



The Ashlar



September 2019

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvillelodge.org

Volume 66-09

What Is The Length Of Your Cabletow

The town doctor had returned after graduation from medical school, taken up residence, and opened his private practice here in this small French town. He knew the town wasn't big enough to support a doctor, but this was his home. His roots were here, and he loved the people who lived and toiled here, so he treated them when they were ill. He cared for the young women when they were with child, he treated measles and mumps, broken arms, bumps and bruises, and the ailments of the adults as the years went by. Very few of them were wealthy enough to be able to pay him with money. There were a few who could and this helped him keep up his house and office, and purchase a few items of food and clothing. If his patient was poor, the doctor would accept whatever they could give him. If they were very poor, he took nothing at all. Many were the debts paid with half a pie, or a fat roasting hen. He got along, and he was happy to be helping his people. The people loved him for what he did. And so, he toiled through his life, taking good care of them until the time grew near when he must retire. His old eyes grew dim and his hands shook so that he wasn't able to care for his patients as they deserved.

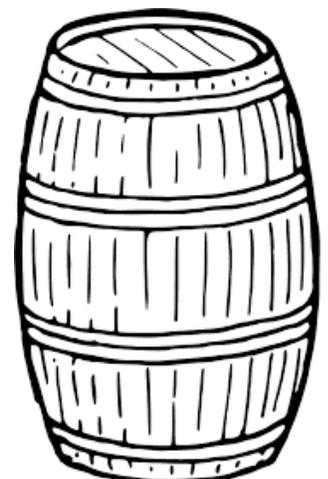
The townspeople held a secret meeting to discuss the old doctor's upcoming retirement. "We must do something for him, they all agreed, for the sacrifice he has made for us." "He could have gone into practice in a large city and would be retiring wealthy, they said, but what can we do?" "We are a poor people and have nothing to give him." "But we do, said one shopkeeper." "All of us make our own wine to serve with our meals, I know that we don't have much, but if each of us will provide one pitcher of our wine and pour it into a cask, we can give the doctor a whole cask of wine when he retires, so he can relax at home and sip a glass." "He will be very happy that we have thought enough of him to do this." So, they all agreed, and they placed a large wooden cask in the town hall where the old doctor would say his good-byes. Each of them then brought their stone pitchers, full to the brim, and one by one poured them into the cask. After the last pitcher was poured, they tapped in a new cork and sealed the cask.

A few days later, they all gathered at the hall. After the doctor had said his good-byes and his retirement was official, each of the townspeople passed by and clasped his hand, or hugged him close and kissed his cheek, each one wanting to express their feelings for him. The old doctor was touched by all this display of emotion and, teary eyed, he slowly made his way to his home. The doctor placed his comfortable old chair in a shaded area of his porch and went to the cask the people had given him and drew a small cup of the wine. When he sipped it, however, it tasted just like water. He thought it must have just settled in the cask so he shook it as briskly as he could and drew a second cup, but this one also tasted just like water.

Each of the citizens, you see, thinking that his small contribution would not be missed in the large cask, secretly filled his pitcher with water instead of wine. The old doctor was given a full cask of nothing but water. Even though all the citizens had pledged, each one, their pitcher of wine, they failed to meet their obligation.

The tragedy of it all was the sadness for the old doctor. His loss was the greatest of all. So, it is with life and with this wonderful fraternity of ours, my Brethren. Never think that your contribution is so small that it will not be missed. There is no thing that is whole, if only the smallest part is missing.

Special thanks to Worshipful Bill Nolan for his thoughtful contribution to this month's Ashlar. Next month's Ashlar will include an article by Worshipful Greg Muir on his observations of Masonry in Spain on his recent trip.



From The East



I am extremely happy with the way the year is progressing and the results so far are very positive and encouraging. We currently have nine candidates working in the degrees and several petitions pending ballots. It looks like we will be working as often as possible right up until the Annual Stated.

We have done more visiting than I planned and have a couple of more visits left to do before the year is out. On Thursday, September 19th, we will be visiting Reedville Lodge No. 321 in Reedville, VA to support our Brother Hank Foiles as he presents an interesting and engaging program on his years as a professional baseball player. Visits to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 and Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 are still in the planning stages and more information and details will follow in the coming weeks.

You may noticed some nice changes in the dining hall during your next visit to the lodge. First (and most noticeably) is the lighting change. The old florescent lights have been replaced by more energy efficient, brighter and longer lasting LED lights. I want to thank the team that helped make this improvement possible, including Brothers Eddie Foley, Mike Blankenship, Gill Clyburn, Ray Clyburn, Pat Blankenship, Bob Hughes, John Gabor, Karl Wessler, Dave Trzeciakiewicz (T-Rex) and Doug Dunn. The team removed the old lights (including the original lights from the 1950's that were left in place when the florescent lights were put in) and installed the new LED panels. These lights will now come on instantly with a flick of the switch - no more hour-long warm-up period! Next up are the lights in the Lodge room.

You will also notice a cleaner and brighter floor. The floors in the dining hall, foyer, kitchen and storeroom were recently stripped, sealed and waxed. This treatment should provide a lower maintenance surface for the next few months at a minimum. Brothers Bob Hughes, Karl Wessler, Ben Jamal, John Gabor, and one of our Entered Apprentices helped clear out the dining hall furniture to enable the cleaning company to do their magic.

The September Stated meeting is Senior Wardens Night and will prove to be a very interesting night of Masonry. Bro. Dave T-Rex has a very well thought out agenda that is sure to entertain and enlighten.

I want to thank all of the brothers for their

continued support in everything the Lodge is doing to make our fraternity enjoyable and appealing to members both new and old.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

From The West



Even though we are currently in the normally quiet summer months of the Masonic year, we have been as busy as ever with petitions, coaching, and degree work. I recently had the pleasure of coaching and examining Brother James Orlando in the Fellowcraft degree and then participating in his raising to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Brother James, an Aviation Ordnanceman, will be transferring with the Navy to California in August, but plans on continuing his Masonic journey in a California lodge near his duty station. James has been one of our hardest working candidates and has been a fixture at our monthly breakfasts and dinners as well as full days at our last two annual Bull Roasts. We wish him fair winds and following seas and hope to see him back at Kempsville in the near future.

Our annual Lodge picnic will be held on Saturday, September 14th from 12-3 PM. Please bring your family members to what is always a very good time including live music, food, good company and, of course, Nutty Buddy ice cream cones kept nice and cold on dry ice. We will have activities and games for the children again this year, including a bounce house for the kids.

There are even rumors that the Lodge T-Rex may show up again this year, assuming he has recovered from the dehydration he suffered last year running around with the kids in the hot sun.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

From The South



Our candidates are making progress and we are moving from Entered Apprentice work to other degrees. This means we need more degree participants to execute our ritual.

Kempsville holds ritual practice every Monday night beginning at 7:00PM. Please come out and join us to brush up on various positions you may have done in the past or to learn a new part. You do not have to have done this in the past to begin

Community Service

Kempsville Area Food Bank - Kempsville Masonic Lodge continues to collect food items and cash donations for a local church food pantry.

Donation items include canned foods of all kinds, rice, sugar, peanut butter, and instant milk. Any money collected will go to the student lunch debt program for Kempsville borough schools. You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open. Keep the contributions coming, it's making a difference.

2 Friday, August 16, 2019

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Va. Beach groups pay lunch debt for Kempsville students

By SALEEN MARTIN
Staff writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — Some Kempsville students will have a fresh start next month when it comes to school lunch debt, thanks to a group of local masons and church members.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church and the Kempsville Masonic Lodge 196 on Princess Anne Road paid just over \$4,600 toward lunch debts at three schools in their backyard, Providence and Kempsville Meadows elementary schools and Larkspur Middle.

The debt didn't go away completely, but it was enough to cover about 1,600



CALL A KESSLER/WASHINGTON POST
Over 40% of Virginia Beach students receive free or reduced lunch.

Where to donate

Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196
4869 Princess Anne Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Donations can also be mailed

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
717 Tucson Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Church of the Ascension
4853 Princess Anne Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

week, their lunch is charged to a principal account and the school principal talks to the parent. When that happens, they

Stratford Chase Park Cleanup - Kempsville Lodge continues to support our community by picking up trash at Stratford Chase Park. Help is needed to support this small but worthwhile service.

Masons Moving Up the Ranks

Congratulations to Brothers Keith Ingraham and Sean Bray on their recent promotions. Brother Keith was recently promoted to the rank of Senior Chief Electronics Technician (ETCS), while Brother Sean, an Aviation Ordnanceman First Class (AO1), was made a Chief Petty Officer Selectee and will pin on the Chief's anchors in September. Anyone who is familiar with the United States Navy knows what a great accomplishment it is to make either Chief or Senior Chief. Well done to both of these hardworking, dedicated, and talented Brothers.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ben Jamal	553-2635
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Eddie Foley	581-8144

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