, we state our desire to receive more light or education in Freemasonry. How often do we have a speaker at the Lodge on prostate cancer or saving on your taxes? While these are important topics, in our Lodges we should focus on Masonic education such as our ritual, famous Freemasons, understanding our obligations, a Masonic youth group presentation, or some other topic that is Masonic. We often offer too big a menu. This creates a lack of interest followed by a lack of attendance from our Brethren. Gordon would not serve lasagna at a French restaurant, however we continue to offer food from another menu, while we are not even offering one for why we claim to exist.

Fourth, Gordon teaches the restaurants that they must be consistent. This is hard in a Lodge where we have a change in leadership each year. Our subordinate line officers must begin to work together as a team in planning not just for their year but for the future. While Masters can and should want to

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Masonic Lodge I Learned from Chef Ramsay Can Become a Masonic Dream

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plan unique events during their term, the Lodge should be consistent in how it operates. Are called communications held on the same nights, so Brethren who are not retired and may have family obligations can plan accordingly? Do we try to do key annual events on the same date, such as the Lodge picnic, ladies' night, etc.? By being consistent, Brethren will get into the habit of attending these activities and look forward to them. This will result in increased attendance and greater enthusiasm for activities. We also need to make sure we properly plan for all of these events, so those in attendance get something out of being present.

Fifth, Gordon always makes the restaurant understand their food costs and other expenses. He often demonstrates that one of the greatest reasons restaurants fail is because their food costs are too high for the price they are selling a dish for. How true is this in our Lodges? The last time we charged the appropriate amount for degree fees and dues was in the 1920s. In the 1930's we had the depression and did not raise them, nobody could afford it. In the 1940s, World War II took its toll, and we did not raise them adequately because we did not want to stick it to the troops. Then in the 1950s, once again, we did not raise them adequately since so many men were petitioning! Who needs to raise them correctly with this volume of candidates? Then, depending on your Grand Lodge, we began to lose members in the 1960s or early 1970s. Many leaders felt we could not raise fees and dues then; we would attract even fewer candidates. What is the result? Today, most Lodges lose \$100-\$200 every time they raise a candidate after you take into consideration the cost of an apron, candidate Bible, name badge, utilities, and refreshments for the nights you hold practices and confer degrees. Our annual dues in Lodges

are less than the cost of eating out at a Chick-Fil-A once a week. Think about that. Our Fraternity is not worth a sack of fast food a week. It costs money to run and maintain a Lodge. We must address our food costs-the expense to maintain our Lodge operations and buildings and adjust our fees and dues soon. By the way, in the 1920s, the average fees for the degrees were about two or three weeks' wages. Does your Lodge charge this today? This change cannot be done overnight, but we need to move towards it over several years.

So, what is the point of my comparison with Kitchen Nightmares? There is a silver bullet Lodges that are inviting, welcoming, enticing, consistent, and fiscally responsible will grow! We see it in Virginia, where about one-third of our Lodges grow every year, while two-thirds decline. The growing Lodges are following Gordon's five steps. In Virginia, they are evenly divided between urban, suburban, and rural Lodges. I firmly believe the solution to our membership and financial issues is having well-managed Lodges that provide an educational, brotherly, and worthwhile experience. If Brethren enjoy themselves on a regular basis, if they feel they are receiving more light, and if friendships are strengthened, attendance will boom. Each member needs a role, whether as an officer, planning a charitable event, or fundraiser, participating in a degree, or chairing a social event.

Successful Lodges in that upper third are attracting large numbers of candidates. They are not soliciting them. They invite friends and relatives to Lodge breakfasts and picnics, to a baseball game outing, or to some other open event. In a Lodge that is following Gordon's five-step process, the profanes (we do not use our Masonic vocabulary enough!) will not only see but feel the excitement in the magical brotherhood that only exists in Freemasonry. They

will ask the question and want to be a part of our Fraternity. Recently, we had one Lodge in Virginia that raised thirty-two candidates in one year. How did they do that? Every member was appreciated, they had great activities and made folks feel welcome... in a word, they worked hard! We need to teach our subordinate Lodge officers that a successful year will only occur with a lot of effort, planning, and follow-up.

We live in an era when one can spend seven days a week at home. Many jobs now allow remote working. You can have your groceries and clothing delivered. Amazon Prime will even deliver ice cream in some areas to your home in five hours or less. You can talk to friends through social media. Heck, why leave your home? Why? A warm handshake, a caring look, and a voice of concern cannot be replicated on Zoom or Microsoft Teams like they are in person. Man is meant to be a social creature, even God says he will be in our midst when two or three are gathered. We need Freemasonry more in this day of social media and a lack of depth in relationships. We should lead the culture, not follow it.

We can bring in many candidates, but if they attend a Lodge that opens, pays the bills, and rushes to close, they will not stay. The number of suspensions for non-payment of dues and demits shows this to be true. If the building is filthy and dinner each month is a bucket of cold chicken, they will not attend. If they do not feel welcome or have a role in the Lodge, they will not attend. Our solution to building Freemasonry is to create strong, healthy Lodges.

In the classic 1980's movie, *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner continues to hear a spiritual message that, "If you build it, they will come." My Brethren, I would argue that if we build strong, active Lodges, the members will come. If we build it, they will come!

God bless each of you, and God bless Freemasonry.

Visitation

Worshipful David J. Smallridge

Recently, I took time with my family to visit Japan for a few weeks. One of those days, I went off on my own and approached the Tokyo Masonic Center. Earlier I had sent correspondence. I knew the center would be open on that day, and that Japanese and English would be in use. I set a goal to show up at the center, and hopefully, I would be afforded the time to visit with our Japanese Freemasons. I was hoping to not just see the Masonic Center, but also interact as much as I could with my Japanese Brethren.

I showed up on a dreary and rainy Saturday morning around 10:30 a.m. to what appeared to be a closed building and waited outside until someone came through. A Mason who went by the name of Brother Ted Osonai, was entering the building. I asked him in fairly poor Japanese, if he could help me.



I introduced myself and asked if the potential existed for me to come in and visit the center and any willing Brethren. Brother Ted said, "Let me check," and returned in what seemed like an eternity. It was only ten minutes. I left the building exactly ten hours later, richer for the experience. I am beyond grateful to the Brethren of Demolay-Land Lodge No. 22 for giving me such access to Freemasonry in Japan.

I experienced fellowship with various Brethren that was truly remarkable. These men were all on the same level,

whether a candidate, a member, or an officer. It was really an amazing experience for me personally. I had such great conversations, and the most intriguing of them were those that revolved around Masonic education. It was intriguing to me that we have similar struggles with Masonic education.

I attended their stated communication, where normal business was conducted and three new candidates were balloted. The Japanese ritual work has some amazing parts that really spoke to me. It was impressive and different, yet I was able to follow along in fairly good order, even though most of it was done in Japanese.



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on - Japan

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I attended a Fellowcraft Degree, as well as the Senior Deacon's lecture. What was truly awesome was they knew I knew what was happening. Even though I do not speak Japanese, my interpreter was impressed I knew what was being said.

A Brother from the Lodge had his parents visiting, and they cooked a Sri Lankan curry dinner, which was served after all of the Lodge business. The dinner was out of this world.

I presented my personal coins to the Master of the Lodge, Worshipful Katsuhiko Toyosaki, the Grand Senior Warden, Right Worshipful Yutaka Yahi, Grand Junior Warden, Right Worshipful Kenzie Hiram, my host and interpreter, Brother Ted Osanai, the Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Anand J. Murti, and asked that one be delivered to the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Joel A. Encarna-

cion. I also passed a coin to the various Brethren who were outstanding towards me throughout the day. In return, I have received some gifts I will cherish for a lifetime.

It was an amazing Masonic day for me in Japan, and one I shall not soon forget. If you get the chance I encourage you to visit the Lodge's in Japan. There are twenty-seven Lodges, and

about two thousand Masons in Japan. Masonry was brought to Japan by General Douglas MacArthur at the end of World War II. There is an anti-Masonic movement in Japan, about which I was presented a book. Our Brethren persevere and shine the light of Masonry. I am planning on going back in about five years when they dedicate the new Masonic center being built in Tokyo.



Reid James Simmons Academy

Right Worshipful James A. Freeman
Reid James Simmons Academy, President

The Reid James Simmons Academy will be held in Roanoke at the Scottish Rite, 622 Campbell Avenue, and the Kazim Shrine, 628 Campbell Avenue, Roanoke. Either address will put you at the event. The classes will begin on Friday August 11, 2023 and go on through August 12 from at 8:00AM until 6:00PM.

The Academy will hold concurrent workshops offering instructions in each area of ritual. It will include catechism, lectures, and floor work of each degree. Testing for your Silver card or Gold card can be conducted upon your request. Warden's and instructor certificate training can also be taught by request. However, certificates will not be issued here. They must be completed at your district. The Committee on Work will exemplify each degree starting at 4:00PM on Friday August 11. The Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees will be exemplified, Saturday, August 12 and the Master Masons 1st and 2nd section starting at 4:00PM.

Classroom sessions on the Correspondence Courses are also offered.

All attendees, regardless of how fees are paid, need to pre-register online at <https://va.grandview.systems/events/764> or by calling Tom Woolfolk, RJSA Secretary, at (434) 242-1991. This is the only way we can get an accurate count for lunches, etc. for everyone.

Donations

A donation of \$50.00 is requested from each Lodge to help offset the expenses of conducting the Academy and to help continue it in the upcoming years. Donations are requested to be made by check by June 1, 2023, in order to determine the financial viability of the Academy.

- Individual registration fees are \$50/person and covers both days. One-day registrations



are NOT available. Registrations should be made on-line at <https://va.grandview.systems/events/764> as soon as possible to help plan for space for the concurrent classes at the Scottish Rite Temple. Walk-in registrations at the door will be accepted and can be paid by cash or check only.

- Free attendance is offered for donations in the amounts listed below to afford members of the donating Lodge free attendance as follows:
- For a Lodge donation of \$50,

One (1) Lodge Member may attend free. With your donation in this amount, please designate for whom the free registration applies.

- For a Lodge donation of \$100, Three (3) Lodge members may attend free. With your donation in this amount, please designate for whom the free registration applies.
- For a Lodge donation of \$150, An unlimited number of Lodge members may attend free.

Members participating as a benefit of Lodges making this amount of donation, must identify themselves with their current dues card.

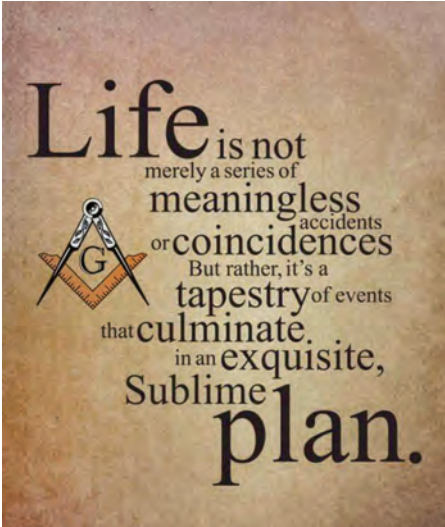
Check Payments

Make checks for donations and registration fees payable to Reid James Simmons Academy and mail to Robert C. Eades, Sr., 14261 Newgate Road, Midlothian, VA 23113-4186.

Hotel Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn & Suites Roanoke Airport/Valley View [5033 Valley View Boulevard, Roanoke, Virginia], for a discounted rate of \$114/night, plus tax; and includes a complimentary hot breakfast buffet. Rooms may be reserved by contacting the hotel at (540) 366-6300 and asking for reservations for the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Committee on Work or on-line at RJSA Hotel Booking. Individuals must book their rooms directly with the hotel. The reserved block of rooms will be held until July 8, 2023. After that date, discounted rates will expire, and rooms will be limited to the space available.

We thank you for your support, and we are look forward to seeing you in Roanoke. If you have any questions, you may telephone Jim Freeman at (757) 532-1944 or e-mail james.freeman9579@gmail.com



Area Masonic Ritual Schools - 2023

Reid James Simmons Academy, Roanoke, Scottish Rite Aug. 11-12 Statewide Event

Name	Location	Date(s)	District(s)
E. Tyree Mountcastle*	Williamsburg	Sept. 5-6-7	57
Kenneth O. Shelton	Ashburn	Sept. 9	2
Leonard Shelby Hughes	Burkville	Sept. 16	27
Johnson/Rowell/Dungan	Kinsale	Sept. 16	8, 9
Robert Lewis Gibbs	Richmond	Masters and Wardens	15A, 15B, 16
L. N. Criddlin	Jonesville	Sept. 18-19-21	49, 50
C. S. Revell/B. D. Hudson	Newport News	Sept. 19-20-21	14
Edward Page Henry	Hopewell	Sept. 25-26-27	29,
Lon Norman Dooley	Lebanon	Oct. 2-3-4	44, 47
Starks/Baumgardner	Bland	Oct. 9-10-11	41, 42
Lokie Leo Voight	Front Royal	Oct. 14	3, 5, 6
James Noah Hillman	Gate City	Oct. 16-17-18	48, 49, 50
Joseph T. Stewart	Courtland	Oct. 24-25-26	31, 33
O. B. Omohundro	Gordonsville	Oct. 28	7, 10

***NOTE:** Always verify the date(s) and location of any school you are planning to attend
 E. Tyree Mountcastle School locations: Chickahominy, Mann Page, and Williamsburg.

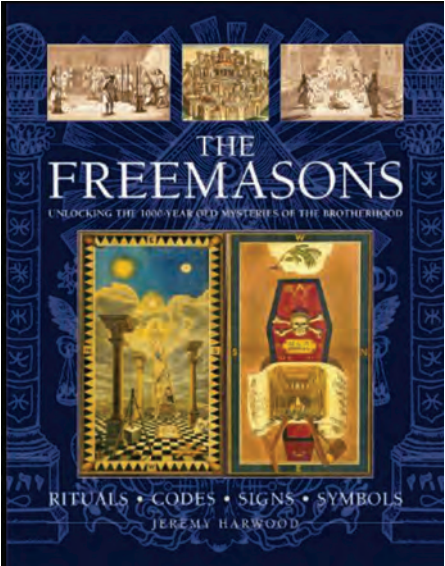
Freemasons Unlocking...

Right Worshipful William A. Parks, Jr.

The Freemasons covers not only Masonic ritual, but also relates when certain elements, symbols, and additions are absorbed into that ritual. Thereby, Harwood portrays Freemasonry as a living, growing, self-improving, and flexible Fraternity, responsive to its historical and social milieu.

While the omission of an index and footnotes may frustrate some readers, the table of contents identifying no less than thirty-nine separate Masonic subjects enabling pleasant and rewarding browsing,

The dozens of colorful prints, posters, tracing boards, and ritual illustrations make flipping through *The Freemasons* just plain fun.



Jeremy Harwood, *The Freemasons: Rituals • Codes • Signs • Symbols*;
 Lorenz Books
 2021 Edition 96 pp.

Reference to the Four Cardinal Virtues does not appear in Masonic ritual until at least 1750, when we learn in “Life, Time, and Justice: *What seems the most likely is that the idea was taken from the Christian church, which itself had derived the notion from the teachings of the Greek philosopher Plato.*

To have included so many subjects, so much history, so many “innovations,” and so many relevant graphics between the covers of this slim volume makes it a valuable and handy source of Masonic education and a handy reference to Masonic lore. Too few “Masonic” books match the pleasure found in *The Freemasons: Rituals • Codes • Signs • Symbols*.

Part 1

The Star-Spangled Banner

What role did Francis Scott Key play in transforming the image of the Flag flown at Fort McHenry?

By giving the Flag a starring role in one of the most celebrated victories of the war, Francis Scott Key's song established a new prominence for the Flag as an expression of national identity, unity, and pride. And by giving it a name, that Star-Spangled Banner, Key transformed the official emblem into something familiar and evocative, a symbol that Americans could connect with and claim as their own.

How was the Flag made and who made it?

It was made assembling the blue canton and the red and white stripes of the flag by piecing together strips of loosely woven English wool bunting that were only 12 or 18 inches wide. In the summer of 1813, Mary Pickersgill (1776–1857) was contracted to sew two flags for Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. Pickersgill, a thirty-seven-year-old widow, was an experienced maker of ships' colors and signal flags. Helping Pickersgill make the flags were her thirteen-year-old daughter Caroline; nieces Eliza Young (thirteen) and Margaret Young (fifteen); and a thirteen-year-old African American indentured servant, Grace Wisher. Pickersgill's elderly mother, Rebecca Young, from whom she had learned flag making, may have helped as well.



The Battle of Baltimore

On September 13, 1814, British warships began firing bombs and rockets on Fort McHenry, which protected the city's harbor. The bombardment continued for twenty-five hours, while the nation awaited news of Baltimore's fate.

What did Key's poem say?

Key declared that "our Flag was still there," he fused the physical symbol of the nation with universal feelings of patriotism, courage, and resilience.

Describe the meaning of the Flag as a national symbol.

The Flag was no longer just an emblem of the nation; it became a representation of the country's values and the ideals for which it stands.

What does each of the twenty-five circles on the interactive Flag tell us about this national symbol?

What the Flag was made of and the experiences it went through.

Why is the preservation of this particular Flag so important?

This Flag not only inspired the National Anthem of our country; it became a representation of the country's values and the ideals for which it stands.

Why was it necessary to restore the Flag?

Appleton donated the Flag with the wish that it would always be visible to the public.

Museums constantly balance the desire to display an object with the need to protect it from the damage created by light, dust, and other environmental factors. The Smithsonian has had to balance its efforts to fulfill his wishes with the need to care for the fragile and damaged object. Plus, the increasing popularity of Key's anthem and the American public's developing sense of national heritage transformed the Star-Spangled Banner into a national treasure.



For the full story go to:
<https://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>

What is Missing?

Right Worshipful Gerald L. Frey

As anyone who has taken the time to look at Masonry will tell you, that it is a remarkably well designed organization. However, as with every elegant machine, it is only as good as its maintenance, cleaning, oiling, etc. Knowing the importance of how a Mason is made (Initiated, Passed, and Raised) has the vouchers, balloting, coaching, and... And what? The missing bit for many Masons in the Craft is mentoring. It is the maintenance, cleaning, recalibrating, and oiling of this marvelous mechanism called Masonry.

Pull down a copy of the Grand Lodge of Virginia's *Presentation Volume* and you will find that it covers mentoring in detail. Details from the beginning of the Masonic process, the candidate, the initiation, supporting the coaching, follow on information, and explanations for each stage of becoming a Master Mason. It is also a commitment throughout the career of a person being mentored and his Mentor. It is, like Masonry, a lifetime relationship. After covering the degrees, it goes on to open up more information on further details on Masonry as a whole, covering a number of topics of interest that a new Mason, or for that matter, a long-time Mason might wish to review, allowing him to find his interests, and questions answered in a consistent manner. What is overlooked is not as important as what can be found in the pages dealing with the Mentor section of the *Presentation Volume*. It is broken down into seven segments or chapters:

- 3 What is a Mentor?
- 4 Pre-Initiation Instructions
- 5 Degree of Entered Apprentice
- 6 Degree of Fellowcraft

LEGACY

- 7 Degree of Master Mason
- 8 Practical Aspects of Freemasonry, and
- 9 General Information

Within the *Mentor's Manual* or guide, it is acknowledged that information alone is not all there is to the process. A suggested method is laid out in some detail, which is the guide portion of this text.

One of the larger questions laid out is, "Who should be a Mentor?" It is not for the faint of heart or those who are unable to commit to the position of Mentor. It takes work, scheduling, and dedication from those who undertake this type of work. Moreover, it is unsung, no badges, labels, not even the commonly held status of some Lodge position.

Not knowing something is alright; learning is not something we can walk away from. It is the substance of Freemasonry, the sharing of knowledge, and even how we will be remembered by our Brethren.

Taking on being a Mentor must not be looked at as a thankless task, far from it. There is a reward, a pretty amazing reward, which is seeing the new Master Mason, regardless of age, become more

knowledgeable, responsible, active, participatory, and, yes, committed to the Craft. When done correctly, it is a point of pride, knowing it is not only a job well done, but also defines both the Mentor and his protégé. There will, over time, be a notable short-

hand communication between the two, and this in turn means others will observe the benefit of having a long-term relationship with a knowledgeable and, more importantly, caring Brother. This does not go unnoticed by those around either the Mentor or the protégé. Every bit as important is having an increased number of Brethren that can answer core questions about the Craft and its workings.

There is an old adage that goes, "If you do not know something, teach it!" Meaning if we do not know something, in order to teach it, we must learn not only the subject matter, but also how to present it to someone else. Not knowing something is alright; learning is not something we can walk away from. It is the substance of Freemasonry, the sharing of knowledge, and even how we will be remembered by our Brethren. Knowledge, it has been said, cannot be taken from us, but sharing it openly and freely is a legacy worth passing along.

So, take down the Grand Lodge of Virginia's *Presentation Volume* from your bookshelf, find the Mentor Manual section, and be the glue of the Craft, that person that binds us with our past as we live our times forward. Look to pages 273-361. Remembering that knowledge does not have an expiration date and that knowledge can be shared an unlimited number of times.

Right Worshipful Raymond M. Soltis

When sitting around or working with your Brethren or others not of the Craft, how often do we brag about Freemasonry? It probably happens a lot. Our extreme excitement about our belief in the Craft and its tenets can no longer be restricted. Then the phrase, or something close to it comes out in an explosive high tone above others, "We are to be the best of humanity." Then all the good deeds and proper accountability spill out of our mouths. We all know or have experienced something close to this situation. Nevertheless, what follows is the failure of the earlier phrase.

The split tongue, whether from ourselves or another, offers a different account of our precious Craft. The "instructive tongue" is allowed to become malicious in its words, usually of another Brother or Brethren. We knowingly break our obligations and promises, either purposefully, or by not knowing the factual circumstance or instance that we discuss. By our Creed, if this occurs, we must stop a Brother or another and whisper good counsel, mainly if it would prevent a Brother from meeting his obligations or cause him to say something offensive. However, we tend not to do this because our human condition wants to hear the verbal stabs. Let's face it; this happens all the time, I am not saying it is proper, but it does. So, let us delve into our Craft a little to understand how to improve ourselves.



Our Fraternity is not a group of friends, it is a group of Brothers. This bond is a crucial understanding of who we are, because to view someone as Brother is different. As members of the Craft, we all have to go through a process of inquiry and investigations to meet the requirements outlined in our *Methodical Digest* and the *Constitutions of Masonry*. What does that mean? "Plenty"? Age, uprightness, good report, and a few more are just plain common sense. However, do they meet the principles and standards of Freemasonry, or what is known as the tenets of Freemasonry? (What are those, you ask? Seek your educational officer). Freemasonry is a Fraternity of all nations, with many different languages to communicate with each other. Yet, we as a Fraternity, must exhibit this particular morality to preserve the most excellent tenets of Freemasonry. Without this trait, we cannot become members of the Craft. The applicant must meet the criteria, and all Lodge members must agree to member-

ship. If accepted and initiated, he acquires the most important title in our Craft, "Brother" (Thank you, Most Worshipful Alan Adkins).

As the candidate chooses to join Masonry of his own free will, we also choose to let him become a Brother of our own free will. When someone says "Brother," we know he is a Mason. It is his title, which means he's a fellow Free-

mason, and it comes with a lot of responsibility and respect.

To accomplish our purposes, we need harmony with easy and free conversation. Many Freemasons do not understand that Masonic parameters can exceed these boundaries. We all do not have the same thoughts or views. To debate or converse is to give growth to enlightenment. If we cannot discuss pertinent topics with other Brethren, we have failed at being who we are. Remember that, as a Mason, etiquette and protocol in any discussion are expected to be friendly and gracious.

The Craft has a "Code of Conduct" per se when interacting with others, Mason or non-Mason. Yet, when one carries the weight of the title "Brother," we are not to harm him physically or verbally, just as he ought to conform to the same obligations we all have and has earned respect without quarreling. Respect for the hard work a "Brother" has put into their Masonic Order, whether it be years of service to instruct

Continued on page 9.

of Brother

Continued from page 8.

or mentor, committees, or other Masonic endeavors. We acknowledge the memorization and degree work, merit, and ability. This hospitality, or "etiquette," is guaranteed by our rules and regulations that command respect, and the jurisprudence that enforces those rules.

As Masons, this is an area where we can error. One of our seven liberal arts to master is rhetoric. As much as we may be able to talk, it is not okay to say bad things about a "Brother" or his family. When a Brother has upset us, we may often vent to let off steam. Or, when we're with a group of people and talking, someone may answer a question without fully understanding the situation. As Masons, this is an area where we can error.

One of our seven liberal arts to master is rhetoric. Even though we may be able to talk, it is not okay to say bad things about a "Brother" or his family. When a Brother has upset us, we may often vent to let off steam. Or, when we're in a group and having a conversation, someone may answer a question without fully understanding what's going on.

Also, the most important reason is that "everyone talks," which is not what it sounds like. It is in our nature to learn new things, and the only way to do that is to talk to other people. What the Brother does with this information, on the other hand, can cross lines. A Brother can get in trouble by what he says, how he says it, or to whom he tells this information. First and most importantly, keep in mind that the Brother or Brethren being talked about have all earned the title Brother. Even though words cannot hurt you physically, they can hurt you as a person.

Backbiting or gossiping is a form of bad behavior that comes from having a low self-esteem, it makes the person feel less important, boosts their self-esteem, and sets up a dominance hierarchy. But do not forget who you put your trust, just like this other "Brother" has. If you want to know what happened, go to the Brother and ask if what you heard is true. "Go to the stables and get it straight from the horse." It does not say anywhere that you cannot ask for the truth. But keep in mind that they do not have to tell you anything if it does not affect you.

If you are the "backbiter or gossip-er," STOP! If you are the Brother being frowned upon, go to the Brother who has commented and explain the error.

It is okay if either Brethren cannot find common ground on the subject. Agreeing with someone is not a requirement to be a Freemason. Disagreement is not a cause for hatred or strife with others, especially a Brother Mason. There is a code of conduct that Freemasons have for interacting with one another. Speaking without knowledge of the facts has ruined harmony in Lodges and amongst its members over misunderstandings that initially started with gossip among its members. Those Brethren who enlist in this behavior create trouble and cause anger, bitterness, and pain among the Brethren.

In today's society, many people have taken sides for countless different reasons. Our Craft, by nature, is supposed to be able to find common ground and unity. It is said by many and even offered in the news, "[Society needs Masonry more than ever.](#)" How can we be the best of men when we do the worst to men. Our teachings tell us that the ruthless hand of ignorance destroyed the monuments of antiquity, and even the Temple of Solomon was not spared.

My father explained it this way, "[If you can say it behind his back, you can say it to his face.](#)" If you cannot, then do not say anything. "[Honorable men do this, and if you cannot, it is probably not worth talking about in the first place.](#)"

Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21. (NKJV)

Cornerstones and

Worshipful Daniel E. Froggett and Right Worshipful Michael J. King

“It rises majestically over Alexandria, Virginia. The edifice serves as the backdrop for fabulous views, quiet reflective moments, and romantic engagement proposals. It is visited by residents and visitors alike on a daily basis. And this year, Alexandria is celebrating the iconic George Washington Masonic National Memorial’s (aka the Masonic Temple) 100th anniversary!”

The Zebra.



The celebration of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial’s (GWMNM) Cornerstone Centennial Celebration was the culmination of more than three years of work by Masons across the Commonwealth, the country, and around the world. Held in conjunction with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America (COGMNA), the Cornerstone Centennial



ennial Celebration presented an opportunity for Freemasonry to demonstrate that it is alive and well. With more than five thousand Masons participating in the Alexandria City George Washington Birthday Parade and the reenactment of the 1923 Cornerstone Ceremony, Freemasonry was well represented.



In 1923, Right Worshipful Charles H. Callahan, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, led the laying of the Cornerstone Ceremony. Right Worshipful Michael J. King, Assistant Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and Worshipful Daniel E. Froggett of Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 and Assistant Archivist,



started their research by pulling files from the original ceremony. From iden-



tifying the specific ritual used, to determining the need for a Masonic choir, Right Worshipful Brother King took the information gathered at Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 and in the Grand Lodge Library to piece together a modern version of the ceremony. The Grand Lodge of Virginia, Elected and Appointed Officers performed the re-enactment, very closely replicated the original ceremony. In addition, the GWMNM located and invited descendants of the original stone masons to assist with the Centennial Cornerstone Celebration.



nd Grand Masters



After two years of studying and memorizing ritual, the Grand Lodge of Virginia Elected and Appointed Officers had numerous rehearsals under the watchful eye of Right Worshipful Brother King and the Committee on Work. Worshipful James Jeffrey McGlothlin, of Concord Lodge No. 307, led the Masonic Choir, which practiced for months leading up to the ceremony and added an elegant touch to the centennial re-enactment. Brother Tyler Vanice, Chair of the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration, and a staff mem-



ber at GWMNM, ensured that Freemasons were the focus of the City's parade. He even changed the usual route for the parade to end at the Memorial. Right Worshipful George Seghers, Executive Director of GWMNM, ensured the Memorial was ready with set pieces and commemorative trowels for all the participants.

The re-enactment of the original ceremony was performed on the front steps of the Memorial. Grand Masters from all North American Grand Jurisdictions, as well as Masonic Jurisdictions from other countries and other distinguished civic guests, were seated on the front steps to witness the re-enactment. Several halls within the GWMNM and the grounds surrounding the memorial were filled with observers and participants. To facilitate this vast audience, GWMNM arranged closed-circuit television with a jumbotron in front of the Memorial and large screens within its auditorium and several halls.

The Centennial Re-enactment of the Laying of the Cornerstone was the central event in the COGMNA. Right Worshipful Michael Paul Bible expertly and effectively chaired the Virginia Host Committee for the COGMNA. He and his team began planning for the Conference in 2020, visiting the conferences in other cities and ensuring that every jurisdiction in North America was aware of the celebration being planned in conjunction with the Virginia-hosted COGMNA. The Grand Masters at the conference noted, not only were Masons present from across the continent, and from other countries around the world, but that it was one of the best run conferences they had attended. The Host Committee worked diligently on every detail, from concierge services, to transportation, to entertainment; and truly demonstrated Virginia hospitality at its best.

Despite the challenges of COVID, planning coordination persisted. The

Laying of the Cornerstone Ceremony re-enactment was declared the beginning of a new era for Freemasonry. Laying the symbolic cornerstone for the next century of Freemasonry, the presiding Grand Master charged all Grand Master's present with rejuvenating their jurisdictions. It honored both Brother George Washington and the men who built the Memorial. As an anchor for the COGMNA activities, it united Freemasons in a renewed relationship, just like the original committee to build the Memorial became the Conference of Grand Masters.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia expresses its gratitude to every Mason, who assisted in making the events a success. Thank you to every Lodge that participated in the parade and ceremony. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers, who dedicated hundreds of hours in service of the Craft.



A Mason's Wife Notes

Notes of A Mason's Wife

Six years ago, when my husband decided to become a Mason, I had no idea, if anything, what that entailed for me. As a mother to two boys, one in grade school and another in high school, I was worried about the demands on my husband's time this would make and the effect it would have on our family. Heck, I was not even sure if there was a place for his family in this new endeavor of his. We had been a military family throughout our marriage, and with my husband's upcoming retirement, I was looking forward to him being home more.

Prior to him being accepted into Masonry, a few gentlemen came to our home to visit with my husband, and his family. I was pleasantly surprised by their mannerisms, their warm welcome, their attire, and the way in which they all carried themselves. Even more surprising to me was when I was asked how I felt about my husband's interest in Masonry, and if I supported him in it. Immediately, I felt included and welcomed by these fellas.

My husband began to go to the meetings, the schools, and the events for the Masonic Lodge. On several occasions, he would ask me if I would like to attend the meals and such prior to the meetings and, of course, to bring our children to some of the functions, if they would like. I did not go for the fear of intruding on something that was meant for Masonic men to bond over. I could not have been more wrong. After he asked several times, I caved in



and went to one of the stated meetings' meals. I was warmly welcomed and treated as such a lady. I did notice that there were not many, if any, wives or girlfriends attending these meals either. I cannot tell you what a blessing these meals can be. First, you get out of cooking for the night, (even my now grown son attends these meals), and you make connections with people that

I can honestly say that since becoming involved in Masonry, I have seen a difference in the way my husband carries himself, the good men that he surrounds himself with, and the way he cares about things in the community.

become family and are there for you anytime that you need them. This truly is a brotherhood that is bonded and cares for its own.

I can honestly say that since becoming involved in Masonry, I have seen a difference in the way my husband carries himself, the good men that he surrounds himself with, and the way he cares about things in the community. More important than that, my children have an amazing role model in their father, and the people, he surrounds himself with whom.

To say that I hope the women of the Masons will give this an opportunity to make a mark on their lives as it has mine is an understatement. We enjoy the events as a family, the fundraisers, the dinners, the dances, game nights with Masonic Brothers and their families, and holiday parties.

So now, I understand. Now I know the value of this Brotherhood. I can see the fruits of it in my husband, and the way he strives to continually be a better man. I have so many folks that I now consider them my family. As a woman, I am not a Mason, but what rewards I reap from my spouse being one. I look forward to our future being a part of this great organization. And I look forward to seeing what other ways I can help serve my God, my family, and the great people I am connected with in Masonry. I now know, there is a place and an opportunity to be a part of my husband's Masonic journey.



Not How, But Why? DeMolay

Brother Sean Egan

Where to begin is a mystery. Neither the beginning, nor the end could satisfy the introduction of my origin story. To speak truthfully, never was there a thought that my origin could ever be worthy of being a story. In any manner, it makes the most sense to not focus on the "how", but the "why." Humans have understood "how" we each exist on this beautiful planet. However, no one has ever given a genuine answer that was inherently consistent with the natural truths known to man. This is not about "how" a boy grew up and became a young man. This is about "why" that boy became a DeMolay.

Growth and opportunity are essential to the prosperity of a young man. Without these freedoms, he cannot learn

As DeMolays, we strive to be young men of courtesy, fidelity, and honor. The rituals, symbols, and lessons we learn are not simply for show or tradition. However, they are meant to guide us toward a better understanding of ourselves and our place in the world.



patience and grace. He is to be shown support and encouragement for his success and counsel in times of sorrow. My friends, who were now my Brethren, told me immediately following my Obligation Proficiency, "Sean, you need to be the next Master Councilor of Herndon." I was taken aback and astonished.

None of my peers before had spoken to me in that way. Peers before DeMolay never spoke to me with respect or even simple comradery. These things that had now begun to unlock

the potential of the future Director of Membership and State Representative DeMolay, were then empty words that I did not understand. I knew who was saying those words of encouragement and support. However, I didn't know "why" they told me that I needed to be the next Master Councilor of Commander William L. Herndon Chapter, Virginia DeMolay.

I ask myself now, "Why?" and I will tell our future Brethren this... It is because I wanted to understand the purpose behind our actions and our purpose on Earth. As DeMolays, we strive to be young men of courtesy, fidelity, and honor. The rituals, symbols, and lessons we learn are not simply for show or tradition. However, they are meant to guide us toward a better understanding of ourselves and our place in the world. It is essential to understand our purpose in life and the reasons behind our actions, if we are to truly appreciate and adhere to the values of DeMolay. A deeper understanding of their Brethren, and most importantly, a deeper understanding of themselves.

Is this not where this all began... with understanding "why"?



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Rainbow Gets Girls Ready for Life...

Kaitlyn Reed

During 1917 to 1918, in McAlester, Oklahoma's Scottish Rite Temple, Reverend W. Mark Sexson, a Master Mason, realized there was a need for something more.

During World War I, the Temple gave permission to the Red Cross women to use the lobby and dining room for various activities. This, in turn, led to many of the daughters of lady volunteers to be in attendance, and, in his own words, Brother Sexson noted, "It was my good fortune to know many of them." After the war, he continued to see many of them, leading him to the idea of taking the youth of our country and forming them into Assemblies, with the ideas of peace and beauty as their goal. From this simple beginning, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls began to form. Working with the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star of Oklahoma and the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, and having the DeMolay come under his close study and observations, he became more and more conscious of the fact that an Order for Girls setting forth some of the truths of Masonry would be an asset to our nation. On April 6, 1922, that realization became a reality as the Rainbow degrees were exemplified for the first time for a class of young ladies, daughters of Master Masons and their friends.

How many times have you seen a young girl go in and out of your Lodge? How many times have you seen this girl be so happy to talk and laugh with your members? Now, pause for a moment, and reflect. How many times have you tried to bring this young girl into an organization that you, as a Master Mason, hold close to your heart? It does not matter whether there was a Masonic youth group close by or far away. What matters is, she gained, even in some small way, some of the truths of Freemasonry that Brother Sexson recognized over a hundred years ago.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a girl led organization that strives to get our girls ready for life, just as Freemasonry strives to make good men better. The phrase, "get girls ready for life," means to give them the confidence to excel in whatever they dream. We teach them how to be leaders of their respective assemblies, giving them the proper guidance for working with each other and being role models for all others to emulate. We teach them how to give back to their communities and local charities in the hopes that they will help to make our world a better place. We teach them to reach for their goals and aspirations and help them realize that they can do anything to which they set their minds.

Our lessons are based on the seven colors of the Rainbow through Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service, as well as God's Promise to the world he would never again destroy the world by flood. Many of our teachings you will find similar to that of Freemasonry, upon which Reverend Sexson based the Rainbow ritual work. This ritual work includes a special Lambskin Apron Lecture that our Masonic Dads present to the new initiates on their initiation day. The Lambskin Lecture includes all the symbolic points that tie our organizations together and emphasizes to the girls just how important Freemasonry's teachings are with our own Order. These include the ever presence of a Supreme Being, the four greater personal virtues that all Masons strive for and the seven liberal arts and sciences, along with the significance of the obligation we take before God.

On the boards of each assembly, we are required to have at least two Master Masons. We keep our Masonic Dads involved in our Rainbow Order because of the special ritualistic and foundational tie we have to the Masonic Order.

When my mother was a Rainbow Girl, in Norfolk Assembly No. 8, and the second Grand Worthy Advisor (state girl leader) of the newly formed and independent Virginia jurisdiction formed in 1993, assemblies were growing. Sadly, her assembly, and others, have gone dark due to a loss of membership. Flash forward to 2014, when I became a Rainbow girl and first experienced the ritual of initiation and the Lambskin Lecture. This experience set the foundation for me, a shy young girl, to aspire to pursue my own dreams. In 2015, I became a charter member with twelve other girls of the newly formed Norfolk Assembly No. 15, and was welcomed with open arms by South Norfolk Lodge No. 339 as we brought Rainbow back to South Hampton Roads. I cannot tell you how much support our South Norfolk Masons have given to us over the years, but I can say they, in their own way, have experienced the initial vision of Reverend and Brother Sexson. They have attended our meetings, attended our events, allowed us to use their Lodge room, and have been the first ones to congratulate our girls in all of our local and statewide accomplishments. They were there to support me when I became the Grand Worthy Advisor of Virginia for 2021-2022, and they supported me when selected to be the Acting Supreme Worthy Advisor of the entire International Order of the Rainbow for Girls during their 100th Centennial Anniversary convention in Oklahoma.

If you really want to know what established the foundation of every Rainbow girl you meet, it was a Freemason. It was that way in 1922, and it is the same today. So, look back at that young girl in your Lodge, and ask yourself, what, as a Freemason, are you going to do for her?

Reprinted courtesy of The Masonic Education Article Submission in The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls 100 Years.

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Lorkin Kelley, Grand Worthy Advisor


The Grand terms in Virginia Rainbow typically last twelve-months, starting and ending each summer (usually June/July). During this time, the Grand Worthy Advisor has the opportunity to not only coordinate multiple events across the state such as fundraisers for the charity, promote service to the community, and highlight the lessons of Rainbow, but it also spreads the love of the Masonic lifestyle to others.

During our 2022-2023 Grand term, we held several different events to raise money for our state charity, such as mini-golf, murder mysteries, and talent shows. We promoted service to the community by providing volunteers and support to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in both the Tysons and Richmond region, alongside fundraising support. We also continued to spread both Rainbow and Masonic light through numerous other events. For instance, we have been able to provide programs for our local Masonic Lodges and representatives, as well as




give speeches for each of our supporting Masonic bodies. Lastly, Virginia Rainbow has the honor this year to expand Masonic Youth across the Commonwealth, including the Northern Neck, Southwest Virginia, and recently, the Shenandoah Valley.

Overall, it is clear that this Grand Assembly term was memorable. There are no number of words I could say to thank all those, who did so much for us this past year. Though the conclusion of my term is near, as our Grand Assembly approaches June 23-25, 2023, in Harrisonburg, it does not represent an end: only the opportunity for a continuation of our work with the Masonic family. As we continue to promote a life of service, I hope all are able to be touched by the seven colors of our Rainbow, and continue to live a life filled with Faith, Hope, and Charity.



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50-60-70-75-Year Masonic Veterans

Between February 15, 2023 and May 15, 2023

Fifty-Year Veterans

Bro. James Walter Wilkerson
Bro. David Jennings Yates
Wor. John Williamson Pierce, Jr.
Bro. Larry Stephen Adams
Bro. Clyde Franklin Hostutler
Bro. Maynard Lewis Gardner
Rt. Wor. Thomas Martin Lewis
Wor. Charlie Fletcher Clay
Bro. Ronald Mantz Hollingsworth
Wor. Richard Albert Phillips
Bro. Rodney Frederick Byrd
Bro. Gary D. Coleman
Wor. Franklin Robert Jones
Bro. Angus Slater Lamond, Jr.
Bro. Jerry Lynn Fraley
Bro. John Elwood Church
Bro. Robert Gladwell, Jr.
Bro. Werner Louis Jablonski
Bro. Carroll Winfred Lewis
Bro. David Leroy Hollifield
Bro. Robert Estol Snider
Bro. Cecil Charles Taylor, Jr.
Bro. Peter Larue Hause
Bro. Billy Bernard Bandy
Wor. James Randall Bowman, Sr.
Bro. Billy Ray Thacker
Bro. Charles David Mercer
Wor. O. Reid Hudson, III
Wor. Giles Madison Gilley
Bro. Robert Mason White
Bro. John Mills Turner, III
Rt. Wor. Edwin Warren Ruark
Wor. Henry Wayne Burge
Bro. James Stefan Creekmore
Bro. Jack Leslie White, III
Wor. James Harold Ray
Bro. Donn Wayne Irby
Bro. Christopher S. Robinson, Jr.
Bro. Douglas Carl Ransone
Bro. John Seva Powell, Jr.

Wor. Paul Eugene Lubic, Jr.
Wor. John Wesley Stevens
Wor. Franklin Linwood Beard, Jr.
Bro. Francis Irving Byrd
Bro. Ralph Owen Murray, Jr.
Bro. Frank Marvin Kelly
Rt. Wor. Benny Lee Baliles
Bro. James Gordon Brown
Bro. Charles Edgar Hicks
Rt. Wor. Rodney Deray Good
Bro. Robert Sutton Goff
Rt. Wor. Fredrick Elmer Rentfrow
Rt. Wor. Sammy Stewart Glovier
Bro. Apostolos Dimitris Tsantos
Bro. David Rhine Gehr
Bro. Moultrie Shrewsbury Lanier, II
Bro. Michael William Bostic
Bro. Marion James Packett
Wor. John Paul Delp
Bro. Clyde Franklin Hostutler
Bro. John Paul Gibbs, Jr.
Bro. George Henry Lancio
Bro. Larry Ray Lambert
Bro. Douglas Lee Soltow
Bro. Bernard Franklin Cowardin, Jr.
Bro. David Perry Caldwell
Wor. Theodore Irving Malbone
Bro. Gary Ray Fisher
Bro. Paul Mckinley Rhodes
Wor. Cameron Cornell Caffee
Bro. Paul Everett Hargrove
Bro. Johnny Earl Taylor, Sr.
Bro. William Anderson White, Jr.
Wor. Rolen Martin Basden
Bro. Robert Lyle Augustad
Bro. Daniel Gumenuk
Wor. Thomas Tinsley Walker
Rt. Wor. William Frederick Reinhold
Bro. William Allen Barnes
Bro. Wade Arnold Davis
Bro. Ronald Harris Hill
Bro. Charles Ramsey Reynolds

Sixty-Year Veterans

Bro. Moody E. Munford
Bro. Gerald Gordon Davis
Bro. Durwood Lee Hall
Wor. Ronald O. Laughlin
Bro. William Winford Crawley
Bro. Clarence Turner Kipps, Jr.
Wor. Marion Crosswell Neighbours
Bro. Edward Lamont Eisenson
Bro. John Kenneth Tiller, Jr.
Bro. William Garland Leary, Jr.
Bro. Dale Vanosten, Jr.
Bro. Leithan Oscar Grinnell, Jr.
Wor. Jack Glenn Henderson
Bro. Osie Mccoy Sawyer, Jr.
Bro. Thomas Gray Webber
Bro. Reid Ashby Garst
Bro. Edward Phillip Tooma
Bro. Leonard Stanley Kimmel, Sr.
Bro. Joe C. Satterfield, Jr.
Wor. Clifford Church
Bro. John Green Royster, Jr.
Bro. John Thurston Mullins
Bro. James E. Williams
Rt. Wor. William Rex Gurley, Sr.
Rt. Wor. Johnnie Clifton Dodson
Bro. Howard James Webb, Jr.
Bro. John Bradbury Sinclair
Bro. William Rhea Shelton

Seventy-Year Veterans

Rt. Wor. Robert Alexander Good, Jr.
Bro. Carlton Hezekiah Spence
Bro. Robert Reisch Miller
Bro. Kiffon Eugene Lee
Rt. Wor. Rosser Lee Wayland, Jr.
Bro. Edward Leroy Fournier
Bro. Thomas Luther Fletcher, Jr.
Bro. Twyman Elmore Bowman

Seventy-five-Year Veterans

Wor. James Carrol Counts

Engaged as a Past Master

Worshipful David J. Smallridge

I have a few questions for you about your journey in Masonry. How much have you learned up to this point in your journey? How engaged have you been? How engaged do you want to be?

It is without a doubt and with observable quality evidence that working my way up to being Master of Warwick Lodge No. 336 had many moving parts and potential paths to work through. The focus on having the items in hand that were necessary to advance was a moving priority for me. Between getting my Warden's certificate and having an established plan of what I was going to do as Worshipful Master, there were vacillations of varying importance. Little did I realize how much more I was missing. However, I would soon learn while I was in the East.

Relationships are hard work and must be maintained to be successful. In getting to the East, there were things that occurred that surprised me and put me on my heels a bit, however I recalibrated myself and figured out what needed to be done until the day came when I was elected by the Brethren of my Lodge to lead in the East during our Centennial year. What an honor it was, and a year I will always cherish. The support I received was astounding, and the lessons, both good and bad, I learned made me realize what was truly important in Masonry and as a Worshipful Master of a Lodge.

The biggest lesson by far, was my educational engagement in Masonry, or rather, how I chose to be engaged in the things I needed to know about Masonry. I will admit I was a bit aloof in my focus as I agreed to be an Officer of the Lodge. That aloofness was fueled by my priority of family. The other focus I had, involved my work. It had not been totally clear to me as to what things needed to be prioritized. Was it Masonic ritual, Masonic law, Masonic

history, my plans for my Masonic year in the East, or the business side of Masonry I needed to be focused on? With the need for my Warden's certificate, Masonic ritual was the priority.

I was always told the things I needed to be privy to and accomplish, however I really missed the boat on the importance of the timing of the five aforementioned items or seeking the appropriate mentoring. How does the adage go? If you do not know what you do not know, then you do not know.

I cannot thank the Brethren enough for the guidance I received while in the East. I learned what was important, what things needed to be known about, how to act appropriately, and how I did not want to act. All of those lessons, were critical to me in determining how I planned to remain an engaged and productive Mason and Past Master after my short time in the East.

While in the East, I learned the importance of communication, through email, social media, written letters, phone calls, and being present. I always tried to have an approach of, "There you are!" versus "Here I am," and remain humble in that if I made an error, I would own it, and not defer to a, "Well, I am the Master" approach. I learned the importance of ritual, and to ensure that if I had shortcomings in the other attributes, I sought counsel.

Now, as a Past Master, I realize I want to enrich the Brethren with the things I know I should have known yet did not. I have been honored by the Worshipful Master of my Mother Lodge to be the Lodge Educational Officer. I am not just excited to be in this position, but I expect to do things that will encourage and educate the Brethren in a manner that I know I would have appreciated.

I am excited to be working with my District Lodge Educational Officer, and our Regional Provost I have come to

appreciate these two men, along with some other Brethren, who have made me smarter than I was when I started, which is amazing to me, seeing my limited abilities and drive to do more.

How engaged are you today in Masonry? When you look at where you are in our fraternal order, you should be asking yourself a couple of questions. The first and most critical is, "What should I know based on the level at which I would like to participate?" Are you content with just being a Master Mason and sitting on the sidelines? Do you want to engage and investigate what it takes to be an Officer? Do you want to be a Master Mason, or do you want to be a part of making Masonry the beautiful and elegant fraternal order it is? There is a published work on our Virginia Grand Lodge Portal that I encourage all Masons to look through, *District Education Manual*.

Do not be intimidated by the number of pages of this document; instead, look into each section, which starts out with what you should know as a Master Mason and then, should you choose to go a little deeper, what you should know about every Officer position in Lodge.

Most Worshipful James D. Cole (2001) has said numerous times: [I often think about my position as a Past Master of my Lodge and as Past Grand Master of Virginia](#). My single largest goal in those jobs was, and still is, to avoid the stereotypes of the Past Master and Past Grand Master shaking their heads and saying, 'Back in my day!'

I want to be a positive influence for future Master Masons by helping them become proficient in Masonic ritual, law, history, business, and preparedness.

DEO/LEO Conference

Right Worshipful Gerald L. Frey



A DEO/LEO Conference was hosted by Masonic District 14 with the specific goal of reviewing ideas and concepts for expanding Masonic education for everyone, who is interested in sharing Masonic information on learning. Adult education, the difference between education and training, and learning through experience were some of the topics discussed by three of the presenters. Each person who spoke did so with the attention and interest of those in attendance. An overview of how Masonic education can function with our

individual members, Lodges, and even the district as a whole was presented as a way to assist our membership, Lodges, and our district. This was done as a way to provide assistance to all of those attending. By way of determining the success of the conference, it was attended by nine Masonic Districts.

Our special guest speaker was Gary Huffman, the Grand Senior Warden. His presentation focused on aspects of education that are necessary to assist the Craft in satisfying the requirements that are placed on our membership. Respected and revered Gary Huffman, even though it was his birthday, participated in the conference. The Officers of Saint Tammany surprised him on his birthday by giving him cards, a birthday cake, and singing a slightly off-key version of "Happy Birthday" in appreciation for his being with us. However, he would be celebrating his birthday with his family the following day.



Right Worshipful Gary D. Huffman



Masonic Awards and Recognition



Another type of community builders are the volunteers, including members from the Clifton Forge School of the Arts Woodworking Studio, Clifton



Forge Masonic Lodge No. 166, Clifton Forge Boy Scout Troop 2, Clifton Forge Main Street, and The Alleghany Journal, in creating the Community



Garden Build. For \$35, a box can be rented, and the town of Clifton Forge will fill the boxes with garden soil.

Masonic Awards and Recognition



L-R: Bro. Zandy DePriest, Wor. Jim Ritchel, Rt. Wor. Butch Ross, Bro. Mike Klein, Rt. Wor. "Buddy" Hoover and Rt. Wor. Christopher Heird

Right Worshipful Joseph R. (Buddy) Hoover receiving his 60-Year Veteran's Award, he was raised on April 30, 1962 in Cassia Lodge No. 142.



Warwick Lodge No. 336 donated seven thousand dollars raised for the Masonic Home of Virginia. Warwick Lodge No. 336 commissioned a coin for Worshipful William Spencer's theme, "In Search of More Light." This was accomplished by the Brethren through visitations and Internet sales. The coins have been sold throughout the first part of the year, with 100% of the proceeds being donated to the Masonic Home of Virginia. It was an honor to have the Right Worshipful Gary Huffman, Grand Senior Warden, Right Worshipful Terry Hilton, and Right Worshipful John Malliarakis (Masonic Home Ambassador). We are pleased to be stewards of the Masonic Home of Virginia and will continue to support this worthy and important cause for our Fraternity.



L-R: Rt. Wor. Gerald Ross, Deputy Victor Green, and Rt. Wor. Christopher Heird

Hunter Lodge No. 135 presented its Award of Excellence to Sheriff's Deputy Victor Green of the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department for outstanding service as the School Resource Officer for the Central Campus of Shenandoah County.



Most Worshipful James W. Golladay, Jr. (2022) congratulates Brother Edward Tooma, who received his 60-Year Veteran's Award. Brother Tooma is a member of Rising Virtue Lodge No. 10 in Bangor, Maine, Spurmont No. 98, and Hunter No. 135 in Edinburg.



Brother Wayne Simpson (left) and Worshipful Bill Harvey (right) delivered a huge box of socks for men, women, and children to the Clothes Closet of Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox. Monroe Lodge No. 301 held a sock drive at their March stated to donate to a local outreach food program. The ladies who work in the Clothes Closet were grateful, for socks are one of the most sought-after items for those in need. Only new socks can be donated, and there were socks for all ages, work, dress, and play. This is another way that Monroe Lodge No. 301 partners with other helping organizations in making Appomattox a better place to live and work.



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Masonic Awards and Recognition



Sixty years of dedicated service to Freemasonry by Right Worshipful Johnnie C. Dodson was celebrated at Kent Lodge No. 305. Right Worshipful Brother Dodson was made a Master Mason on March 1, 1963. He has served as the Worshipful Master of Kent Lodge No. 305 in 1967, 1968, 1973, 2007, 2008, 2012, and 2014. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 38th Masonic District in 2009 and as Grand Junior Steward in 2011. He currently serves as a Trustee and Lodge Instructor for Kent Lodge No. 305.

Right Worshipful Brother Dodson was escorted for the presentation of the 60-Year Masonic Veterans Award by Most Worshipful Jeffrey E. Hodges (2009) and Most Worshipful John M. Chambliss, Jr. (2011). The presentation was made by Right Worshipful Jack K. Lewis, Deputy Grand Master and member of Kent Lodge No 305.



Faulkner Memorial Lodge No. 91 presented the Community Builders Award to Mr. Malcolm E. Ragans. This special and prestigious award is given to citizens who have an outstanding record of service to the community. Mr. Ragans is with several Brothers from the 37th Masonic District.



Most Worshipful Donald E. Strehle (left) with Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins (1997) (right) donating to Most Worshipful Wayne S. Flora (2014) (center), President of the Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Historical Foundation, a limited-edition painting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial number 33/100.



Fairfax Lodge No. 43 hosted the annual Richard E. Loving Masonic Ritual School for Masonic District 10. With the help of both District Instructors of Work, Right Worshipful Ed Crebbs and Right Worshipful Greg Hosaflook, presided over by Right Worshipful Tom Woolfolk. Right Worshipful Dave Allen and Right Worshipful Bill Hughes were both present.



Brother James C. Barrett was presented his 70-Year Veteran's Award at his house, on his left is Worshipful John Repass of Tazewell No. 62, and on his right is Worshipful Robert Ramey of Tazewell No. 62.



Temperanceville Lodge No. 121 has something good to tell our Virginia Brothers. One of our family members got a \$500 scholarship from us. Worshipful E. Wayne Core, Lola Watson, Mrs. and Mr. Watson, Brother William H. Waston, Lola's great-grandfather and a 70-Year Mason, and Right Worshipful Gregory D. Savage. Worshipful Jeffrey A. Watson is Lola Watson's great-uncle.



Roman Eagle Lodge honored two members with 50-Year Veteran's Awards. Worshipful Thomas T. Walker (left) became a Master Mason in 1973 in Ramah Lodge No. 70 serving as Worshipful Master in 1979. He serves as Roman Eagle's Treasurer. James Aldon Clark became a Master Mason in 1972. The honors were presented by Worshipful Ricky L. Dix of Roman Eagle Lodge No. 122..

Masonic Awards and Recognition



Twin Rivers No. 338 Brethren assembled for its Centennial anniversary. Right Worshipful Gregory Hazelwood presented Worshipful Madison "Scott" Rogers with a Centennial recognition from the Grand Lodge of Virginia.



Worshipful Bob Adams of Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 receives the 56th Masonic District's Division Leadership Conference (DLC) Attendance Championship Belt from Worshipful Wes Latchford, District Educational Officer, at the DLC at the Norfolk Masonic Temple. The belt is presented to the Lodge of the district with the highest number of elected and appointed line officers present at the DLC. Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 had all seven of its elected officers, plus its Senior Steward, Lodge Instructor of Work, and Lodge Educational Officer in attendance. They will hold onto the belt until DLC 2024, when a challenger will have the opportunity to claim the title.



Worshipful Doug Webb and Worshipful Bill Harvey delivered three huge boxes of canned food and nonperishable foods to St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Appomattox. Monroe Lodge No. 301 held a food drive at their March stated meeting to donate to a local outreach food program. Mrs. Dorthey Rice of St. Anne's was very thankful, and our donations will go a long way with their Little Free Pantry outreach program. She wanted to thank Monroe Lodge No. 301 and reminded us of her family members who were Masons, she knew they would be proud.



Worshipful Kenny Caviness initiated his son, Brother Jeremy Caviness. His wife, Debra, had a Masonic flag flown over the Grand Lodge of Virginia on that day in honor of this joyous occasion. Worshipful Brother Kenny is one of Most Worshipful Strehle's "Bankers" and is the creator of the Masonic flag program. Most Worshipful Brother Strehle (and several members of the Grand Line, along with Most Worshipful Alan Adkins (1997) were in attendance. Most Worshipful Brother Strehle surprised Kenny by presenting him with the flag after the degree.



Companion Billy Spencer, High Priest Warwick Chapter No. 80, Companion Robb Burton, and Companion Adam Hankins presenting the Masonic Home of Virginia Ambassador Right Worshipful John Malliarakis with a check to the memory unit of Masonic Home of Virginia for two hundred dollars.



Right Worshipful Herman Lester Roach received his 50-Year Veteran's Award at Roman Eagle Lodge No. 122. Presented by Right Worshipful Ricky L. Dix and Worshipful Ralph W. South.



MAHOVA

Your Masonic Community

Right Worshipful James F. Dickerson
MAHOVA Board of Directors

Greetings from MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community. We desire to keep our Grand Lodge of Virginia Brothers and their families (Masonic Families) updated with changes and opportunities at MAHOVA.

What is in a name?

Have you noticed the name/logo change? (see above) Masonic Home of Virginia, as we were formerly known, goes back to 1890 and provided support to children during the earlier years and exclusively to Masons, their wives, and widows since the early 1970's. MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community, our new identity, remains a way of life for residents enjoying their cottages or those seeking an apartment. Additional services are provided in licensed areas throughout our community as well. Others may receive support in their home through our Outreach Program (more below).

What do you know about MAHOVA Your Masonic Community?

As a Virginia Mason, you support MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community with a portion of your annual dues. Many individual Masons and Lodges make annual donations. You can live a portion of your Masonic Obligations by identifying a Mason, wife, or widow who can benefit from living at MAHOVA or participating in the Outreach Program. Currently a limited number of cottages and apartments remain available for occupancy by our Masonic Family.

Have you ever visited MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community? I bet we have changed since your last visit. I encourage you to call our Admissions Coordinator today to schedule a tour. We also encourage everyone to attend Family Day on October 7th with tours of cottages and apartments, a parade, kid zone, free bbq lunch, plus a few surprises. I experience something new on my monthly visits and look forward to being with you on Family Day this year!

Outreach Program

So, you want to remain in your home community, but need some assistance? MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community helps achieve this goal through our Outreach Program. Examples of Outreach assistance include arranging personal care through home health agencies, providing daily meals, to working with local agencies and connecting area specific services. Each Outreach recipient remains a unique opportunity tailored to meet the individual needs, pretty cool!

Should you wish to explore life at MAHOVA-Your Masonic Community (on campus or the Outreach Program), please contact Susan Berryhill, Admissions Coordinator, 1-800-262-4644 x177295. Ready to include MAHOVA - Your Masonic Community in your estate planning or make a donation, Right Worshipful Terry Hilton gifts@mahova.com remains your point of contact. I am available at 1-434-466-4663 or james@virginiahomesfarmsland.com for questions MAHOVA - Your Masonic Community.



Masonic Home of Virginia Honorariums and Memorials

Many Lodges and individuals contribute a gift to the Masonic Home to either honor a living person or a Lodge out of respect and appreciation or to generate a legacy of care in honor of one who has passed to the Celestial Lodge above. As these tax-deductible gifts are received by the Home, acknowledgments of the gift, but not the dollar total, are sent to the person honored or to the family of the person memorialized. In grateful recognition of these touching gifts and to recognize those persons so honored, we call attention to the following combined list of memorial and honorarium gifts that were made to the Masonic Home.

Honor/Memorial	Donor Name	Honor/Memorial	Donor Name
Samuel Abrash William R. Alexander	Midlothian Lodge No. 211 David Dubell Patty Hahn Ryan Kinker Mike Nelson George Baltimore Carl O. Atkins, Jr. Tim Stone Terry Hines George W. Ganter Bernard D. Baker Franklin Lodge No. 151 Larry E. Buckner, Jr. Joppa Lodge No. 40 Joel T. Bundy Joel T. Bundy Womens Club of Sandston Sandston Lodge No. 216 Joppa Lodge No. 40 Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82 Terry Hilton Black Heath Daylight Lodge No. 1982 Terry Hilton Terry Hilton Joppa Lodge No. 40 Western Branch Lodge No. 189 Chickahominy Lodge No. 286 Mann Page Lodge No. 157 Kathleen Hurley Dina McClanan Edith/Keith/Kline Harrison Wanda Russo Terry Hilton Nancy Holder Electra Chapter No. 33 Midlothian Lodge No. 211 Bernard D. Baker Alan W. Adkins Lynchburg Valley Scottish Rite Mackey Lodge No. 69 Alan W. Adkins Terry Hilton Raymond S. Anderson James T. Dean	Thomas M. Holder Stan Hubbard John Inman William E. Irving Douglas V. Jones Jack Jones Gordon Kent Seymour Kern Alexander Kirk Norma C. Klebert	Nancy Holder Widows Sons Stone Cutters Chapter Joppa Lodge No. 40 Raymond S. Anderson Raymond S. Anderson Chickahominy Lodge No. 286 Campbell Lodge No. 316 Christopher Montgomery Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82 Robin and Mike Koch Laura Pantazis Robert Klebert Evelyn Holliday Pamela Putney Glen Culley Kathy Kubat June Kirkpatrick Steven W. Sanford Diane Weber Western Branch Lodge No. 189 Yorktown Lodge No. 211 Joppa Lodge No. 40 Nancy Holder Piedmont Lodge No. 152 Gary W. Taylor Richard Jordt Mann Page Lodge No. 157 Terry Hilton Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54 Catawba Lodge No. 342 Terry Hilton Newport Lodge No. 231 Anderson Lodge No. 258 John W. Shipley Terry Hilton Western Branch Lodge No. 189 Midlothian Lodge No. 211 Raymond S. Anderson Yorktown Lodge No. 205 James E. Hammond Richard Baker Joppa Lodge No. 40
Carl Atkins, Sr. Edward L. Bowen		Michael Klecz Joseph Langdale Bobby Lee Irving G. Meadows Clara Meadows Roger Nester Paul G. Oliver, Jr. Josie Parker John Pearman, Jr. Michael Poegl Robert Rainey, Jr. Orville Reedy John Reid Kent Rose Danny Shelton Stuart Shipley William Spencer Hugh Spivey Herman Staton Henry P. Strickland Matthew Szramoski Thomas L. Vickers William Wood Hazel Woodward	
Ronald Brooks Kent Brown William Brown Larry E. Buckner Ted Buckner Charles Bundy Florita Bundy Betty Burgess James Carey Coleman, III Roger Comely Dennis R. Counts Jake Crocker Thomas K. Daughtrey			
Lambros Deligan Gerald Eagle Chappell Eure John Flannagan			
Phillip Foster			
Todd Freeman Ashley Garrett Cecil Gillespie Richard F. Gilman Lonnie L. Godfrey			
Nelson Goff Annye Gravitt Robert Hall Terry F. Hilton			

New Scattering Garden at Masonic Home of Virginia

Gordon and Susan Sprigg decided to relocate to MAHOVA in 2017 after Gordon's many years of service to the Fraternity. When Susan Sprigg passed away last summer, her beloved husband and family were looking for a way to remember her. After many discussions, plans and generous gifts by the family, the new Gordon and Susan Sprigg Memorial Garden was created. This lovely and peaceful memorial garden located at MAHOVA will benefit residents and Masonic families who choose cremation for their loved ones. The Sprigg family has

created this Memorial Garden in memory of Susan and in honor of PGHP Gordon, who lives at MAHOVA. This new section adjacent to the existing Memory Garden includes a nice walkway, plantings, benches, and a space for spreading the ashes of family members who wish to remain at MAHOVA. A beautiful bronze plaque will identify the Gordon and Susan Sprigg Memorial Garden as well as offer a place for memorial legacy nameplates to be placed in remembrance of any loved one. Additional information is available by calling the Development Office at 804-237-6723.



Masonic Home of Virginia

Resident Birthdays

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
July		
7/1	Margaret Hardin	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19
7/1	Marian Wright	Richmond Lodge No. 10
7/2	Linda Dudley	St. John's Lodge No. 36
7/4	William Reinhold	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
7/6	Sharon Floyd	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
7/7	Wanda Lucey	Ruth Lodge No. 89
7/11	Rebecca Bollinger	Eureka Lodge No. 195
7/16	J. Armistead Ransone	Arlington Lodge No. 102
7/19	Sandra Young	Sandston Lodge No. 216
7/20	Julia Malliarakis	Warwick Lodge No. 336
7/24	Eleanor Curtis	Northside Lodge No. 292
7/24	Priscilla Sensabaugh	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
7/26	Wilma Thompson	Ocean View Lodge No. 335
7/29	Nancy Harver	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
7/30	John Deputy	Oriental Lodge No. 20
August		
8/4	Joan Corcoran	Naomi Lodge No. 87
8/4	MaryAnn Flora	Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
8/6	Walter Olphin	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
8/7	Fay Bowen	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
8/7	Evelyn Harding	Babcock Lodge No. 322
8/9	Jean Knapp	Richmond Lodge No. 10
8/10	James Collins	Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178
8/10	Dolores Headley	Manchester Lodge No. 14
8/14	Dorothy Barrey	Treadwell Lodge No. 213
8/16	Oza Bell	Arlington Lodge No. 102
8/16	Jean Colby	Victoria Lodge No. 304
8/17	Wayne Flora	Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
8/17	Frank Perdue	Warwick Lodge No. 336
8/17	William "Bill" Shortt	Springfield Lodge No. 217
8/19	Steve Bollinger	Eureka Lodge No. 195
8/20	Marjorie Winter	Sandston Lodge No. 216
8/27	Russell Talley, Sr	Babcock Lodge No. 322
8/28	Russell Hobson	Babcock Lodge No. 322
8/28	Raymond Ridgeway	Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge No. 42
September		
9/8	Patricia Heald	Cabell Lodge No. 328
9/16	Juanita Ragsdale	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
9/17	Maurice Beachum	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
9/17	Paul Canter	Sandston Lodge No. 216
9/21	Phyllis Rowe	Westmoreland Lodge No. 212
9/22	Omer "Larry" LaRochelle	Bedford Lodge No. 244
9/23	Jerrell Morton	Burke Lodge No. 147
9/25	Agnes Cash	Babcock Lodge No. 322
9/26	Sandra Butler	Manchester Lodge No. 14

Resident Anniversaries

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
February		
N/A		
March		
3/1/2023	Rodney Van Houten	Naomi Lodge No. 87
3/6/2023	William "Bill" Shortt	Springfield Lodge No. 217
3/15/2022	Kenneth Lorente	Temple Lodge No. 9
3/15/2023	Zaida Lorente	Temple Lodge No. 9
April		
4/3/2023	Barry Snedker	Northside Lodge No. 292
4/19/2023	Frances Bailey	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19

New Residents

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
November		
11/3/2022	Joseph Westfall, Jr.	Petersburg Lodge No. 15
11/15/2022	Gene Watson	Midlothian Lodge No. 211
11/15/2022	Maxine Watson	Midlothian Lodge No. 211
11/16/2022	James Ransone	Arlington Lodge No. 102
December		
N/A		
January - 2023		
1/9/2023	John Ward	Monitor Lodge No. 197
1/26/2023	Dolly Roberts	Varina Lodge No. 272
1/31/2023	Tom Lasher	Williamsburg Lodge No. 6
1/31/2023	Alice Lasher	Williamsburg Lodge No. 6

Resident Deaths

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
February		
2/17/2023	Helen Duke	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
March		
3/4/2023	Frances Coleman	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
3/15/2023	Shirley Armistead	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
April		
4/24/2023	Edward Bowen	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
4/28/2023	Carl Whittington	Blandford Lodge No. 3



Masonic Home of Virginia



Agnes and Joe.



Bill practicing yoga.



Bland at Show and Tell.



Former Kings and Queens.



Holm's 70th Anniversary.



King and Queen Coronation.



Marshall Messimer Show and Tell.



Mary Breedon Cooking Class.



Resident Social.



In the North Lodge Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial are the newly raised Master Masons of the One-Day Conferral for Districts 1A and 1B.