



The Ashlar



March 2017

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

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Brother David Ragan (Williams Lodge No. 176, Cornelius, North Carolina) is an American professional stock car driver who currently drives full-time in the NASCAR Cup Series, driving the No. 38 Ford Fusion for Front Row Motorsports.

As soon as he turned 18, Brother Ragan made his first foray into NASCAR, running select Camping World Truck and Nationwide Series events. In 2007, he was Rookie of the Year of the NASCAR Nationwide Series and runner-up for the Rookie of the Year title in the Sprint Cup Series. Brother Ragan's success continued as he recorded 30 top-ten finishes in the Sprint Cup Series from 2007-2011. In 2011, Brother Ragan earned his first victory in the Sprint Cup Series at the Daytona International Speedway's Coke Zero 400. Later that year, he also earned a win at the Sprint Showdown.

After a move to the No. 34 Ford of Front Row Motorsports, Brother Ragan made the sports world take notice in 2013 when he scored an upset victory at Talladega Superspeedway – a last-lap surge to the checkers while being pushed by teammate David Gilliland. The win was the first ever for Front Row Motorsports and, with a second-place finish by Gilliland, became the most memorable and celebrated day in the team's history.

In addition to Brother Ragan's racing achievements, he is a loyal supporter of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children. Since naming the Shriners Pediatric Healthcare System his official charity of choice in 2008, he has used his popularity to increase awareness and raise funds for the organization. In addition, Brother Ragan has taken time out of his busy schedule to visit several of the Shriners Hospitals and participate in public service announcements.



At the 2012 Oasis Imperial Session, Brother Ragan announced that his car at that time, the No. 34 would be displaying the Shriners Hospitals for Children logo at the Sylvania 300 race in Loudon, New Hampshire. Brother Ragan has since displayed the Shriners Hospitals logo on his car in each of the following seasons. Also active in the top division of NASCAR is Brother Clint Bowyer of Emporia Lodge, Kansas, who is a strong advocate of Veteran's programs. Notably, Brother Bowyer has taken over for Tony Stewart as driver of the No. 14 Ford Fusion for Stewart-Haas Racing.

From The East



Please consider this article to be my report to you covering the first quarter of 2017 at Kempsville Lodge. So far, the most salient thing I have observed is that Masons are truly first prepared to be made Masons in their hearts, and that feeling is the driving force behind the efficacy of Masonry. We have initiated a few Entered Apprentices in 2017 and at the end of the Entered Apprentice ritual each of the new Brothers very clearly displayed that heartfelt emotion about becoming a Mason. Each of those men approached Freemasonry, and the Craft answered them by making them "obligated men" and by inviting them to join us in our travels. It is also satisfying to see the Brothers of the Lodge stick around after closing to shake hands with the new Brothers while happily sharing their personal stories and encouraging them to take full advantage of Masonry.

My sincere thanks to each of you who have taken time from your personal schedules to be a part of the degrees, be it from the floor or from the sidelines. You could see on the faces of the new Brothers that they appreciated your presence. During a short welcome talk following the degree, I endeavored to impress on the new Entered Apprentices that the men they saw in Lodge that night were there for them, to welcome them to the Craft. A second goal during that short talk has been to introduce the new Brothers to the other Entered Apprentices present, offering a personal story to them regarding how the current officers met while we were going through our degrees and emphasizing how the friendship that we developed during that time continues to grow today. I see the same fantastic bond between the more senior members of the Kempsville Fraternity during our Stated Communications and other events; you sit together, joke with each other, offer perspective and guidance to the current officers, and I cannot thank you enough for being a part of what we have. Observing you has led me to convey to the Entered Apprentices that their experience in Masonry would be twofold: 1) that they would learn catechisms that taught them Masonic doctrine and the life lessons of Masonry, and 2) that the Brotherhood would further embrace them during their attendance at meetings, through their involvement in activities, and through their interaction at events like the Saturday Morning Coffee Club.

Regarding non-degree work activities, I am happy to report that we have had an outstanding turnout

at our breakfasts (where we were supported by the DeMolay in January and Job's Daughters in February), at our Fraternal Visit to Willis V. Fentress where 19 Brothers brought the State and District Traveling Gavels home to Princess Anne Road, at our Valentine's Day Dinner for the ladies of Kempsville (thanks to Cyndi Golden and the Ladies of the OES for presenting an outstanding program for our ladies while the Brothers held Lodge), at our Coffee Club (where a good spirited court is held and the truth is well preached, LOL), and at the Grand Master's Visit (where we had 47 Brothers, Ladies, and Masonic Widows present). The level of participation makes it very clear that each of you value one another, value our Lodge, and value the Craft. A final thank you to Brother Roger Taylor, Brother Doug Dunn, Brother Ricky Brooks, Brother Karl Wessler, Brother Rodney Griffin, and Brother Gil Clyburn who did an outstanding job preserving the deck in our kitchen and eating areas; their efforts were truly Masonry in action. My first quarter in the East has been more rewarding than I could have ever imagined, solely due to your demonstration of Friendship and Brotherly Love. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



At one time or another, each of us have heard comments concerning the "Secrets of Freemasonry". These may have seemed accusatory, mean spirited, or hurtful and might have put us on the defensive. I wonder why people think this way or better yet why they care. Some time ago, a group of English teachers were trying to identify the most hateful word in the English language. After much debate, they chose the word "exclusive." As a Mason I do not consider Masonry as exclusive. Certainly not in the sense that it has a secret membership or secret ideals. Of course we do have some secrets, but not the kind that should cast suspicion on our fraternity. Freemasonry's secrets are peculiar to itself. These consist of certain signs and tokens which serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are conferred after due instruction and examination. These are of no small value as they speak a universal language and are a passport to the support and attention of the brethren. I would further offer that these secrets are not the sort that shuts men out except as they shut themselves out by an unwillingness to pay the price of study, effort, and the perseverance to enter into its meaning, appreciate its ideals, and measure up to

Check Your Dues Card



Brethren, please check your dues card today! It should expire in 2017. If not, please remit your dues now.

Masonic Birthdays for March

Robert Craig Belda '00	Thomas E. Lindner '83
Jackson Rollins Bell, Jr. '09	Winston E. Marchman '63
Orlando C. Bitanga '98	George W. Messinger '94
Donald Ray Blair '77	Robert Carl Metz '92
James Delbert Boone '76	Sidney Thomas Moore '69
William Edwain Combs '80	Gary Burke Nye '06
Michael Leroy Denning '15	Charlie L. Pallett, III '87
James F. Dombey '11	Michael S. Polychroni '85
Wayne Sawyer Flora '67	Donald K. Robinson '93
Ivan Godinez '16	Frederick W. Rudiger '03
George M. Harrell, Jr. '70	Asa Elwood Sawyer '72
Christopher J. Jaeger '58	Michael Ryan Sheehan '96
William M. Johnson '93	Fredrick A. Steinmiller '01
John Duane Johnstone '64	Roger Wayne Taylor '11
Thomas William Lang '05	Russell J. Tjepkema '10
Robert Lee Lankford '72	Linwood Ray West '91
Lester Randall Lefler '89	James Arthur Widener '83
Robert D. Leonard, Jr. '05	Clifford Jay Williams '13

The Brethren shown above have a total of 955 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

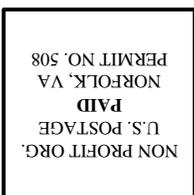
Happy Birthday to our special ladies in March:

Edna St John	March 1 st
Vivian Estes	March 17 th
Kaye Peters	March 18 th
Mary Nickerson	March 22 nd
Carol Wicks	March 24 th
Mary Hawker	March 25 th
Betty Williams	March 26 th
Leona Cronmiller	March 27 th
Carol Leszczyhski	March 27 th
Jean Mordica	March 28 th
Sharon Nolan	March 29 th
Margie Williams	March 30 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.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Greg Muir	676-3761
Senior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Warden	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Deacon	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	John Settle, III	675-9695
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Justin Gray	338-7218
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539



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