



The Ashlar



February 2020

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

Volume 67-02

65th Anniversary of Kempsville Masonic Lodge

On February 5th 2020, Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 celebrated its 65th anniversary as a chartered Masonic Lodge. That was the date that the Lodge was granted its charter by the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Per the Grand Lodge of Virginia Methodical Digest, the charter of a Lodge is an instrument written or printed upon parchment and signed by the Grand Master that enables a Lodge to “enter Apprentices, pass Fellowcrafts, and raise Master Masons, and to perform other work agreeably to the ancient customs and usages of Freemasonry.” The charter must always be in the Lodge room or ante-room during a session of the Lodge; if any such meeting is held without the presence of the charter or dispensation, the minutes thereof are not considered as the record of a Masonic Lodge and must be expunged. The charter is also ceremonially presented to the incoming Worshipful Master during his installation.



Before receiving its charter, Kempsville Masonic Lodge began life as a Lodge “under dispensation” (with “U.D.” taking the place of the Lodge number in the meeting minutes) on June 28th, 1954 by permission of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Charters are only allowed to be applied for by Lodges under dispensation, and then only by the Grand Lodge during its Annual Communication. At the time of its creation as a Lodge under dispensation, Kempsville had 28 members. Its Worshipful Master was Worshipful William Hollowell Pierce, who was Master of Great Bridge Lodge No. 257 in 1952 and who would subsequently go on to be Secretary of the Lodge for 50 years.

Although the Lodge was granted its charter on February 7th, it did not actually receive it until Charter Night on February 15th, 1955. By that time, Kempsville Masonic Lodge U.D. had 51 members. In addition to Worshipful Master Bill Pierce, the other Stationed Officers included Senior Warden Worshipful George Ferrell, a Past Master of Princess Anne Lodge No. 25, and Junior Warden Levi Jackson, a Past Master of Owens Lodge No. 164.

The record of the minutes of the Lodge record the following concerning that night. Kempsville Masonic Lodge U.D. opened a Master Masons Lodge at 7:30 PM, while at the same time a Provisional Lodge was opened in the ante room. This Provisional Lodge consisted of a team of DDGMs, PDDGMs, and PMs including R.:W.: Willis V. Fentress, the Deputy Grand Master as the Provisional Master of the Lodge. The Provisional Master was then informed by message from the Master of Kempsville Lodge U.D. that they were ready and desirous of being constituted. The Provisional Officers of the Lodge then entered the Lodge room and took their stations and places. An examining committee (one PDDGM and three PMs) appointed by the Provisional Master reported that they had examined the Officers of Kempsville Lodge U.D. and found them satisfactory.

The Provisional Lodge then consecrated, dedicated, and constituted Kempsville Masonic Lodge #196 and the Provisional Master installed the officers. The Lodge would then go on to conduct its business and then close its first stated meeting. The Lodge would continue to meet in the old Davis Corner Fire Station on Davis Street off Virginia Beach Boulevard until September 1957, when the first stated meeting in the newly-built Masonic Temple was held. Some 780 meetings and 65 years later, Kempsville is still going strong with nearly 400 members.

From The East



It is hard to believe that I am already almost two months into my year as Worshipful Master of Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196. I was told by our Past Masters that the year goes by quickly when you are in the East, but I never expected it to race by like this. Although I have been busy every day with running the Lodge and visiting other Lodges, I have greatly enjoyed every minute of it. It has truly been a Masonic labor of love serving all of you.

On January 4th I briefed the Past Masters on my plans and goals for the year. At the top of my list is to accelerate our efforts in getting an elevator installed in the Lodge. I am committed to making this a reality as we must have accessibility to our second floor for our elderly and disabled members. I have asked our junior Past Master (and new Tiler) Worshipful Roger Taylor to lead a Lodge elevator committee due to his experience with this project over the past year. He has graciously agreed to run this effort. Our first step will be to get a definitive set of design drawings made up so we can get a firm estimate from a contractor. I will provide monthly updates in this column on our efforts.

In mid-January I had our 28 year-old downstairs furnace inspected due to erratic operation. We found that the heat exchanger was cracked and not repairable or replaceable and was a carbon monoxide safety risk to our members. I therefore directed that a new furnace be installed. The cost of this replacement was a little over \$2000.

Thanks to the great generosity of our members, we have been able to cover \$10,000 of the \$16,000 of the cost of repairing the building foundation in December. With the replacement of the furnace though we are still approximately \$8,000 in the hole with these two repairs. I would ask that anyone who has not yet donated to these two projects please consider doing so. Our Lodge building is our legacy to future Kempsville Masons.

I have been asked by our members get the hard-copy of the Ashlar to our members by the first of each month. It takes about 3 weeks from the time we submit our articles to the time the Ashlar is delivered in the mail. Therefore we will, starting with the March issue, ensure that the document goes to the printer by the 5th of each month.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

From The West



Ready, set, go! Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 is off and to the races for 2020 under the leadership of Worshipful Dave "T-Rex". We started the new year with a wonderfully delicious Past Master's breakfast on January 4th. Worshipful T-Rex set out his vision, plans, and agenda for the new year. Led by Brother Doug Dunn, the new Stewards and their crew demonstrated a proficiency in the kitchen that will continue Kempsville's reputation for spectacular meals.

Monday ritual practice is off to a strong start for 2020. Our Junior Warden, Brother John Settle, has a training plan that accommodates everyone desirous of both developing and maintaining ritual proficiency. Please come and join us as we have opportunities available to join the degree teams. Every Tuesday in February is already booked for degree work.

We are executing the DDGM's vision for each Lodge to be present throughout the District. Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 was well represented at every monthly stated meeting and every DDGM official visit in the District in January. The brotherhood and comradery are contagious. Our Lodge's strength was demonstrated at Lynnhaven Masonic Lodge No. 220's January stated meeting when we became the first Lodge to capture the traveling gavel in 2020 with 16 Brothers in attendance.

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

From The South



Regarding Masonic ritual, we sometimes forget a word or move in the wrong direction during the ritual work. These are all unanticipated missteps - our actions during and after these learning experiences embolden our Masonic foundations.

When realizing a learning experience, don't be discouraged or frustrated and provide vocal excuses or physical gestures. Hold your position, stand tall, and a Brother will provide you with a needed word or phrase to get you back on track. We need to remember that our Masonic ritual is intended to benefit the observing Brethren and the

candidate more than ourselves, and in many instances, the mistake goes unnoticed as long as the participants don't draw attention to it.

Embrace your role in the ritual. If you need assistance from a Brother, be receptive of their knowledge and understanding of the work. As we endeavor to learn as develop proficiency in our ritual, we become better suited to guide and direct following Brethren.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

January Beehive Award

The Worshipful Master has established a new award for the 2020 Masonic Year – The Beehive Award. This award will be given out at each monthly stated meeting to the Brother who, in the Master's opinion, has accomplished the most for the Lodge during the preceding month. The winner is awarded a beautiful beehive pin ordered from a Masonic shop in the U.K.



The winner of the January Beehive Award is Brother Mike Blankenship. Brother Mike's efforts in December were unmatched in the Lodge. He spent many hours leading the effort to install new LED lighting in the Lodge room upstairs and was a key participant in the preparation of our outstanding annual stated dinner. Well done Brother Mike! Your tireless efforts throughout the year have made Kempsville a better place to "bee".

Trestleboard

- February 1 Grand Master's Official Visit
- February 4 Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
- February 6 DDGM Official Visit to Bayside
Lodge No. 218, 7PM
- February 11 Stated Communicate
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
- February 17 District Blood Drive
2-7PM, Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
- February 18 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
- February 25 Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
- February 29 Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
- March 4 DDGM Official Visit to Princess
Anne Lodge No. 25, 7:30PM
- March 6 Division Leadership Conference
6-8:30PM, Norfolk Scottish Rite Temple
- March 10 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

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

Meet the Junior Steward

Kempsville's new Junior Steward is Brother John Gabor. Brother John is a 27-year Mason and was raised in Ruth Lodge No. 89 in Norfolk in April of 1992. He was born in England to a US military family and subsequently moved to Virginia in 1966. He has two daughters and an adorable granddaughter. His hobbies include beekeeping. Welcome to the team John!



Masonic Birthdays for February

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alex H. Adkins '76 | Robert H. Johns '05 |
| Chandler E. Anderson '18 | Marvin B. Lancaster '05 |
| David H. Armstrong, Jr. '77 | Brian D. Littlehale '10 |
| R. Gillium Clyburn, Jr. '17 | David J. Meers '10 |
| Charles F. Edwards '70 | John M. Nuzum '02 |
| Edward J. Foley '93 | Galen K. Rogers '99 |
| Lewis J. Forrest '85 | Joseph M. Snook '65 |
| Glenn D. Fraser II '80 | William C. Vahle '13 |
| Glenn L. Gilman '78 | Arthur F. Wadford, Jr. '08 |
| William F. Grice '70 | |

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,199 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in February:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Lorraine Johna | February 5 th |
| Ann Akers | February 17 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.

Kempsville Youth

Miss Jobs Daughters Pageant Winners

In November of 2019, our Jobs Daughters from Bethel 42 competed in the Miss Job's Daughters pageant in Williamsburg. As you would expect from our Jobies, they swept the top spots! Past Honored Queen Miss Mary Robinson won Miss Job's Daughter for Virginia and Past Honored Queen Miss Charlye Levine won Junior Miss Job's Daughter of Virginia, which is for Jobies 15 years old and younger. Pageant contestants are required to recite a ritual messenger initiation part, take a written ritual test, participate in an interview with

panel of 5 judges, and are judged on their stage presence. Semifinalist are also required to answer a final question.

As Miss Job's Daughter for Virginia, Mary will represent the state at all appendant bodies annual convocations, including those for the Amaranth, OES, Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Virginia Freemasons, Rainbow Girls, and DeMolay. While at each she will speak on behalf of Job's Daughters. She and Charlye will also travel to the Pennsylvania and DelMar (Delaware/Maryland) pageants and their annual Grand Sessions.

At the Job's Daughters Supreme Session in Omaha Nebraska from July 26th to Aug 2nd, Mary will compete for the title of Miss International Job's Daughter. The winner of that pageant will represent JD worldwide (US, Canada, Australia, Philippines, & Brazil). We wish Mary the best of luck and congratulate her and Charlye on this and their many other outstanding accomplishments!

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is currently facing a Blood Emergency! Please give the gift that helps save lives. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, February 17th from 2-7PM at Princess Anne Masonic Lodge No. 25. Please do everything possible to help recruit donors to our drives.

Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

Past Master's Breakfast

A breakfast for the Past Masters was held on January 4th by Worshipful Dave "T-REX" Trzeciakiewicz and the other Lodge Officers. The delicious food was enjoyed by all!



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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