



Don't Miss Kempsville's
7th Annual
Armed Forces Night

April 27, 2010

Dinner at 6PM
Lodge at 7PM



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The Ashlar
Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM
4869 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462



The Ashlar



April 2010

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, AF&AM
www.kempsvill lodge.org

Volume 55-04

From The East



The old adage anyone can be your teacher if your willing to learn was brought home to me by one of my Grandsons recently. I like to share my personal experiences with my grandchildren to illustrate that what happens in life will eventually become either a learning experience or a source of humor in the future. Don't take yourself too seriously. Relaying a time when I was in Junior High (now Middle School), three friends and I formed a singing group of sorts. We gained some local notoriety and during an assembly of the entire school our teacher, having heard of us, invited the us four to take the stage and sing. When I turned to face the audience stage freight struck and I could not utter a sound. I just stared at all of the faces looking at me, unable to move a muscle. The others began to sing and even as I saw the kids in the audience begin to laugh and point, there was nothing I could do. I don't even think I blinked.

"Yeah Pop, just like when you see a pretty girl and you can't say anything, then when she leaves you think of all the things you should have said, right?" he asked.

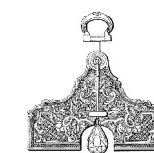
"Exactly." I replied. Then to pursue the conversation I asked him what happens when he sees an ugly girl? He thought for a moment and said "I don't know, I've never seen one."

The moral of the story is I might be a Great-Grandfather sooner then expected and to let yourself look for the good in everyone. Don't dwell on faults, life will be more enjoyable.

Wear your good suit, your new shirt, your best tie. What are you saving them for, a special occasion? Today is special

Brother Bill Rawson, Worshipful Master

From The West



As I was preparing to write this article my first thought was to re-cap the information from The Division Leadership Conference that was held on March 13th. However, there is plenty of time to discuss its content in detail in later issues. I would rather share a recent experience which may have greater meaning.

On March 16th we passed two candidates to the degree of Fellowcraft. Just prior to opening lodge my ex-wife requested that I pick-up our daughter at the hospital where she had been visiting her grandfather. Michelle's grandfather was admitted the week prior and it was thought he would be discharged the prior weekend, but those plans changed. Upon my arrival at the hospital my ex-wife requested that I go upstairs to say hello to her father. I felt uneasy about this, but did as requested. We walked into ICU and she reported his condition before we entered his room. It had been awhile since we have been together. I walked towards the bed; he looked up and extended his hand. I took his hand and he said "now there is a real gentleman." I encouraged him to get some rest and left the room. We returned to the family waiting area and then headed back downstairs and exited the hospital. This event impacted me during our degree work, which I admit distracted me. I thought about the signs and summons, and the cable tow. I thought about how we as Masons meet on the level. But more especially I thought of the Level and it's more noble and glorious purposes..."and teaches us all that we are traveling on the broad level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

I honored my ex-wife's request to speak with her father, when I could have said no. I let any past events go and focused on the present situation. Her father passed the next day. His suffering is over and the healing process for those left will begin. Do good on to all.

See you at lodge soon,
Brother Michael Johnstone, Senior Warden

From The South



On March 18, 2010, the Brethren of the 56th Masonic district set up two computers for the Virginia Child Identification Program (VA CHIP) at the Indian Lakes Elementary School Book and Science Fair. It was a great turnout for the Brethren as well as the school. We had to overcome a couple obstacles. First, we had only two of four computers requested. Second, for the first 45 minutes, only one of the two machines was working (we had to go buy new black and white as well as color cartridges for the printer). In spite of these obstacles, and thanks to the patience of the parents, we were able to provide a VA CHIP packet to approximately 24 families within the two hour period.

I have been tracking the candidates for the degrees in Masonry. Presently, we have 32 Candidates in the process of receiving the degrees in Freemasonry. This is a doubled edged sword. Good, in the sense that there is renewed interest in our Fraternity; however, we will be very busy the next several months. If you would like to participate on the degree team, please let me know. We practice every Monday night at 7PM. If not, please come out and support the candidate and your Brethren on the degree team. I'm sure the newly initiated candidate would be awe struck if the sidelines were full.

Finally, Armed Forces/Navy Night is coming up fast. As far as the degree team goes, I have one solid yes and three interested brethren. I have mailed out 40 letters to lodges in the Hampton Roads area as well as North Carolina. I have also spoken to Brethren at last weekend's Leadership Conference and in our lodge. However, I have received almost no calls or E-mails from our active duty Brethren. We will be working an Entered Apprentice Degree for the April 27th Armed Forces Night. If you know an active duty Brother, please talk to him about being on the degree team. If you are interested in being on the degree team or know of someone who wants to participate on the degree team, providing memorabilia, or have flags/bunting, please contact me.

Brother Bill Peterson, Junior Warden

From the Secretary...

Brethren, there's no better time to consider investing in the Grand Lodge's Life Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP) plan. With rumors of a Grand Lodge assessment increase in the near future, now is a great time to join LMIP. Payments may be made in lump-sum, incrementally (within the calendar year), or even by credit card. As your Secretary, I am the point of contact for this program. You may download an application off the

Grand Lodge web site, or see me to get one. Investing in LMIP is a way to lock in your Lodge dues without ever worrying about a dues increase, ever! You never receive another dues notice, and your investment will help your Lodge for as long as it holds its Charter – forever! Please seriously consider this worthy program.

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Got Blood?

Have you ever wondered why the District's Blood Drive rolls around about every two months? Could it be based on some celestial rhythm or perhaps the sun's weaving through the zodiac? Could it be structured to coincide with a migratory cycle of an exotic species as they begin their journey from somewhere in an attempt to get to somewhere else? Could it be based on historical weather patterns, the ebb and flow of the stock market or even the issuance of our water bill from the department of utilities?

Actually it is none of the above.

The District's Blood Drive is planned and scheduled for the last Monday in every odd month. It coincides with the body's miraculous ability to completely refresh and regenerate itself from the withdrawal of blood given during a blood donation in 56 days. In fact, the body can replenish some elements obtained during a donation, such as platelets, in a matter of hours.

And so my Brethren, take time now to mark your calendar and circle the last Monday of every other month. It will be time to donate blood. It will be time to help save a life.

Jerry Hallal, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Masonic Birthdays for April

David Edward Boyd '88	Michael Roy Moseler '72
Jaime Cabeza '04	Richard Earl Neisinger '74
Allen Kenneth Chandler '87	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
Shirley Ray Connard '91	Brian Edward Parton '01
Dennis Lee Driscoll '02	George F. Roberts, Jr. '64
Louis Page Dunn '77	Alaric James Roche, Jr. '64
Christopher M. Favata '10	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Lemuel David Foxwell '75	Michael Allan Sachs '88
Ernest A. Graham Sr. '62	Michael Lee Smith, Sr. '82
Gunnar Gudjonsson '00	William Earle Spruill, Sr. '67
George Louis Gunter '69	John Peyton Stublen, Jr. '76
Richard M. Hanly '74	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
Robert G. Lockwood '49	Robert James Tidwell '77
Warren Cord Massey '50	William Curtis Twiford '64
Joseph Henry McCoy, Jr. '62	Larry Eugene Watts '80
Alton Larkin McKeithan '50	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
Terrence P. McNally '78	Samuel Grant Welty '05

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,192 years in Masonry!

Masonic Veterans for 2010

April	Warren C. Massey	60 Years
	Alton L. McKeithan	60 Years
May	Russell P. Tjepkema	25 Years
June	William S. Erekson	60 Years
October	Daniel E. Connor	25 Years
November	Russell L. Houston	25 Years
December	Rubin Kravitz	50 Years

Trestleboard

April 6	.....	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
April 13	.....	Stated Communication, Dinner 6PM
April 17	.....	Order of the Eastern Star Steak Dinner, 11AM - 6PM
April 20	.....	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
April 22	.....	Joint Conferral at Bayside Lodge Fellowcraft Degree, 7:30PM
April 24	.....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
April 27	.....	Armed Forces Night, Dinner at 6PM
April 28	.....	District Degree Team Virginia Beach Lodge, 7:30PM
May 11	.....	Stated Communication Ladies Night, Dinner 6PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at www.kempsvillelodge.org.

From the Lodge Education Officer

Brethren, please plan on attending the April stated. I will be speaking on common errors in Masonry. For example, it is error to think that we teach only by Ritual. Consider the Middle Chamber lecture in which your attention is called to the seven liberal arts and sciences; proof positive that education is a key concept in Masonry. Masonry should be a life long learning experience. Keep thinking positive, and continue to seek more light in Masonry.

Worshipful Bill Nelligar, LEO

Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep these Brethren and their families in your thoughts and prayers:

- Brother F. B. "Nick" Nickerson -- VA Hospital.
- Brother Richard Chrisman – at home.
- Brother Ernie Graham – Brighton Gardens, Virginia Beach.
- Worshipful Elwood Grant – Brighton Gardens, Virginia Beach.

Youth Corner

The DeMolay Chapter completed the celebration of DeMolay month commemorating the 91st anniversary of the Order. The book donation and proclamation signing mentioned in last month's Ashlar were very successful and additional events included a service project of cleaning an elderly

Mason's back yard, attending church together and initiating a new member into the Chapter. Kempsville will continue to help DeMolay grow by assisting with degree work for Tidewater Chapter in Hampton in the upcoming month.

Bethel 42 had a wonderful turnout for the HIKE event on St. Patrick's Day. The girls marched in the parade in Norfolk and came in 3rd place for funds raised for the HIKE foundation. Overall, Virginia Jobies raised almost \$10,000 to buy hearing aids for children throughout the country. The Daughters will be putting on a western variety show May 14th and 15th which will include a dinner of fried chicken and all the fixin's. Cost is \$10 and the girls will be at various lodges throughout the district selling tickets. If you caught the mystery dinner last summer you know what kind of talent these young ladies have so come out for dinner and a show.

Welcome to Kempsville!

Welcome to our newest member: Brother Russell Joseph Tjepkema, raised March 30, 2010.

Breaking News...

The Brethren and friends of Kempsville donated 18 units of whole blood at the District's Blood Drive on March 22nd. The total number given by all participants was 44 units. Kempsville is very proud and very thankful to all who contributed to this effort. Special thanks go to the kitchen and serving crew, Bud, Roger, Joe and Dave, who made sure that all Brethren and friends went away with sufficient amounts of octane needed to continue their day.

Jerry Hallal, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	William H. Rawson	467-5913
Senior Warden	Michael D. Johnstone	334-3013
Junior Warden	William T. Peterson	237-5249
Treasurer	Wor. Bill Nelligar	456-0034
Secretary	Wor. Bob Stanek	495-7645
Secretary Emeritus	RW Bill Pierce	804-226-4181
Senior Deacon	Wor. Steve A. Ridgeway	270-7338
Junior Deacon	Gerald T. Hallal	472-1200
Senior Steward	Jack Bell, Jr.	831-0318
Chaplain	John R. Preddy, III	495-0771
Marshal	David Bortrager	404-7236
Musician	Robert H. Johns	467-8804
Tiler	Bob Lankford	499-0115
Instructor of Work	RW Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Wor. Bill Nelligar	456-0034
Blood Coordinator	Gerald T. Hallal	472-1200
Youth Advisor	Justin Gray	338-7218

Articles for the next next Ashlar should be submitted by 4/20/10 to RW Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or Worshipful Bob Stanek (rstanek1@cox.net)