



The Ashlar



March 2023

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

Volume 68-03

The Modern Cowan

In Scotland, the operative Mason knew cowans to be ignorant builders who put stones together without mortar. They piled rough fieldstones into a wall without hewing them true or squaring them. They masqueraded as Masters, but they did not have the Word.

Now and again, today - fortunately not too often - we find a modern equivalent of the operative imposter. One such is the Mason who manages a place in an officer's line with little or no effect of his own to deserve it. With only that exertion that is necessary to maintain his place, he continues to advance in line until he receives the jewels and honors that he prizes so highly. But he does not know the Constitution, and he does not understand the traditions and dignity of the Craft. As a presiding officer, his vocal ability is more noteworthy than his executive ability; and when his term is ended, he is seldom seen until another honor or prize appears to be within his grasp.

He is a contemporary builder who works without the benefit of the mortar of real enthusiasm or accomplishments. His structure is likening unto the rough stone wall, having little beauty of value. He is the cowans of modern speculative Masonry.

He is to be pitied, for he is a Masonic failure. His honors are shallow. Bringing no interest to his position, he received little of the satisfaction and respect that belong to the real Master.

Masonry has failed to reach him with a clear understanding of those marks of true devotion which she has to offer. He never knows the opportunities that the Craft makes available to those who diligently seek them. He misses the opportunities that the Craft makes available to strive for a just and worthy cause. He misses the opportunity for continuing fellowship and friendship. He misses the opportunity for loyalty and devotion. He misses the opportunity for the development of his executive, intellectual and oratorical abilities. And most of all, he misses the opportunity for service - to God - to his community - and to his fellow man.

These are the jewels that Masonry has to offer, but in his quest for position and honors, the modern cowan misses them. Like the operative cowan, he does not have the Word.

From The East



We are off to a running start at Kempsville this year. We have made significant progress on projects and objectives that I have planned for this year. With the help of my capable officers, I project this to be a banner year for Kempsville Lodge. We have been significantly involved with our youth and public service. We need your help to continue to be the stellar lodge that Kempsville has always been. Donate your \$5 to MAHOVA, attend DLC, Donate blood or if you can not donate give your time in helping the drive be successful. The first of many public projects in providing and cooking a meal for the 63 homeless at Winter Shelter was a huge success and a lot of fun. The brethren jumped at the chance to work with the youth and provide a wholesome meal for the homeless. All was well received.

We are getting ready to sponsor a couple youth with our yearly scholarships and are diligently working on preparations for our annual Bull Roast. Your officers have made one of their significant improvements to Kempsville Lodge by dissolving the elevator fund and getting the new chairlift under contract. Depending on manufacturing lead time, it should be installed after the March stated. This will GREATLY improve the safety of the members using the lift. As the weather improves we will make a concerted effort in improving the aesthetics of the front lawn.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

From The West



As the Masonic year is getting underway and activities begin we start to see patterns return to our lodge. Be it Right Worshipful Tom stationed at the head of the first dining table with coffee brewing, Right Worshipful Bill Knowles working around the lodge fixing one thing or another, Senior Steward Todd Moissette in the kitchen and dining hall resetting after the latest downstairs activity and of course the steady flow of brethren returning to continue labor in our craft.

We also see a return to some great stated dinners and wonderful breakfasts! As a newly initiated EA I recall coming in and assisting in the kitchen, on the serving line and cleaning up. We always were able to enjoy some great fellowship while

accomplishing the tasks associated with those meals.

I'd like to encourage more brothers to come assist with these labors as the labor never stops and the attendance is increasing! If you are a coach, ask your candidates to come be a part. It is truly a great way to meet the lodge and more importantly let the lodge meet them! I remember the stated dinner when my petition was to be balloted upon. I was recommended to help on the service line to let the brothers meet me! Just ask Worshipful Pat about the pasta salad! So many laughs are shared and experiences enjoyed that stay with a brother. Come volunteer to help. You won't regret it.

Brother Doug Dunn, Senior Warden

Trestle Board

March 10 Grand Master's Official District Visit
Khedive Shrine Center, 6PM
March 13 Visit to Williamsburg Lodge No. 6
March 14 Stated Communication
Visit by of British Brethren
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
March 25 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

Life Membership in Perpetuity

The Worshipful Master has announced that he is studying the need to raise the annual dues of the lodge. He will present to the membership his plan soon. As such, I ask you now to consider your option to invest in the Grand Lodge Life Membership in Perpetuity plan (LMIP). By purchasing an LMIP this year, it will be based on our current dues of \$117 and you'll avoid any inevitable future increases.

By investing in LMIP, you will never again pay an increase for either Grand Lodge or subordinate lodge annual dues. Kempsville Lodge now has 86 living LMIP members. The lodge also benefits from 8 LMIP members who have passed away, but their LMIP investment continues to pay to the lodge annually.

Information for the LMIP plan is available to you on the Grand Lodge website. As a member of the Grand Lodge LMIP Committee, I too can provide you information regarding LMIP (an application is necessary to apply). You have both full or partial-payment options; also, a credit-card payment option is available for you.

To take full opportunity of this plan, and lock-in at

the current dues-rate, you must have first paid your current year's dues. You must join the LMIP plan before December 31, 2023. Please know that if dues are to increase next year, the LMIP total cost will increase accordingly. (LMIP total cost is calculated by 25 times the current annual dues.)

Consider the benefit of LMIP to both you and the lodge. The LMIP plan continues to credit the lodge even after death of the member. Thus, the lodge will receive income from your contribution as long as our Charter exists.

Please contact me as Lodge Secretary if you may be interested.

Fraternally, Bob Stanek, Secretary

Masonic Birthdays for March

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Franklin L. Beard, Jr. '73 | Thomas E. Lindner '83 |
| R. Craig Belda '00 | George W. Messinger '94 |
| Jackson R. Bell, Jr. '09 | Robert C. Metz '92 |
| Orlando C. Bitanga '98 | Sidney T. Moore '69 |
| Donald R. Blair '77 | Leonard T. Newbern '67 |
| James D. Boone '76 | Gary B. Nye '06 |
| Michael L. Denning '15 | Charlie L. Pallett, III '87 |
| James F. Dombey '11 | Michael S. Polychroni '85 |
| Wayne S. Flora '67 | Donald K. Robinson '93 |
| Ivan Godinez '16 | Frederick W. Rudiger '03 |
| Wesley R. D. Holmes '22 | Connor J. Schweitzer '17 |
| Christopher J. Jaeger '58 | Michael D. Scott '83 |
| William M. Johnson '93 | Roger W. Taylor '11 |
| J. Duane Johnstone '64 | Russell J. Tjepkema '10 |
| Thomas W. Lang '05 | Richard L. Tsikuris '18 |
| Robert L. Lankford '72 | Linwood R. West '91 |
| R. Dale Leonard, Jr. '05 | Clifford J. Williams '13 |

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in March:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Edna St John | March 1 st |
| 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 |
| Carol Leszczynski | March 27 th |
| Sharon Nolan | March 29 th |
| Elizabeth McBride | 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 | Pat Blankenship | 406-6166 |
| Senior Warden | Doug Dunn | 781-389-6557 |
| Junior Warden | Michael Turner | 581-4239 |
| Treasurer | Chris Anders | 635-7617 |
| Secretary | Bob Stanek | 619-7646 |
| Senior Deacon | Keith Ingraham | 613-5474 |
| Junior Deacon | Howard Draper | 515-3540 |
| Senior Steward | Todd Moissett | 604-3085 |
| Junior Steward | Scott Sherman | 597-1150 |
| Chaplain | James Boone | 515-0131 |
| Musician | R. Scott Foxwell | 536-1659 |
| Marshal | Dickie Cooper | 971-7347 |
| Tiler | Ricky Natoli | 305-924-5945 |
| 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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