



The Ashlar



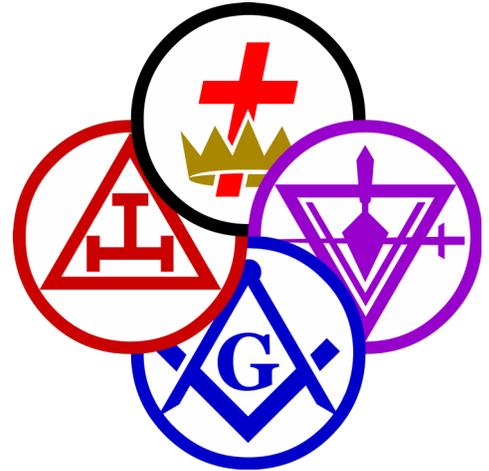
June 2020

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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The York Rite and Royal Arch Masonry

In Freemasonry, a Rite is a series of progressive degrees that are conferred by various Masonic organizations or bodies, each of which operates under the control of its own central authority. In many cases a Rite can also be a collection of separate Masonic organizations that would otherwise operate independently. Section 2.07 of the Virginia Methodical Digest states that “Every Lodge shall practice the Ancient York Ritual” and that “The said Ancient York Ritual consists of the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason” which are conferred in the Craft, or Blue Lodge, such as Kempsville Masonic Lodge #196. The York Rite, also known as the American Rite, is based on the early remnants of Craft Masonry that were practiced in the early 1700's. Most Lodges in the English speaking world confer the Craft Degrees under the York Rite; in Europe and South America there are Lodges that confer these degrees under the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR) and other, less well-known rites.



The appendent bodies that fall under the York Rite include Royal Arch Chapters, which confer the Capitular Degrees, Select Masters Councils, which confer the Cryptic Degrees, and the Knights Templar Preceptories which confer the Chivalric Orders. Membership in each of these is dependant upon receiving the degrees from the previous appendent body; in order to become a Royal Arch Mason a Brother must first be a Master Mason in a Craft/Blue Lodge. This month we will discuss the Capitular and Cryptic degrees, which are both conferred in Royal Arch Chapters in Virginia and West Virginia. In all other states the Cryptic Degrees are conferred in separate Select Masters Councils.

Both the Capitular and Cryptic degrees focus on the building of the Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, its destruction by the Babylonians in 586 BC, and the building of the Second Temple following the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity. The preparatory Capitular Degrees conferred in the Chapter are those of Mark Master Mason, Past Master and Most Excellent Master. All are beautiful, all are interesting, all teach valuable lessons, but the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason is more august, sublime and important than all that precedes it. It brings to light many essentials of the Craft contained ONLY in this Most Sublime Degree and explains many cryptic passages of the first three Degrees incomprehensible to the Master Mason. Without a knowledge of these the Masonic character cannot be complete. The Cryptic Degrees include the Select Master and Royal Master Degrees, and provide additional details about and events that occurred during the building of the First, or Solomon's Temple.

Although glimpses of Royal Arch Masonry vocabulary appear in Masonic literature from the 1720s, the first verifiable appearance of Royal Arch Masonry is in Ireland in the 1740s. In 1749, the Grand Lodge of Ireland issued warrants to two Lodges to establish “Royal Arch Lodges”. From Ireland, the Royal Arch spread to England, where it fueled the rivalry between the two Craft grand lodges (Ancients and Moderns) in existence at that time. The Royal Arch Degree itself, together with the Master Mason Degree, may have once been exemplified as one large or “super” Degree, with the Master Mason Degree explaining the loss of the Master's Word and the Royal Arch explaining the recovery of that Word.

The head of a Royal Arch Chapter is referred to as the High Priest. These chapters hold monthly meetings in a manner similar to the Stated meetings held by Blue Lodges, and confer the degrees on candidates as required. Charities that are supported by Royal Arch Masonry include The Alzheimer's Association for Research in the Mid-Atlantic Region and the Masonic Home of Virginia's Memory Unit.

From The East



Although Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 remains closed due to the COVID-19 virus, we continue to remain active through online meetings and communicating frequently through social media, e-mails, and phone calls as we check in with our senior members. Our May meeting was very well attended by 42 Brothers, including our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones. We also continue to hold training each Monday night and social meetings online on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. During our Monday night training sessions we have had very engaging discussions about topics such as the symbolism of Jacob's Ladder in the Entered Apprentice degree, the history and meaning of the Landmarks of Freemasonry and the history of Historic Bannack Lodge No. 3-7-77 in Montana and its Masonic "hang 'em high" vigilantes.

In late April I had the privilege of speaking to the two high school students who were awarded the 2020 Kempsville Masonic Lodge scholarships. There is more on this later in this newsletter, but I wanted to let you know how good it felt representing the Lodge in communicating the happy news to these two motivated young people. I had been looking forward to doing this since I assumed the chair in the East, and it certainly was everything I expected it to be. Providing service to and being an integral part of our community is one of the most important and satisfying parts of being a Mason.

At the May Lodge Officer meeting, your Lodge Officers and I discussed our plans for resuming Lodge operations once we have permission from our Grand Master. As with the rest of the state and the country, the reopening of the Lodge will probably take place in stages to ensure that we maintain the safety of each of our members. This may include limiting attendance during Lodge meetings and forgoing the serving of meals until it is deemed safe to do so. We also understand that our older and more vulnerable members may choose to avoid Lodge meetings until the threat from the virus is well passed. I want to personally assure you that we will be here waiting for all our members when they choose to return. None of you will be forgotten!

As always, please feel free to contact me personally at 757-620-8311 if you need any assistance.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

From The West



During this time of world turmoil, let us not lose sight of our guiding principles that have stood the test of time. One of those I believe most applicable today is Charity, especially as we see reports of unemployment reaching levels not seen since the Great Depression. We are reminded of this virtue in every degree and our prayers.

We are instructed to contribute to the relief of our Brothers as liberally as we can when they are in a poor and penniless condition. As a Fellowcraft, we are instructed to practice charity in the lecture. As Master Masons, we are reminded multiple times throughout our ritual to relieve distressed Master Masons and their families. In our prayers, we ask for light to daily increase more especially in charity. We are also reminded that every human being has a claim on our kind offices as charity extends beyond the grave and is the noblest of virtues.

But remember Brethren, true charity is not to be flaunted. We as Masons do this as part of who we are; silently and inconspicuously. Do good unto all and during these challenging times remember to contribute as liberally as you can.

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

From The South



One of the many teachings of our Masonic training is to exercise generosity towards our fellow man without the expectation of repayment if within the length of our cable tow.

Although this teaching may appear to be simple in its intent, experience causes us to know that it can be anything but simple. When we are generous with our time, talents, and treasures, we often gain more than we give.

In this current crisis, COVID-19 has adversely impacted our physical connection with others, which produces a like consequence to our generosity. Without fellowship and the social benefits of Freemasonry, we become lacking in the intimate knowledge of our Lodge Brothers' well-being. This obstacle should serve as a catalyst for us to extend our hearts and minds to our Brethren remotely. A simple phone call to a distant Brother serves as a warm gesture, which may ignite a desire for them to participate more.

Masonic generosity requires us to look beyond ourselves- it causes us to consider the needs of others, our Lodge, or our greater communities. As we endeavor further in this probationary state, it is imperative that we reach out and provide relief. When inquiring on the status of a distressed worthy Brother, we may rest assured that our Masonic teachings have instilled in them a like interest in generosity.

One of the greatest benefits of Freemasonry is the cherished experience of the Masonic journey. Although the unrivaled glory of our destination is our principal goal, along the journey, it must remain ancillary to the exercising of generosity to our Brothers and fellow man.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

Masonic Birthdays for June

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| James O. Amburn, Jr. '65 | Lloyd F. Holbrook, III '98 |
| Sidney C. Atkinson '82 | Jonathan W. Jones '05 |
| Gerald B. Barham '62 | William T. Kemp, Jr. '07 |
| Theodore W. Barton, Jr. '66 | Robert D. Lockwood '73 |
| Sean C. Bray '18 | John W. Mapes '97 |
| John R. Caole '03 | Thomas McGowan '66 |
| Jonathan R. Cook, III '18 | Richard W. Mears, Jr. '62 |
| Frank L. Creasy '73 | Owen P. Mills '67 |
| Robert A. Davis '82 | Emmett M. Pate, Jr. '00 |
| Roger N. Farr '74 | Fletcher B. Porter, Jr. '91 |
| Frederick C. Farrer '94 | Norman P. Powers, Jr. '95 |
| John T. Farrer '94 | Simone Scigliano '11 |
| Adam T. Ford '06 | John R. Settle, IV '12 |
| Jeran M. Gray '16 | Clifton E. Smith '89 |
| Richard M. Hanly '74 | Robert B. Wadsworth '99 |
| Jerry S. Hase '88 | Michael J. Willis '73 |
| Daniel G. Higger '96 | G. Robert Winn, Jr. '09 |

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,015 years in Masonry!

May Beehive Award

The Beehive Award winner for the month of May is our own Secretary, Worshipful Bob Stanek. Although the Lodge has been physically closed since mid-March, Worshipful Bob as been as busy as ever not only with his normal (and never ending) duties as Secretary, but also with assisting the Worshipful Master with online training, communicating with our members during this challenging period, and a dozen other tasks that have helped keep things going while we have not been able to meet in person. Worshipful Bob is also busy preparing for his year as District Deputy Grand



Master in 2021 and we expect to see great things happen during his tenure. Without his hard work and wise council Kempsville Masonic Lodge would not be as successful as it is today. Thank you, Worshipful Bob, for all you do for our Lodge and Masonry as a whole!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in June:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Jessica Squires | June 3 rd |
| Shirley White | June 9 th |
| Mary Noyes | June 10 th |
| Clara Krell | June 12 th |
| Diana Rawls | June 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.

May Meeting Held via Zoom



While we were unable to hold our regular May Stated Communication, we still had a wonderful online meeting courtesy of Zoom. 42 brothers attended including our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Doug Jones. Special thanks to our Bethel 42 Job's Daughters and Worshipful Sam Welty for their very interesting presentations. Also many thanks to Worshipful Robert Scott Foxwell for bringing the gift of music to our online meeting.

Meet our Scholarship Winners

Each year Kempsville Masonic Lodge presents two \$500 scholarships to students who attend classes at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center. We asked the staff at the Center to choose two deserving students for us, and we

are proud to announce that both students, who are in the top 20% percent of their class at Kempsville High School, are working toward nursing careers and will be attending the Center's Licensed Practical Nursing course next year. When we found out from our point of contact at the Center that the tuition for the program is \$800, brothers from the Lodge generously donated an extra \$300 to each student's scholarship to cover the full cost for them. Needless to say when our scholarship winners were informed of this, there wasn't a dry eye in the house (the Worshipful Master, who had the privilege of informing them, included!) This month we will introduce the one of our two scholarship recipients.

Our first scholarship winner is Kyleigh Milstead. Kyleigh volunteered to be an ambassador for the Tech Center, and she has represented the school at speaking events, career fairs, and informational table setups. She is president of the HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) club for her Medical Systems class. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis she has been truly inspired to pursue the healthcare industry. Her career plan is to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her hobbies include painting, hiking, and outdoor activities.

We are immensely proud of you Kyleigh and wish you the best of luck in achieving your very noble career goals!



Masonic Funeral Rites – It Is Your Right!

It is the right of every Master Mason in good standing to receive Masonic funeral rites, either from their home Lodge (if the funeral takes place in area of the Lodge) or as courtesy work by another Lodge if it is in another Masonic jurisdiction (such as a different state.) However, it is vitally important for all Master Masons to let their families know both their desire for these rites and that the family should contact the Lodge in the event of their passing. We have seen a number of cases in the past where the only way the Lodge knew of a Brother who had passed was due to the diligent efforts of our Secretary in searching the obituaries on a regular basis. Please talk to your families today about this if you haven't already.

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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