



The Ashlar



December 2014

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

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From The East



The following, taken in part from articles on the internet, seems appropriate for my last "From The East" article.

We are not told in the Craft Legend about the transition after the Master Workman left the scene. I can imagine that it would have been anything but smooth—the baton was dropped. For those of us who enjoy the harmony of the lodge, we all want a smooth transition of authority when we change our Masters. The expression "passing the baton" is most apt for the occasion of Installation. To us that baton is an emblem of power and authority.

The expression "passing the baton" probably had its origin long before the first Olympic Games when a baton, a hollow cylinder containing a message, was carried by a succession of the fastest runners to complete the journey to distant lands. Success necessitated the baton being passed between runners in a fast and smooth transition. The modern Olympic relay races emulate this ancient means of communication.

It is never envisioned that the office of Master remains in the hands of one person indefinitely. Change is often generational. Potential successors are groomed for the task from the time that they take office. The election of Master is conducted in a democratic manner. The aptness of the expression "passing the baton" in lodges comes from the manner in which the transition should take place.

The person passing the baton, the incumbent Master in our case, must make his exit in a manner and at a speed that will enable his successor to receive the baton. It is not satisfactory for him to just walk away from the office. He must hand over a "team" in good shape, not leave the office in administrative disarray and with a perilous financial situation. He should not have been forced from office as he needs to hand over with a spirit of goodwill. Having passed the baton he should stand

aside with grace, let the work continue, and remain loyal and supportive in the background.

The person receiving the baton has the hardest task. He has to make up lost ground and/or hold that which the previous runner gained. He has to accomplish his task in a situation not always of his choosing – the speed, the approach, and in the case of lodges, their present circumstances. Personal approval needs to be gained. If changes have to be made, the justification must be separated from the new style of leadership. Continuing loyalty is essential.

Democracies, whilst not perfect, afford the best means of achieving a smooth and seamless transition of authority. Our Masonic fraternity is such an organization. It facilitates change without "dropping the baton". What we do not need is the disharmony that occurs all too often when football coaches are changed or pressures mount for change in political party leadership. Transitions like this will usually result in the baton being dropped. We need to consider these matters at the end of the football season, forthcoming Federal elections and our own Installations.

Worshipful Steve Ridgeway
Worshipful Master

From The West



We come to the end of one year and the beginning of the next. As we look back, we commend our Worshipful Master, Steve on his many accomplishments and thank his officers, notably our Senior Deacon, Chris Anders for his work with the Bull Roast and our Steward, Worshipful Michael Johnstone, for their hard work. None of this is possible without the help of so many of our members.

As we look ahead, even though it may appear that the officers are "treading water," we hope to build on the momentum that has been generated this

year. I thank the lodge for the luxury of staying in the West for the coming year and I look forward to continued "good times" and fun with the ritual with my fellow elected officers.

Next year is our 60th year or Diamond Anniversary. But, it is important to remember that we would not be where we are without the contributions of those who have gone before us. So, we look back with thanks for all who have made this lodge so great, and look ahead with the hope that still better days lie ahead.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Senior Warden

From The South



As a member of the first class of line officers in the history of Kempsville Lodge No. 196 to be held back for remediation I can only say "what the heck happened?" As it began, Brother Scott Foxwell and I were Right Worshipful Tom McGowan's class clowns. I am sure that Tom was hopeful that the seriousness and commitment being displayed by the other line officers would rub off on Scott and me. What rubbed off was our overt stupidity on them, and now we all have been relegated to repeat the same duties in 2015. I can just hear Worshipful Steve Ridgeway saying "Tom, I don't know what you're going to do with them, there's just no hope, I am surprised that they can even tile the Lodge." Oh well, we don't care, this only means that we get to keep on having fun.

In the meantime, this group of misfits did accomplish something, even if the Committee on Work would most likely say there has never been any ritual like it before (and they would probably add, never before and hopefully never again). That said, during 2014 new Kempsville Brothers underwent 12 Entered Apprentice degrees, 8 Fellowcraft degrees, and 8 Master Mason degrees at the hands of Right Worshipful Tom's Knuckleheads.

What a great time. Many thanks to Worshipful Steve for letting us have the East during the degree work, to my Brothers and fellow line officers for their commitment and levity, to Right Worshipful Tom for his patience and excellent instruction, and to the Brothers and Past Masters who helped out when called upon. I haven't laughed so much in a very long time.

Finally Brethren, I wish each of you a very Merry

Christmas and a Happy New Year. Come on out and eat some black eyed peas and collard greens!

Brother Greg Muir, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

December 9 Annual Stated Communication
Lodge 6PM, Dinner 7PM
December 13 Open Installation of Officers, 1PM
December 15 District Blood Drive
2PM-7PM at Lynnhaven Lodge

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

Lodge Improvements

Many Lodge improvements have been accomplished in 2014: upstairs windows bricked in, complete remodeling of the Lodge room and candidate preparation room (carpet, walls, chairs, chair rails, painting, etc.), new floor in the cooking utensils storage room, refurbished serving counter in the dining hall, folding partitions removed from the back of the dining hall (along with much clutter), etc.



On behalf of the Lodge, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the many improvements that have been made. I hesitate to mention names for fear of leaving someone out. If I have not thanked you personally, please know that your efforts did not go unnoticed and are much appreciated.

If you have not been to Lodge recently, I encourage you to visit at your earliest convenience (our annual Stated Communication and/or Installation of Officers on December 9th and 13th respectively, would be a great time) to get a true sense of the many improvements to your Lodge. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

From The Secretary's Desk

Brethren, last chance for Life Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP) at the "2014" rate...

Because the annual dues have increased to \$107, effective January 1st, in 2015 the LMIP cost will be slightly higher (16 times the annual dues).

If you have considered purchasing a life membership, and want to save a few dollars now, your application must be received at the Grand Lodge office before December 31st to purchase at the current dues rate. Please contact me soon if you would like to participate, or have questions. Remember, you will never pay dues again, or dues increases of any kind. Also, your lodge will benefit from this program forever.

Thanks to all who have paid their 2015 dues! If you haven't, please remit your lodge dues promptly; realize that, "lodge dues are payable by January of one year to be current for that same year..." (Sec. 2.146, Virginia Methodical Digest).

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Thoughts and Prayers

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

- Brother Warren Massey—heart trouble
- Brother Alton Mckeithan's wife—recovering from a fall
- Brother Bob Lockwood—poor health
- Brother Joe Bloise—upcoming back surgery
- Brother Charles Willman's family—in the death of Brother Willman
- Connie Clyburn, grandmother of Brother John Settle—recent hospital stay

Please keep our military and law enforcement personnel in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to serve our country in the fight against global terrorism.

Welcome to Kempsville!

Brother Michael Charles Jacob, raised November 4th and Brother Matthew Donald Esper, raised November 18th.

The Builder

I saw them tearing a building down, a group of men in a busy town. With a hefty blow and a lusty yell, they swung with zest, and the sidewall fell.

I asked the foremen, "are these men skilled? The kind you would hire, if you had to build?" He looked at me, and laughed, "no, indeed! Unskilled labor is all I need. Why, they can wreck in a day or two, what has taken builders years to do."

I asked myself, as I went my way, which of these roles have I tried to play? Am I a builder with rule and square, measuring and constructing with skill and care? Or am I the wrecker, who runs the town, content with the business of tearing down?

Author Unknown

To Our Masonic "Sweethearts"

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in December:

Peggy McGuire	December 10 th
Louise Slagle	December 15 th

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.

Youth Corner

The young ladies of Bethel 42 commemorated and honored our veterans by creating hand-made "thank you" cards and baking fresh cookies, which were then delivered to the VA Medical Center in Hampton for distribution to the resident veterans. Congratulations to the following Daughters, who were elected to serve as the Bethel's elected officers for the upcoming term: Tori Sorensen, Honored Queen Elect; Abby Masters, Senior Princess Elect; Bridget Roley, Junior Princess Elect; Kat Williams, Guide Elect; Mary Robinson, Marshal Elect. The young ladies of Bethel 42 cordially invite you to attend their public installation ceremony, to be held Saturday, December 6th at 2:00pm at the Kempsville Masonic Temple.

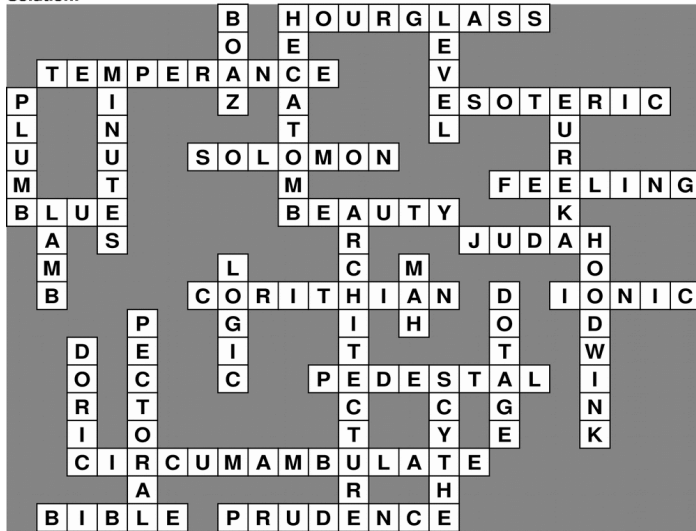
The young men of Kempsville DeMolay gathered together for fellowship and to pay tribute to the Order's founder, Frank S. Land, on Saturday, November 8th, a day known to all active and senior DeMolays as Frank S. Land Memorial Day. DeMolays past and present who have been elevated to the degree and rank of Chevalier also met for commemoration and fellowship that same weekend at Frankie's Place for Ribs in Kempsville.

Kempsville Chapter's members will travel to Wilmington, North Carolina in the upcoming weeks to help North Carolina DeMolay institute its newest chapter, Cape Fear Chapter, and to perform degree work to initiate North Carolina's newest DeMolays. The young men of Kempsville DeMolay would love to see you on the sidelines on first Thursday of the month at 7PM for their regular stated meeting.

Brother Cliff Williams, Youth Advisor

November Crossword Answer

Solution:



Masonic Birthdays for December

Timothy R. Berkheimer '02	Jessie Robert Ritchie '92
A. Lincoln Figueroa '01	Roger James Rowe, Jr. '92
Ejnar Olaf Jorgensen '53	Robert M. Shelburne '61
Rubin Kravitz '60	James Reginald Smith '94
Michael Lombardo '48	David Howard Weast '87
Timothy Miles Maguire '01	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 363 years in Masonry!

Blood Drive

One of the toughest questions brethren face when it comes time to donate blood, is Why? Masonry to me is service to God and man and making myself a better man for my family. That may not be what drives you to be a Mason, each of you may have felt the calling for different reasons. Here is an interesting quote I ran across recently:

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Please find it in your hearts to donate blood on December 15th at Lynnhaven Lodge between 2-7PM. Give the gift of life for Christmas this year.

Patrick Blankenship
Lodge Blood Chairman

Thank You!



**George Washington National
Masonic Memorial**

Given by the artist, Reverend David B. Lewis, in memory of Brother Donald Mackay Fraser, VIII and donated to Kempsville Lodge No. 196 by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Hodges-Fraser.

Words I Wish I Wrote

The older I get, the less attention I pay to what people say or think or hope. I notice what they do, how they live, and what they work for.

There is an unresolved argument in the arts and politics over whether one's words are to be judged with regard to one's life. I come down on the side

of integrity: The life validates or invalidates the words.

Oratory is empty if it has not been field-tested on the battlefield of experience. And I have little use for those who write beautifully and live sordidly; or those who withdraw from the world and issue instructions for how to live in it; or priesthoods that deny the realities of the flesh but wish to control the appetites and activities of those who live as whole human beings. If you don't play the game, you can't know enough to make the rules. If you are not engaged in the sweaty work of the world, you should not be in charge of the deodorant concession. And if you cannot find a way to aid progress in human affairs, then know that the smirking cynicism of the sideline critic is a form of plague—and to be one of those is to be a carrier of death instead of a preserver of life. Strong words? Yes; and deeply felt.

Submitted by
Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Food for Thought

The other day when surfing the net I came across an interesting article which I would like to share: If you start with a cage containing five monkeys and inside in the cage, hang a banana on a string from the top and then you place a set of stairs under the banana, before long a monkey will go to the stairs and climb toward the banana. As soon as he touches the stairs, you spray all the other monkeys with cold water.

After a while another monkey makes an attempt with same result...all the other monkeys are sprayed with cold water. Pretty soon when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Now, put the cold water away.

Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new one.

The new monkey sees the banana and attempts to climb the stairs. To his shock, all of the other monkeys beat him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original five monkeys, replacing it with a new one.

The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked.

The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment...with enthusiasm, because he is now part of the "team".

Then, replace a third original monkey with a new one, followed by the fourth, then the fifth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Now, the monkeys that are beating him up have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs. Neither do they know why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

Finally, having replaced all of the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys will have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, not one of the monkeys will try to climb the stairway for the banana.

Why, you ask? Because in their minds...that is the way it has always been!

This, my friends, is how some Lodges operate.

A Masonic Poem

"Brother, we have met before,
Where the Tyler guards the door.
We have given the well-known sign,
That has blent our souls with thine.

Now this eve, thou giv'st no word,
Back to our souls deep stirred.
For the Angel Tylers wait,
At thy Lodge Room's mystic gate.

"Brother, thou art taking rest,
We must still the wild storm breast'
We must build through mist and night,
Thou hast seen the quenchless Light.

While we hew the shapeless stone,
Thou hast bowed before the Throne.
While we tread the chequered floor,
Thou hast pass'd the golden door.

"Oh Companion, were we there,
Ended every pleading prayer.
Ended all the work and toil,
Gathered all the fruit and spoil.

Finished all the war of sin,
By the Warden's hand shut in'
Brother; once again with thee,
What would our first greeting be?

"Loved Companions, we have given,
To the guardianship of Heaven.
Our Brother's precious dust,
And in memory of the just.

Be it ours still to guard,
All he loved, with watch and ward.
Till like him we reach a shore,
Where these sorrows come no more."

Victor Roy, 1882

Post Grand Marshal Depression Syndrome

As I drove away from our Grand Annual Communication on Sunday morning, I found myself awash in an odd mix of emotions.

Having worked for so many years in preparation for this journey, hoping that I'd made a reasonable contribution to the Craft and had done a good job, as tradition requires, I was nevertheless summarily fired and replaced by my successor. On the one hand, looking forward to regaining some free time for other pursuits, I already knew that I would miss the regular involvement and sense of purpose provided by my role as your Grand Marshal. Likewise, as I'm quite happy to no longer be traveling across our state on an almost weekly basis, I will, without a doubt, miss the constant interaction with the Brethren and especially the family that the Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Master's team became. Although I certainly know

this feeling is temporary, I can honestly say that at that very moment, I felt a definite void knowing, literally overnight, my journey and responsibilities had concluded.

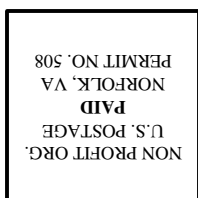
But as they say, "all good things must come to an end" and this year will certainly be cherished as a highlight of my Masonic Journey. It was a pleasure and honor to serve our Grand Master and to serve with each and every member of his team. I can only hope that each and every one of you have the opportunity, at some point in your Masonic journey, to experience the same.

Right Worshipful Emmett "Buddy" Pate
Recently Fired Grand Marshal

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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