



The Ashlar



October 2023

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

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A Living Mason

His name is John. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He was the top of his class. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Mason recently while attending college. After moving to his new town, he finds that down the street from his new apartment is a well-dressed, very conservative Lodge. One day John decides to go there after work. He walks in with shoes, jeans, his work shirt, and long hair. The Lodge has already started and so John starts looking for a seat.

The Lodge is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now the Brethren are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the East and, when he realizes there are no seats, he squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this Lodge before!) By now the Brethren are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the Secretary realizes that from way at the back of the Lodge, a Past Master is slowly making his way toward John.

Now the Past Master is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A good man, very elegant, very dignified, and very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid in the Lodge? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

The Lodge is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The Secretary can't even continue with the "Minutes" until the Past Master does what he has to do. And now the Lodge watches as this elderly man drops his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to John and welcomes him so he won't be alone.

When the Secretary gains control, he says, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet."

Author Unknown

From The East



Lodge work is a voluntary activity. Service to your brethren and lodge should be a calling. Helping youth become better adults, showing masonic rites for a brother who has

laid down his working tools for the last time. Welcoming a brother as he progresses through the degrees and cheering him on through the sidelines. Counseling and coaching a young man to become a better man. Do you remember your coach and mentor, or a special mason who guided you in a time of need? I sure do. What of a Past Master learning the degree lectures or how to confer a

25/50/60 year pin or conduct masonic funeral rites or installation of new officers. There is always something new to learn and do in our lodge. I am becoming acutely aware that the physical aspect of my contribution needs to slow but I can still learn other ways to help my lodge.

When I talked of the Cabletow previously, I admonished you that there are two ends of the Cabletow. One end leading to the new mason and the other to the lodge in the form of a mentor, coach, or advisor. Find your light again and prime the lamp or stoke the fire so young masons see you as a true and knowledgeable person who they can approach for answers or advice. Training evenings

and work nights have experienced sparse attendance. We all have personal lives and high demands of our time but let us not forget the basic teachings in masonry. We have been unable to have a LIW in the lodge but have hope on the horizon. RW Bob Stanek has done a fantastic job in seeing us through this difficult time and not only performed the job of lodge secretary but acted as LIW ProTempe.

We will be returning to regular stated attire at the October stated.

Thank you to the brethren who assisted at Shirley Salt's residence and is still going on if you wish to help.

Also thank you to the brethren involved in the lodge clean-up/filter day.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

From The West



Volunteerism has long been the lifeblood of all societies, fostering a sense of community, unity, and purpose. Within organizations like Kempsville lodge, this spirit of volunteerism often takes the form of situational volunteerism, where members step up during specific events and occasions. However, the need for more organized volunteers in Kempsville lodges has become increasingly apparent, emphasizing the importance shared responsibility. I want to explore the concept of situational volunteerism and delves into the urgent requirement for increased volunteer support within Kempsville lodge.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." - Muhammad Ali Once Said. As Freemason we believe in service. Unfortunately we are also human and since Covid broke us from our habits, we have been struggling. Volunteers at the lodge are thin and hard to find. Its true that we are all at the mercy of our cable tow, that our family and job come first, and we can never forget that. Its also true that many of us love the benefits of our lodge. The breakfasts, the dinners, the events that are always ongoing. What I think has been lost is that these events are not done for us, but by us. Its our job to make them happen as one, and as one we reap the rewards.

Unfortunately the opposite is true, when no one works, no one benefits. At a recent Breakfast the only people available to work where two brothers

recovering from recent surgery, a 95+ year old member, and a brother that has just gotten through his last round of Chemo, and me. To us fell the two day task of setting up for, staging, and cooking this months breakfast for an estimated 80 people. This task got done, with help from some other brothers as things got started, but this is also not sustainable. As the burden gets heavier and heavier more people drop it, until it is not carried by anyone anymore.

Pre-Covid our lodge had a strong roster of volunteers and leaders. The problem is they did not come back afterwards. We have a lot of gaps in our line right now. For example we have no Lodge instructor of Work, Our Senior and Junior Stewards have to lay down their burdens as the have become too much for too long, and we do not have replacements. Our bench strength is drained. We need people to step up.

I am sure you are asking "how" now. The answer is we have several points of contact to help with events and duties. If you can do ritual work, want to do degrees, be part of practice let the Junior Warden know and show up on Monday nights. We practice on Monday nights and execute degree on Tuesday. To help in the Kitchen again talk to the Senior Steward (when we get one) or the Junior Warden and they can get you in the right place at the right time to work with your schedule to help get things done. Talk to Right Worshipful Knowles to get to helping out widows, and finally come talk to me, I can help you find something of value to do with our lodge. No amount is too small, no skill unvalued, no time offered refused. Many hands make for light work, and makes the burden manageable for all.

Brother Mike Turner, Senior Warden

From The South



As I am settling into my role as Junior Warden, I am reminded that as with any organization, it takes a team to accomplish almost any task. Freemasonry is no exception. Kempsville Lodge is active and growing. Your support and participation are needed. Everyone has a role to play whether it is maintaining the grounds, helping with fundraisers, serving dinner, volunteering in the kitchen during our monthly breakfast, being a part of a degree team, or just being present to show support for a new candidate.

Our Investigation Committee

On behalf of Kempsville No. 196, I want to extend a HUGE thank you to these Brothers. They give of their time and talents unselfishly to interview potential candidates for membership into our lodge.

If I have omitted anyone's name I sincerely I apologize. If any Brother wishes to serve on this very worthy Committee, please let your intentions be known to our leadership.

- Worshipful Chris Anders
- Larry Daniels
- Dennis DiMaggio
- Frank Filipone
- Worshipful Jerry Hallal
- Leandro Herculano
- Jim Reyes
- Right Worshipful Bob Stanek
- Scott Sherman
- Mike Turner
- Ricky Tsikuris
- Karl Wessler

Brothers, again, thank you for your time and service to your Lodge.

Bob Hughes
Investigation Committee Coordinator

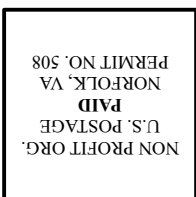
2024 Dues Notices

Brethren, 2024 annual lodge dues are now payable. Those members who have registered their email addresses on the Grand Lodge/Grand View website have received a message regarding their payable 2024 annual dues, and are able to pay the same online, if they wish to do so. Members may still pay their dues directly to the Secretary, as in the past. Those members with no email address will be mailed a dues notice. For questions, please contact the Secretary. Dues are payable in January 2024 in order to be considered current for the year. Annual Dues for 2024 are now \$150.

Right Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Warden	Michael Turner	581-4239
Junior Warden	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Howard Draper	515-3540
Junior Deacon	Chris Kammerer	348-9822
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		
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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