



The Ashlar



May 2018

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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It Is Great To Be A Mason

By: Brother Danny Thomas



The years found me an admirer of the great work the Masonic Order has been doing in making this world a better place for all of us to live. I have, for a long time, desired to be one of you and rejoice that now I can proudly boast of my membership in one of the world's greatest fraternal associations. I am grateful for those individuals who have in quiet ways motivated me in my work on behalf of unfortunate children. I am grateful for the high moment in my life when the doors of Freemasonry were opened to me. Since then I have had many pleasant times of fraternal fellowship and even opportunities for service in the work of many branches of Freemasonry.

Our Order, for now I can say, "our order," teaches, "the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God" and this is great! The world needs so desperately to discover the value of this great truth in human relationships and world affairs. It is also a truth that will motivate men to continue to explore avenues of service and areas of common concerns in order to restore a measure of sanity to the madness of our day and to enrich the quality of life for all peoples everywhere. Now I join hands and heart with you in all your endeavors of philanthropy and say we must not slacken our efforts "to do good to all," especially those with needs that will not be met if we fail in our common task of service to humanity.

It is great to be a Freemason! I am proud of what we are doing. I shall assist in every way I can our work of mercy, and it doesn't hurt to be a Brother with a "big mouth and lots of television cameras" to help get the message across. Masons are people of goodwill. Our purpose is noble and humanitarian. Our labors will be crowned with success, for as Freemasons we will bring to our mission the best we have, regardless of what it demands from us in the way of sacrifice and service. We will make sure that in the tomorrows, life will be better for those who suffer today.

I was a Freemason in my heart long before I was accepted as a member in this great Fraternity. I was an out-sider but now I am one of you, and the remaining years of my life will be spent in seeking in some small way to say to all: "Thank you for making me a Freemason." I want always to make you laugh but I trust that I will also make you care and that now, together, we will put melody in the heart of the world that will sing of a better life for all people. The task challenges us to larger efforts and higher goals that will demand from all of us the best we have to make a better life for others. My promise to Freemasons everywhere is that I will give the task my best!

From The East



As you know, my theme for 2018 is the Three R's Of Masonry; Ritual, Retention, & Relief. I have covered each of these in the last three editions of the Ashlar with the goal of laying out their importance as well as steps we are taking to improve and enhance their impact on the members of our lodge. Kempsville Lodge is known for "Air-Tight" ritual so this one has been the easiest to tackle. But, as good as things are there is always room for improvement. We changed the format for our lodge school which has helped sharpen our skills. Thank you to those who are attending regularly and have shown an interest in participating in Ritual.

Retention and Relief require the lion share of our efforts. Your officers and I have worked very hard behind the scenes developing a process for each and are now ready to put things into action. To that end I am asking for volunteers to serve on Retention and Relief committees to bring these processes to life. Please let me or one of the line officers know if you have an interest in serving on a committee. We will gladly provide information about each program and answer any questions you may have. Then you can decide if it is something you are interested in doing. I promise you will find this to be very rewarding and you'll be doing your lodge a great service. This is open to every brother near and far. Please don't let the fact that you live out of the area prevent you from plugging in. This is a great way to get involved from afar and serve your lodge.

Looking ahead, it appears lodge work has slowed a little. This happens from time to time. We do have several candidates being coached so be sure to visit the lodge calendar for scheduled work nights. It is so important to attend and show your support. We will post our travel plans for the weeks we are dark as well so take advantage and join us as we travel to other lodges. Hope to see you in lodge soon.

Brother Chris Anders, Worshipful Master

From The West



Masonry – Shaping the World; The Arts and Architecture

Freemasonry has had a strong influence on the art and architecture of the United States, especially on large public buildings and parks. Sir Christopher Wren, the architect responsible for the rebuilding of London after the great fire of 1666, is recorded as a Grand Master of Masons and many of the themes of the Masonic ritual and culture can be found in his designs. Those designs heavily influenced architecture for 150 years.

Basic Masonic themes which appear in architecture include design elements in groups of three, the use of equilateral triangles, the obelisk, and the vertical division of a building into three sections.

In music the works of Mozart, Haydn, Sibelius, John Phillip Sousa, and W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan may be best known, but there are hundreds of Masonic composers in every genre from opera to rock. Organ builders recognize a "Masonic pipe organ" as a type of instrument in itself.

In literature, works by Masonic authors or featuring Masonic themes as War and Peace, The Man Who Would Be King, Kim, and the poetry of Robert Burns are well known. Contemporary works with Freemasonic themes (not all written by Masons) include science fiction such as The Artifact, Stranger in a Strange Land, The Cat Who Walked Through Walls, and the Star Wars movies. Masonry and its lessons have helped to shape the cultures of the world.

Brother Roger Taylor, Senior Warden

From The South



Brethren, it was my great pleasure this month to serve my Lodge for the first time in two significant ways: First, by coaching and successfully examining a brother in the EA catechism; second, by presiding from the East as Worshipful Master during Junior Warden's Night. I was highly gratified by the fellowship and laughter that I saw on display that night, and I would like to thank everyone who came out and joined me in our Lodge.

I am a great believer in what is known as “servant leadership”. This is a leadership philosophy where the servant-leader put the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible; the leader exists to serve people and not the other way around. As Masons we are all leaders, both inside and outside the Lodge and regardless of our station. We should all strive to serve our brothers whenever and however we can within the length of our respective cable-tows.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Junior Warden

The Finer Points

The ballot is a secret, sacred, and inviolate. It has legal status and must be conducted according to established rules. It is etiquette for the Lodge room to be in complete silence, without whispering or discussion of the candidate, while waiting to cast your ballot. This decorum continues through the declaration of the results by the Master, and the return of the participating officers to their places.

Every member of the Lodge, who is present, is obligated to ballot and should take this responsibility seriously because the ballot is of great significance to a candidate and to the Lodge. It is not proper for anyone to ask how a member has voted.

Mike Denning, Senior Deacon

35th Annual Bull Roast – June 9th

Brethren, it’s Bull Roast Time!! Come out and enjoy an awesome meal and great fellowship as we pull together to support the Masonic Home of Virginia, our Lodge Scholarship Fund, and the elevator Project. We will of course be serving our traditional menu of slow-cooked roast beef, homemade potato salad & coleslaw, the old family recipe baked beans, dinner rolls, and delicious deserts. All active members are receiving four tickets in this issue of The Ashlar to either purchase or sell. Tickets are \$12 each, \$8 for children under 12 and for takeouts and deliveries. If you need additional tickets please let me know. Cash and checks made payable to Kempsville Lodge No. 196 can be given to me or Worshipful Bob Stanek. You may also purchase your tickets electronically by PayPal, debit, or credit card. This service is available on the Lodge Website in the Payment Center and will also be available on site on the day of the Bull Roast. If you know of any

businesses interested in having a hot roast beef lunch delivered please give me a contact name and number by Thursday, June 7th. If you travel to local Lodges please announce our Bull Roast and sell some tickets. This is the biggest fund raiser of the year and in order for it to be a success we really need a big turnout. For the bakers in the lodge there are boxes of cake mix in the dining hall. It would be greatly appreciated if you take one or two to make for dessert. Please drop them off at the lodge on Friday, June 2nd. Lastly, I want to thank all the Brothers who have volunteered to help out. Your willingness to give of your time and energy to support your Lodge is simply incredible. If you haven’t yet signed up to help out and are able to do so please let me know either in person, by email at chrisanders1@gmail.com, or by phone at 635-7617. We still need volunteers!

Worshipful Chris Anders
Bull Roast Chairman

Masonic Birthdays for May

Christopher Anders, Jr. '11	J. William Miechle '09
Brandon R. Angel '07	Leslie H. Miller '72
George R. Bunch, Sr. '82	Steve T. Miller '71
Kevin T. Cotter '11	Larry Montgomery, Jr. '97
Wayne C. DeFord '93	Stanley D. Moss '96
Frank Filippone '15	G. Wilson Nelligar '84
H. Boyd Foxwell '70	Joseph R. O'Leary '96
James O. Freeman '74	Daniel F. Oliver '14
J. Timothy Freihofer '15	Gregory K. Pruitt '02
Billy F. Gordon, Jr. '03	Joseph T. Salt '62
Herbert T. Gordon '86	Jimmy B. Shehan '97
Adam Hernandez '07	Larry L. Strait, Jr. '12
John M. Hewitt '02	Russell P. Tjepkema '85
Monte P. Howell '70	William Wyndham, Jr. '83
Ross O. McLeod '06	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 690 years in Masonry!

Trestleboard

April 28	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
May 1	Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
May 8	Stated Communications Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
May 15	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
May 22	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
May 26	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
June 9	35 th Annual Bull Roast, 11AM-7PM

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

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in May:

Elizabeth Hutchinson	May 3 rd
Willie Salih	May 5 th
Bonnie Fitzgerald	May 9 th
Jackie Shelburne	May 10 th
Barbara Ambrose	May 11 th
Jackie Stephens	May 15 th
Sue Wright	May 23 rd
Grace Jone	May 29 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.

Masonic Blood Program

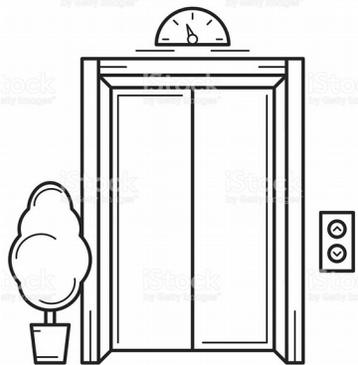
Thank you for supporting the Kempsville Lodge Blood Drive on April 16th. Next drive will be at Bayside lodge on June 18th.

AmericAn Red CrOss "mAKE sOMeOne whOLE AgAin. Without A, B & O, we can't save anybody. You are the #missingtype we need."

Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

Lodge Elevator Project

Brethren we have raised \$51,716 toward our goal of \$120,000 for the Elevator & Bathroom Project. This is a great start and I sincerely thank everyone who has donated funds or made a pledge. We are well on our way but have some distance to go before we can break ground.



Brother Roger Taylor has taken on the role of Fundraising Chairman and is working with the officers to hold fundraising events so please stay tuned for more information. The Bull Roast is fast approaching and I want to throw out a challenge to every brother in the lodge. We currently have 400 members and if every member bought the 4 tickets included in this mailing we would raise \$19,200. After we pay for the food, the donation to MAHOVA, and the Scholarships we could add roughly \$15,000 to the Elevator Project. That would be a huge boost!

Brother Chris Anders, Worshipful Master

Contact Information Update

We are in the process of cleaning up our member data base and want to make sure we have accurate contact information. Please take a moment and send Your Name, Home Address, Home Phone, Cell Phone, & e-mail Address to

kempsville196info@gmail.com

If you do not have access to e-mail please use the Bull Roast ticket envelope provided in this mailing to send the information. We want to be sure our data is current so please send it even if you believe we already have correct info. This will be a great help. Thank You!

We now accept electronic payments for annual dues and donations. Accessible on the Lodge Web Site.



We Need Your Help!

Over the next few months each of the lodge officers will be heading up a variety of fundraising events to help meet our elevator construction goals without overly taxing any single segment of our lodge family. As the fundraisers get finalized we will spread the word out via the lodge website, social media (Facebook) and email. Please support these events in whatever capacity you can. Support doesn't have to come in the form of money and in some cases the time someone can volunteer is just as crucial as a cash donation.

Brother Roger Taylor, Fundraising Chairman