



# The Ashlar



August 2020

**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
**[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)**

Volume 67-08

## **Kempsville Reopens! What is the Way Ahead for 2020?**

Normally I prefer to reserve the front page of the Ashlar to talk about a topic related to Masonic education. This month I wanted to discuss the way ahead for the Lodge for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021 in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Lodge reopened on July 1st, we will still be operating under certain limitations for months to come.

The decision has been made by the Grand Lodge of Virginia that the current Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, and the District Deputy Grand Masters will continue serving in their current positions in 2021. This will enable the Grand Master and his Officers to continue the work that was cut short in March of 2020 when many activities were shut down or canceled due to the COVID-19 virus. The individual Lodges will have the option to decide whether they want to allow their Officers to stay in their current positions for 2021 or to allow them to rotate normally in December.



The Grand Lodge has also informed all of the subordinate Lodges that Lodge awards, such as the Hillman award, will not be issued for 2020. Rather, 2020 and 2021 will be considered one Masonic year with regards to award requirements. Given our inability to conduct many of our Lodge events due to the shutdown, this policy takes the pressure off of us to meet these requirements between now and December. That being said, Kempsville continues to do everything we can in the areas of service to our members and our community, Masonic education, and ritual proficiency. Lodge awards are about the journey toward excellence and not the destination of simply receiving the awards.

On the issue of Lodge events, we have, reluctantly, decided to cancel both the 2020 Lodge picnic and the Bull Roast. Current Grand Lodge guidance has forbidden all Lodges in Virginia from serving food until further notice and also forbids us from holding fund raisers that involve selling food. We originally rescheduled our Bull Roast from April to September in the hopes that the virus would have abated over the summer, but unfortunately that has not been the case. We do not expect this situation to change soon enough for us to safely hold these events (or to receive permission from the Grand Lodge to hold them). Because the Bull Roast is a major source of funding for the Lodge, I will be sending out a letter this month soliciting donations from our members to help us to make up this shortfall.

All Virginia Lodges are also prohibited from conducting degree conferral until otherwise directed by the Grand Lodge. We are however allowed to coach and examine our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts in the degrees they are already in. The Grand Lodge is planning on conducting a one-day conferral in early October for all interested candidates. This will enable us to raise all of our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to the sublime degree of Master Mason before the end of the year.

Even with these limitations, Kempsville Masonic Lodge will still be busy with the routine we developed while shut down. We will continue to hold Masonic education online on most Mondays, followed by ritual team training each Tuesday. Since the Lodge reopened in July we have started meeting again in the Lodge for Saturday morning coffee. We encourage all of our members to join us at these events, as well as at our monthly Stated meetings. For those who cannot attend our Stated meetings in the upcoming months, we will be broadcasting a significant portion of each online via Zoom before we open a Master Masons Lodge.

## From The East



We were incredibly pleased to reopen Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 for business on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Lodge had been closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time in three months we were able to hold practice with the degree teams. We also recommenced examining candidates who had been working on their catechisms since we suspended work. They have all been doing very well, and we are eager to get them to their next degrees as soon as we are permitted to conduct degree work.

I dedicated the front page of this month's Ashlar to providing all of you with the latest guidance concerning Lodge operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and the way ahead for the Lodge for the remainder of the Masonic year and into 2021. At this point we simply don't know when we will be able to relax the current precautions that are in place – that will depend on both the course of the virus and the guidance that we receive from the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Despite that, we will continue the good works that the Lodge has been doing in the areas of Masonic education, training and service to our members and the community.

The Grand Lodge has given each Lodge the option to keep their current Officers in place through 2021 because of the number of Lodge events and meetings that have been missed this year. I have spoken with your Lodge Officers and we have agreed that I will not repeat my year as Worshipful Master in 2021. Your Lodge Officers, from the SW to the JD, are ready now to take on the next higher chair, and to hold them back another year would be a disservice both to them and to our members. I have greatly enjoyed leading the Lodge as Worshipful Master, and we have much left to do this year before I turn over to my successor. I promise you, our members, that I will continue to support the Lodge in every way that I can as a Past Master.

It was also with great pleasure that we held our first Stated meeting in four months on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We were able to catch up on Masonic birthdays, various award presentations, and the presentation of a 25-year and a 70-year Masonic pin. Even though we were not able to serve dinner everyone had a great time and enjoyed the in-person fellowship that we have not been able to partake in for several months.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

## From The West



Brethren, we are happy to announce Stated Communications across the great state of Virginia began again in July and we welcome all those who are comfortable to attend in August. The month of August is not necessarily an exciting month during the dog days of summer. However, the Craft never rests, and August has often been a busy month for Masonry throughout history.

George Washington received his Master Mason degree on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1753. On August 28, 1769, the Masonic Order of Knights Templar was conferred for the first time on American soil in Boston, MA. For those following Worshipful Dave's Monday training lectures and heard Worshipful Rawson's LEO minute, this is also the month in 1826 that William Morgan exposed the secrets of Masonic ritual. Brother and President Warren G. Harding received his Master Mason Degree in Marion Lodge No. 70 in Ohio on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Grand Lodge of Colorado was formed in 1861, the Grand Lodge of Mexico in 1877, and the Grand Lodge of Oregon in 1851. In 1881 Brother Alexander Fleming, the inventor of penicillin was born and became a Mason while a medical student. In 1884, Freemasons laid the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty.

Our Fraternity is rich in history with many great leaders and contributions to society. But our greatness rests with each individual and our simple acts of kindness. Remember to assist our distressed Brothers, their widows and orphans and every human being has a claim on your kind offices especially in these trying times. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the Lodge.

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

## From The South



Generosity rewards the giver more than the receiver. Our Masonic creed relies heavily on individual charity that improves not only personal character, but also the reputation of the Fraternity. "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." This language, enshrined in our Masonic Bibles as chapter eleven, verse one of The Book of

Ecclesiastes, advises us on the merits and benefits of charitable giving. Furthermore, it causes us to ask ourselves if we are living in accordance with this advice.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to bring challenges into our everyday lives. In many cases, cancellations, delays, and uncertainties have fostered idleness and stagnation - the enemies of productive routine. The absence of a normal schedule of work and production has brought hardship to many. Consequently, our charitable Masonic duties are now more important than ever.

The same verse quoted above has often been incorporated into a poem of sorts, in which the remaining verses urge, "Waft it on with praying breath. After many days you'll find it here or there beyond the gates of death." The overarching message encourages us to stand as Beacons of Light for our Brothers, friends, family, and neighbors. Encourage good, and give freely, if it is within the length of your cable tow. As the language suggests, your charitable endeavors entitle you to an eventual benefit now and in the celestial hereafter.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

## 70 Year Masonic Pin Awarded



We were greatly honored to present Brother Warren Massey with his 70-year Masonic pin at our July Stated meeting. Brother Massey was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in April 1950. We were delayed in presenting him with his pin due to the Lodge being shut down, but were very pleased that he, his wife, and son were able to join us for this very rare event as soon as we reopened. We were also privileged to receive remarks via Zoom from Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora,

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 2014. Most Worshipful Wayne was scheduled to present Brother Massey with his pin but was unable to join us in person due to the virus. Thanks to the power of the Internet, he and several other Brothers were able to see and hear the ceremony online.

## Masonic Birthdays for August

Allen V. Alewine '08	William T. Kemp, Sr. '66
Joshua A. Arkin '08	Jonathan R. King '00
Ramon L. Baez, Jr. '08	Walter A. Liffick '94
Ray L. Benton '88	David W. McGowan '05
R. Dean Blazier '93	Newbury E. Meader, Jr. '99
Curtis E. Brannon '65	Donald E. Meyer '77
Raymond Clyburn, Sr. '64	Michael N. Miller '05
Homer J. Cullifer '65	Edward F. Myers, III '08
Bruce A. Cunningham '08	Christopher B. Ovide '11
Dennis A. DiMaggio '10	Gregory M. Remy '08
Howard L. Draper '05	Jeffrey S. Rohrer '08
John N. Farr '98	Larry B. Scott '10
R. Scott Foxwell '02	David T. Silvey '04
Moss S. Friedman '91	Benjamin D. Stair '16
Noel L. Garo '10	Wesley C. Thompson '06
Raymond E. Hall, III '05	Anthony K. Turner '08
Brian K. Headley '00	Claude W. Watkins, Jr. '91
Walter L. Humphries '71	Thomas G. Webber, Jr. '08

The Brethren shown above have a total of 797 years in Masonry!

## June Beehive Award

The Beehive Award winners for the month of June are our Senior Deacon, Brother Pat Blankenship, and our Junior Deacon, Brother Doug Dunn. Both Pat and Doug helped organize, buy supplies for, and lead the deep cleaning of the Lodge that was completed on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This cleaning was mandated by the Grand Lodge before we could reopen for business on July 1st. Pat and Doug jumped into the task with their usual enthusiasm and attention to detail and the Lodge was able to reopen on time.



Anyone who knows Pat and Doug know that they are major contributors to the Lodge in everything we do. We look forward to when these hardworking Brothers occupy the chair in the East in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Please congratulate them for a job well done the next time you see them.

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in August:

Dorothy Hudson	August 7 <sup>th</sup>
Judy Nelliger	August 10 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Stukey	August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Betty Seymour	August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Sarah Faye Ward	August 13 <sup>th</sup>
Samia Salesby	August 26 <sup>th</sup>

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

## June Food Bank Donation Drive-In

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Kempsville Masonic Lodge continued it's newest tradition of collecting food for the Church of the Ascension food bank on days that were originally scheduled for our monthly Lodge breakfasts. We collected 388 lbs of food, including \$60 worth of jam and jelly that our Food Bank Coordinator, Brother Bob Hughes, bought with cash donations. The food bank requested these items because of the demand for them to go along with peanut butter sandwiches being eaten by children at home on summer vacation.

Our total drive-in food collection for the past two months has been 838 lbs. Thank you to all of our members who have so generously contributed to this effort. We will continue to collect food for the food bank on the last Saturday of the month as long as we are not allowed to serve breakfast due to COVID-19 virus restrictions.

## Masonic Dashboard Emblem

If you were a Mason in the 60's, there's a good chance you had one of these little guys on your dashboard.

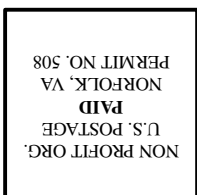
Back in the day when a car's dashboard actually contained some steel, the magnet in the base held him firmly in place as you traveled to Lodge.

Photo courtesy of Worshipful Joe Thornton.



## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Senior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Junior Warden	John Settle, III	675-9695
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Deacon	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Senior Steward	Bill Oliveira	748-3206
Junior Steward	John Gabor	408-1541
Chaplain	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Roger Taylor	478-5498
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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Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM  
4869 Princess Anne Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462