



The Ashlar



July 2014

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

Volume 61-7

From The East



If a lodge is a symbol of the world, and initiation is our birth into the world of Masonry, the cable-tow is not unlike the cord which unites a child to its mother at birth; and so it is usually interpreted. Just as the physical cord, when cut, is replaced by a tie of love and obligation between mother and child, so, in one of the most impressive moments of initiation, the cable-tow is removed, because the brother, by his oath at the Altar of Obligation, is bound by a tie stronger than any physical cable. What before was an outward physical restraint has become an inward moral constraint. That is to say, force is replaced by love—outer authority by inner obligation.

Masonry is a progressive science that helps to take good men and make them better, but it is not the lodge alone that will help to make them better. Each Mason must work toward the goal of making himself better. By remembering our obligations and having a cable tow that is of appropriate length for providing aid and relief, Masons, with the help of the Lodge, will succeed in becoming better men to their families and to their communities.

So, how long is your cable tow? It is important to remember that the length of a Mason's cable tow is ultimately set by the individual Mason and cannot be truly judged by any other individual. The old writers define the length of a cable-tow, which they sometimes call a "cables length," variously. Some say it is seven hundred and twenty feet, or twice the measure of a circle. Others say that the length of the cable-tow is three miles. But such figures are merely symbolical, since in one man it may be three miles and in another it may easily be three thousand miles—or to the end of the earth. For each Mason the cable-tow reaches as far as his moral principles go and his material conditions will allow. Of that distance each must be his own judge, and indeed each does pass judgment upon himself accordingly, by his own acts in aid of others. (Taken in part from Short Talk Bulletin - Vol. IV, March, 1926, No.3)

Worshipful Steve Ridgeway, Worshipful Master

From The West



Today is the first day of Summer. I have just completed the first week of my last summer vacation. Next year, following my retirement from 30 years of teaching school, it will be endless summer. One of my favorite things to do is travel, and one of the privileges of being a Master Mason is the ability to "travel in foreign countries."

It is fun to listen to well-traveled Master Masons as they tell of the places they have been and the brethren with whom they have sat in lodge. On our lodge web page is a recent picture of four of our lodge members in Grand Cayman. Several of our Navy brothers have spoken of the camaraderie on board ship for Master Masons as they sail around the world. I enjoy the posts on Facebook of the travels of our Grand Master around the state and the stories of those who travel with him.

The only problem with traveling is being away from home and lodge. We miss being in our lodge and we miss those who are away. I will miss several weeks of degree work and fellowship. Please come to lodge and take my place or go somewhere and return with stories.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Senior Warden

From The South



This month I write the Brothers of Kempsville Lodge from St. Luke's Presbyterian Medical Center in Denver. As many of you know, my oldest son, Juke, survived cancer in 2011. Recently 2 tumors were found in his lungs, 1 in each lung. He had a 3 cm tumor on his right lung and a 1 cm tumor on his left lung which resulted from the earlier cancer. In fact these two tumors were in development before the tumor in his nose was discovered; this situation is normal to the type of cancer that Juke will defeat. The surgeon has removed the larger of the 2 tumors and will remove the second in 2 to 6 weeks depending on how Juke

feels in his recovery from the first surgery. Things sound pretty good and we have a solid support team here amongst his girlfriend Beatrice Seale, Juke's mom Karen Mesnard, his aunt and uncle Linda and Denny Phegley, my fiance' Teresa Bozman, and yours truly. After 2 periods your score is Jesus Christ - 2, Cancer - 0; the third period will be played sometime after the Fourth of July. Please continue your prayers.

Brother Greg Muir, Junior Warden

Masonic Veterans for 2014

July	William Thomas Parks, III	25 Years
September	Jesse Luther Monroe	25 Years
	Archie Richard Nobles	50 Years
October	Robert Halstead DeFord, Jr.	60 Years
November	Joe Emerson Brown	50 Years
	William Keith Cole	25 Years
	Donald Lee McBride	60 Years

Trestleboard

June 28	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
June 30	Ritual School, 7PM
July 7	Ritual School, 7PM
July 8	Stated Communication, 6PM
July 21	Joint Ritual School at Bayside, 7PM
July 22	Table Lodge, 6PM
July 28	Ritual School, 7PM

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

Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep these Brethren and family members in your thoughts and prayers.

- Brother Albert Lee Bonney, Jr. – In the loss of his brother
- Brother Richard Allen Chrisman (wife) – recovering from pneumonia
- Brother Gregory Cooling Muir – son undergoing treatment for cancer
- Worshipful Robert George “Bob” Lockwood – continuing health issues
- Brother Cristian Clerens Rodrigues – recent surgery
- Brother Charles Joseph Ridgely’s family – Brother Ridgely recently passed
- Brother Donald MacKay Fraser, VIII’s family – Brother Fraser recently passed

To Our Masonic “Sweethearts”

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in June:

Quida Young	July 6 th
Barbara Guarino	July 18 th
Delores Davenport	July 22 nd

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.

Community Service

Thanks to the following individuals who helped with the cleanup of Stratford Chase Recreational Park in support of the Adopt-A-Spot Program on June 21st:

- Worshipful Bill Peterson (Chairman)
- Worshipful Bob Stanek
- Brother Dennis DiMaggio

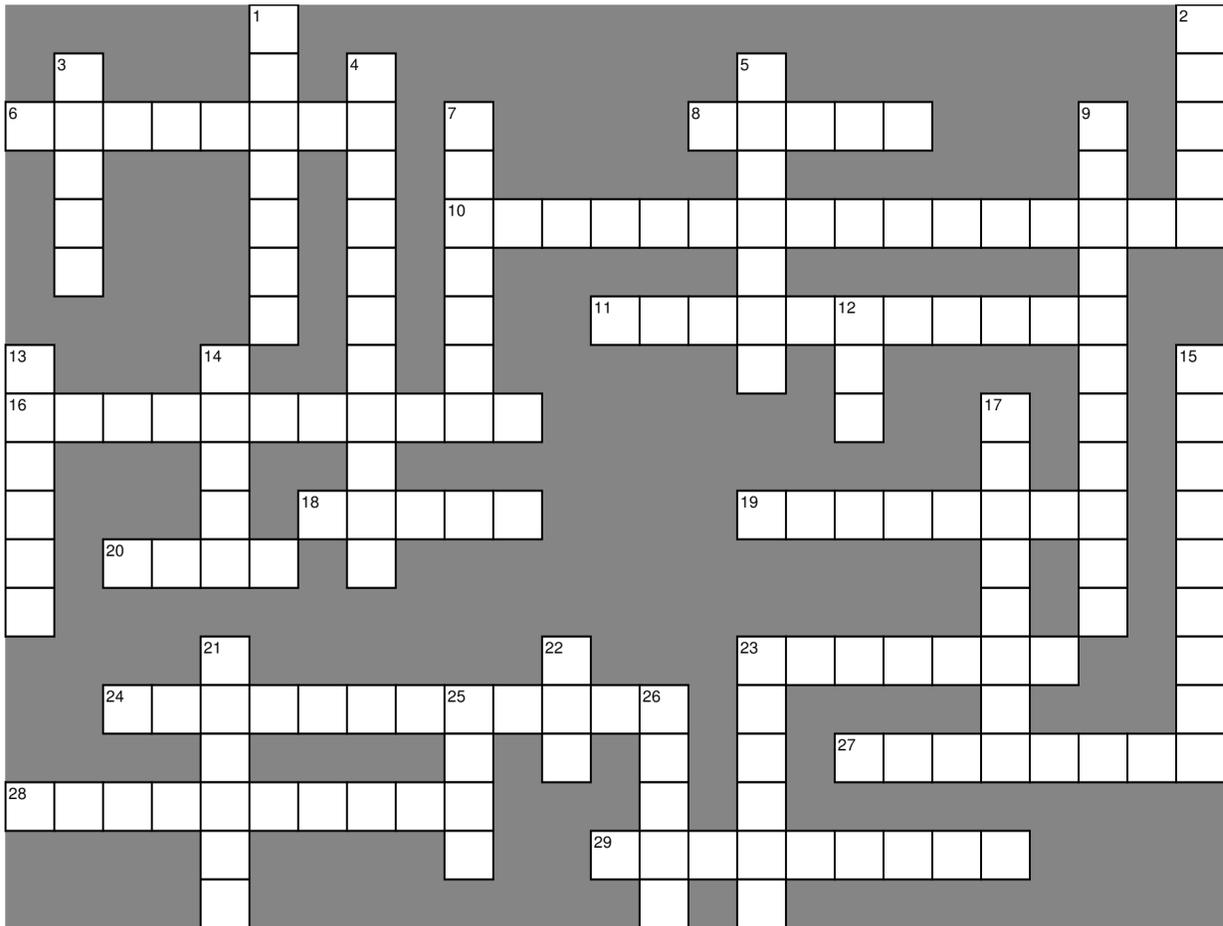
Youth Corner

Summer has arrived, and Kempsville’s Masonic Youth are showing no signs of slowing down.

Kempsville DeMolay traveled to Luray, VA and attended the state quarterly meeting for DeMolay youth across the Commonwealth. While in Luray, both the Initiatory and DeMolay degrees were conferred upon several new members of Kempsville Chapter by the State’s champion degree teams. The young men of Kempsville Chapter will be travelling to Christopher Newport University in late July to attend their annual state conclave.

The young ladies of Bethel 42 spent the month of June attending a number of events across the region and assisting several organizations in service related endeavors. Members volunteered two evenings in support of Community United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach and read stories, played games and built crafts with the children. Bethel members served dinner and staffed the kitchen for the Khedive Ladies’ Shrine and volunteered two consecutive days selling concessions and staffing the children’s play area at the Shrine Rodeo. The ladies also logged hundreds of “Jobie Miles” visiting with Bethels in the local area, Suffolk, Richmond and beyond. Bethel 42 cordially invites you to their public installation of officers Saturday, June 28th at 4:30PM with dinner to follow.

Brother Cliff Williams, Youth Advisor



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 6 Worshipful Master 1974
- 8 Jewel of the Senior Warden
- 10 The Moveable Jewels (three words)
- 11 Where Abraham was about to offer up his son Isaac (two words)
- 16 Used by Operative Masons to break off the corners of rough stones (two words)
- 18 Belonging to the feet
- 19 Belonging to the breast
- 20 Worshipful Master 2004
- 23 A written record of the proceedings of a Lodge
- 24 Used by the Master Workman to draw his designs upon (two words)
- 27 Teaches us to regulate our lives and actions by the dictates of reason
- 28 Jewel of the Stewards
- 29 Cast all the sacred vessels of the Temple (two words)

DOWN

- 1 Worshipful Master 1991
- 2 Jewel of the Junior Warden
- 3 The art of reasoning
- 4 Solemnly dedicated to or set apart for a high purpose, usually a Holy purpose
- 5 One of the five human senses
- 7 Enables us to render to all men their just due, without distinction
- 9 Reminds us of our rude and imperfect state by nature (two words)
- 12 The Hebrew interrogative pronoun signifying "what"
- 13 Reminds us of the rapid flight of time
- 14 The column of strength that supports the Lodge is of the _____ Order
- 15 Great Light in Masonry (two words)
- 17 A Mason and the twentieth President of the United States
- 21 One of the Principle supports of Masonry
- 22 Syriac name of God
- 23 Belonging to the hands
- 25 Pillar of Strength
- 26 The Mighty King of Israel

Bull Roast Report

Brethren, another successful Bull Roast is in the books. The weather was perfect and our guests enjoyed great fellowship and an awesome meal. I heard tons of nice compliments! I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the many volunteers who came out and worked tirelessly to make this year's Bull Roast a success. Whether you helped with planning, preparing, shopping, seed money, ticket sales, baking desserts, peeling potatoes, cooking, or clean up your hard work was greatly appreciated. Without your support and effort this would not have been possible. It was so wonderful to see the Brethren of Kempsville Lodge No. 196 working together in harmony to put on an incredible Bull Roast and support our Scholarship Fund and the Masonic Home of Virginia! Below is the Financial Report:

Total Donations:	\$6,973.00
Less Expenses:	\$2,022.75
Less Scholarships:	\$1,000.00
Less MAHOVA:	\$1,450.00
Net Profit:	\$2,500.25
To The Building Fund:	\$2,000.00
To The General Fund:	\$ 500.25

Brother Chris Anders, Bull Roast Chairman

Past Master's Corner

It was great to sit in the lodge and see the officers neatly dressed. Congratulations are in order to our Worshipful Master for trying to get Masonry back to the dress code that it should be. That's one of the things that set Masons apart from the other organizations. People knew when they saw men dressed up in the evening and heading out that they were probably going to a Masonic Lodge. Keep up the good work Worshipful.

Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

From The Secretary's Desk

For your advanced information, effective January 1, 2015, Grand Lodge assessments will increase \$7 for all Masons in Virginia. This will cause our lodge dues to increase by that amount. This increase was approved at the 2012 Grand Annual Communication to support the Masonic Home of

Virginia. When you receive your 2015 dues notice, it will be for the new amount of \$107 to collect this increase (payable in January 2015).

If you may have considered the Life Membership in Perpetuity plan (LMIP), you will save \$212 if you join before December 31, 2014.

LMIP is calculated at 16 times the current dues (you must pay your current year's dues before application is made). LMIP is now \$1,600. LMIP in January 2015 will be \$1,712, when the dues become \$107. By having an LMIP, you never pay dues or assessment increases again. Furthermore, your lodge benefits forever. If you want to consider this, please contact the Secretary for an application. More information may be found on the Grand Lodge website, including payment plans and credit card options.

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

The Lodge Where I Belong

The hand-clasp firm, the word of cheer,
Oh, such meanings they impart;
The mystic tie of brotherhood
That links us, heart to heart!

You'd really have to travel far,
For the Friendships quite so strong
As those one always finds right here
In the Lodge where I belong.

When all my earthly travels end,
And at last I'm borne to rest
Where mortal hands no longer toil
And I cease life's endless quest

Why there's nothing I'd like better
Should I join the heavenly throng
Than to meet with all the Brothers
Of the Lodge where I belong!

Arthur R. Herrman

Membership versus Viability

I sometimes think that the Grand Lodge of Virginia has no business having something called a "Membership Committee." If we accept that the huge growth in American Freemasonry, indeed, almost every fraternal organization, was the result of the conclusion of World War I in 1918 and World War II in 1945 and culminated in our peak

membership of over 4.1 million American Freemasons in 1959, it's safe to assume that, short of another World War, we'll never see such a meteoric rise in membership again. This huge influx of Masons resulted in what we now refer to as "mega lodges". Lodges having 500, or even 1000, members were not uncommon during the 1970's and 80's. The traditional form of a Masonic Lodge, however, was never meant to be that large. In fact, some Grand Jurisdictions still limit their Lodges to approximately 100 members.

As Americans, it's easy to think that "bigger is better." These "mega lodges", however, have led to two significant problems for our Craft: artificially low dues and low participation. A Lodge with 500 members can survive with dues of \$100/year and active participation of less than 100 of its members. A Lodge with 100 members, however, simply cannot survive that way. Although we still have a handful of lodges with more 400 members, over 250 of our lodges have fallen to less than 200 members with some having less than 50.

Grand Jurisdictions that adhere to the more traditionally sized lodge will likely have yearly dues that are approximately 1 week's pay for a typical member. Those same lodges will also see 80 percent or more of their membership taking an active role in their lodge. As Masons, they clearly see the value of their membership and are willing to pay for it—in both time and money.

Which brings me back to our Membership Committee. Maybe the future of Freemasonry depends less on our efforts to gain new members and more on our efforts to provide value to our existing members. Having a dues structure that

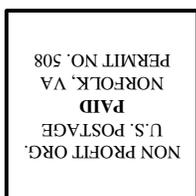
allows the lodge to maintain its facility and provide a quality experience for its members and candidates could possibly be the first step in guaranteeing a healthy future for our Craft. Taking greater pride in every aspect of the Masonic experience—the ritual, our facility, our attire, the meals we serve—could quite possibly bring our participation from the generally accepted standard of 20 percent, to that seen in other Grand Jurisdictions where practically 100 percent of the membership is active in some way. Maybe we should be thinking more about lodge viability and quality of experience and less about numbers.

Right Worshipful Emmett "Buddy" Pate, Jr.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Steve A. Ridgeway	270-7338
Senior Warden	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Junior Warden	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Deacon	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Steward	Michael Johnstone	334-3013
Junior Steward	Jackson Bell	831-0818
Chaplain	Karl Wesseler	439-1858
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Dennis Eaton	671-1187
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Bill Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 18th of each month to
 Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or
 Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)



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