



Kempsville No. 196

The Rough Ashlar

March 2025

Lodge Outing

In pursuit of getting together outside of the lodge more frequently, we will be attending TopGolf on March 15 at 7 pm. I need to know who will be attending so I can reserve the correct number of bays. I need to know no later than Thursday, March 13th if you and however many guests are going to attend. Cost is roughly \$30/person which includes two hours of golf. Refreshments will need to be purchased separately.

Masonry in Action

A huge thank you to Worshipful Roger Taylor, his grandson, and Brother Karl Wessler who joined me at Shirley Salt's house on Saturday, March 8th to help her with her yard. Brother Joe is no doubt smiling down to see the lodge he loved so much come to her assistance. There is more to be done here and I hope you will join me in finishing on March 16th.



My Reflections on the Division Leadership Conference

The Division Leadership Conference for our district was held on March 1st at Khedive Shrine. The Most Worshipful Gary Huffman and an entire grand line were in attendance with the exception of the Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Matt Szramoski who has some significant health issues at the moment. Please keep him in your prayers.

First was a group presentation from the Grand Master and the finance committee. The Grand Lodge will be seeking an increase in the Lodge assessment at the Annual Communication of \$25. This means that subordinate lodges will pay grand Lodge \$80 annually per r. The breakdown of how that money will be spent is listed below.

Area	Current	Proposed	Change
Grand Lodge Operations	\$42	\$59	\$17
MAHOVA	\$10	\$10	\$0
Lodge Relief	\$0	\$1	\$1
Museum/Library	\$0.50	\$5	\$4.50
GWMNM	\$1	\$1.50	\$0.50
Grand Lodge Scholarship	\$0.90	\$1.40	\$0.50
DeMolay Foundation	\$0.20	\$0.70	\$0.50
Job's Daughters Foundation	\$0.20	\$0.70	\$0.50
Rainbow Foundation	\$0.20	\$0.70	\$0.50

Grand Total	\$55	\$80	\$25
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A discussion on how this will impact the lodge financials will be had and I will report out the impact once we crunch all the numbers.

A presentation was made on being a civil fraternity in an uncivil time. This was a great and timely presentation made by the Grand Ju Warden Right Worshipful Roy McKenney. He posed the question "how do we want the world to view freemasonry and pointed out the need go no further than Googling "anti masonic videos" to find out that there are a lot of "nuts" out there that have some really crazy c of what we are as a fraternity. This has even spread so far as having threatening calls made to local lodges and the Grand Lodge. How is primarily our behavior in the community that drives the perceptions of who we are in the community. We must act accordingly. This can be a bulwark in the community against some of the bad behaviours in the world. There is reason for optimism however. The friend and brotherly love within our fraternity is something that is sorely lacking in the rest of society at the moment. We should be above the common society and continue to live up to our obligations. "Life is short, make haste to love one another."

A presentation was made on the Grand Lodge Library and Museum by the Grand Senior Warden, Right Worshipful Gino Williams and Grand Secretary Most Worshipful Jack Lewis. As someone who appreciates and has a passion for history, I found this very interesting Virginia Grand Master's Jewel was likely designed by Paul Revere as he was one of a handful of people with the skill to have made this the time. The jewel that the Grand Master currently wears is a second jewel, the first having been lost just a few years into the grand l existence. The original was stolen by a staff member and buried in a ditch in the area surrounding the Grand Lodge. It remained there many years until it was discovered and returned to the Grand Lodge. There are multiple documents dating from the late 1700 sitting in the Grand Lodge basement that cannot be opened or unfolded until they are brought to the correct humidity and under the supervisi professionals. These are documents with Washington and Franklin's signature and a great deal of history pertaining to not only the Gr Lodge of Virginia but the country as a whole. This is the reason for the increase in funding for the library and museum, to see these ar properly preserved and displayed for everyone to enjoy.

The final presentation was on leadership made by Right Worshipful Mike Pellieter, Grand Senior Deacon and Right Worshipful John Mallirakis, Grand Junior Deacon. Different characteristics of what a good and poor leader have were discussed. A challenge was prese ask ourselves and then our lodge a couple of insightful questions which I urge you to answer for yourself now. What can the lodge do and what do you expect from the lodge? What can you do for the lodge and what can the lodge expect from you? There is power in th answers to these questions but not unless we share them with each other. I need to know what you want from the lodge and how we ca that need and what the lodge can expect from you in return. Please email me your thoughts or pull me aside and let's discuss it.

The Grand Master wrapped up the conference by reminding us of the charities the Grand Lodge is supporting which are MAHOVA, tl Masonic Youth Foundation and the Museum and Library. He charged us to know our own story on why we are freemasons and what v from the fraternity and to be the men we say we are. Finally, to share the good we offer in the world, don't hide within our lodges.

Upcoming Events

- March 11 - Stated Communication
- March 15 - TopGolf 7 pm
- March 17 - Masters, Wardens and Deacons 6 pm, District Ritual School - 7 pm, at Kempsville Lodge.
- March 22 - Kempsville Chapter Order of the Eastern Star Installation of Officers 12-3 pm
- March 22 - Kempsville DeMolay Chapter Installation of Officers - 7 pm
- March 29 - Lodge Breakfast - 8-10 am
- April 1 - Fraternal visit to Purdie Lodge No. 170 in Windsor. RSVP to the Worshipful Master no later than March 26th if you pl attend.

Stated meals

In the absence of stewards brethren have stepped up to ensure that we have a meal at each stated meeting. There are still opportunities available! Please sign up and help if you are able.

- January - Brother Ron Clark and Brother John Flavin
- February - Worshipful Justin Gray and Lady Marta Gray
- March - Worshipful Claude Watkins
- April - Right Worshipful Bob Stanek
- May - Right Worshipful Bill Knowles
- June - Worshipful Claude Watkins
- July - Worshipful Chris Anders
- August - Brother Howard Draper
- September - Right Worshipful Joe Daigle and members of Corinthian Lodge
- October - AVAILABLE!
- November - AVAILABLE!
- December - AVAILABLE!

Thank you for your continued support!

Justin Gray
Worshipful Master



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