



# The Ashlar



March 2019

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

Volume 66-03

Some things to consider when discussing Freemasonry with the un-initiated.

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity. It is comprised of adult men of good character from every country, religion, race, age, income, education, and opinion. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, his faith, his country, and his fraternity.

## What is a Mason?

A Mason is a man who has decided that he likes to feel good about himself and others. He cares about the future as well as the past, and does what he can, both alone and with others, to make the future good for everyone.

## When is a man a Mason?

- When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.
- When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.
- When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.
- When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.
- When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage which is the root of every virtue.
- When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man.
- When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.
- When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.
- When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.
- When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.
- When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.
- When he has kept faith with himself with his fellow man, and with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song -- glad to live, but not afraid to die!
- Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.



Right Worshipful and Reverend Joseph Fort Newton

## From The East



Our Lodge continues to impress and surprise me. The February Stated Communication was another well attended meeting and aside from typical business we welcomed the District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Matthew Morse Hood for his official visit. We also elected a candidate to receive the degrees in Freemasonry and discussed some greatly anticipated information on the Elevator Construction Project.

To summarize the elevator discussion, we have raised a notable amount of funds for the project but are still barely out of the starting blocks. Bro. Tom Beverly provided concept sketches and a roughed-out model of one of the concepts that is available for viewing in the dining hall. There are significant items that must be addressed in this early stage of planning including the removal of the fuel oil tank, site survey and soil sampling. These items will be looked at over the next month. The elevator discussion was purely informational.

The Stewards and company put together another fabulous meal. For those Brethren that missed dinner, you missed another great meal. We had a team of candidates assisting in the kitchen as well as with cleanup after dinner. These brothers are learning early the value of fellowship and are well on their way to obtaining Master's Wages.

We continue to be busy with degree work. We initiated two more new Entered Apprentices and are again in the process of validating another candidate before election at the March stated meeting. There are at least seven Entered Apprentices working their way through the requirements to advance. If you have any desire to coach a brother in the catechisms, now is a great time to start.

I would like to congratulate Kempsville DeMolay on an outstanding Spaghetti Dinner. It appeared to be very well attended and the meal was spectacular. These young men are learning some of the best lessons of life and are being guided by exceptionally devoted adults, Masons and non-Masons alike.

A contingent of Masons attended both Jobs Daughters' meetings in February and observed outstanding degree-work. These young ladies work very hard at perfecting their ritual as well as supporting the community.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

## From The West



What is Masonic leadership? The Worshipful Master and his Officers are chosen by the members of a Lodge to provide formal and visible leadership on their behalf, but does a Mason have to be a Lodge Officer to be a leader in Lodge?

I believe that the answer to this question can found in one simple definition, which states that leadership is "the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal." Simply put, every Mason has the opportunity to be a leader by motivating his brothers through his attitude, efforts, and willingness to take literally the Masonic principle that every human being has a claim on our kind offices.

On the topic of leadership, please take a moment and read Brother Bob Hughes' article this month on the Lodge food donation program that he is starting up. Anyone who knows Bob knows he is a good man and a dedicated Mason, and I would like all of us to support him and the leadership he has shown in taking on this very worthwhile project!

The Lodge will be holding its second annual fall yard sale in October. Please start setting aside any sellable items you don't want now and throughout the year so we can be ready to have a good showing this fall. We were able to raise over \$1200 in 2018 and hope to beat that number this year!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

## From The South



I would like to call out our Stewards for the fine dining we enjoy at Kempsville Lodge. February Stated served near 100 brothers and guests for our DDGM official visit. This was the second month in a row we enjoyed attendance over 90 brethren. Saturday breakfasts have seen the same record-breaking meals served. This is a testament to the dedication our Stewards put into the menu and our kitchen.

As I stated last month, our degree work remains robust. We have initiated 5 Brothers into the secrets of Masonry, we have another candidate that is out of town with work and will be initiated

upon return, a candidate for vote in March, and another petition received for a first reading. All this in the first two months of the year. Brothers, we are truly blessed.

Monday's remain our ritual school nights. We begin school at 6:30 PM (1830 for those so inclined). With so many candidates in line, there is ample opportunity if you are interested in filling a part. Just show up on Mondays or give me a call directly. Coaches are needed as well.

Brother Mike Denning, Junior Warden

## Trestleboard

March 12 ..... Stated Communication  
Junior Warden's Night  
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM  
March 19 ..... Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM  
March 30 ..... Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM  
April 9 ..... Stated Communication  
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM  
April 12 ..... Grand Masters Official District Visit  
Khedive Shrine Center, 6PM  
April 13 ..... C. Frank Hicks Area Ritual School  
Lake Drummond Lodge, 8AM  
April 15 ..... District Blood Drive  
Kempsville Lodge, 2-7PM  
April 15 ..... Parkerson Area Ritual School  
Bayside Lodge No. 218, 6PM  
April 16 ..... Spring Past Master's Night, 7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at [www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org).

## Masonic Birthdays for March

Franklin W. Beard, Jr. '73	George W. Messinger '94
R. Craig Belda '00	Robert C. Metz '92
Jackson R. Bell, Jr. '09	Sidney T. Moore '69
Orlando C. Bitanga '98	Gary B. Nye '06
Donald R. Blair '77	Charlie L. Pallett, III '87
James D. Boone '76	Michael S. Polychroni '85
William E. Combs '80	Donald K. Robinson '93
Michael L. Denning '15	Frederick W. Rudiger '03
James F. Dombey '11	Connor J. Schweitzer '17
Wayne S. Flora '67	Michael D. Scott '83
Ivan Godinez '16	Michael R. Sheehan '96
Christopher J. Jaeger '58	Fredrick A. Steinmiller '01
William M. Johnson '93	Adam W. Tarr '17
J. Duane Johnstone '64	Roger W. Taylor '11
Thomas W. Lang '05	Russell J. Tjepkema '10
Robert L. Lankford '72	Richard L. Tsikuris '18
R. Dale Leonard, Jr. '05	Linwood R. West '91
Thomas E. Lindner '83	Clifford J. Williams '13

The Brethren shown above have a total of 896 years in Masonry!

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in March:

Edna St John	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Kaye Peters	March 18 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Nickerson	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Carol Wicks	March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Hawker	March 25 <sup>th</sup>
Betty Williams	March 26 <sup>th</sup>
Carol Lenczynski	March 27 <sup>th</sup>
Jean Mordica	March 28 <sup>th</sup>
Sharon Nolan	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Elizabeth McBride	March 30 <sup>th</sup>

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.

## Save The Date - May 18, 2019



The May Stated Communication is being held on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11AM. Kempsville Lodge will host a very special and exceptionally interesting program, Cleopatra's Needle. The Brethren from Springfield Lodge No. 217 will be presenting the program that is sure to educate and entertain. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Please adjust your calendars' accordingly. More to follow on this program in later Ashlar articles.

## The Finer Points - Masonic Fellowship

The central bonds that hold Freemasonry together are found in the obligations we have taken and the commitment in which we honor them. This Fraternity of Brotherhood is committed to mutual support, understanding, and affection of each other and the Craft. Many symbols are used to express this commitment, but none are better communicated than the handshake we offer to a fellow Brother.

The foundation of any relationship is built upon its initial interactions. Visiting a new Lodge or gathering at a district meeting are opportunities to invest in our Brotherly interactions with Masons from outside of our Lodge or district.

Present your right hand of fellowship to ensure that you are meeting your obligation of friendship

and brotherly love. Hold the grip as you look your Brother in the eye and offer a hearty greeting. Own the opportunity to express your commitment to the Craft and the purpose of the union, both individually and collectively.

Every successful union is built upon the participation of its votaries. Regardless of why a Brother attends, we must welcome them to our Lodge. Introduce a visiting Brother; accommodate their needs to ensure that they have a rewarding experience. This could be a first-time visiting, or a long-absent Brother. Both should be welcomed with open minds, hearts, and arms.

Brother John Settle III, Senior Deacon

## Masonic Youth

Please attend the Stated Communication on March 12<sup>th</sup>, it is Junior Warden's Night and will be focused on Youth Programs. We expect to present a Grand Lodge Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition to a very well deserving Eagle Scout. We will also have the privilege of observing a DeMolay degree program before we open lodge.

## Additional Community Service

Kempsville Masonic Lodge will be collecting various food items and cash donations on an ongoing basis that will be donated to a local church food pantry. Canned items of all kinds, rice, sugar, peanut butter, and instant milk are always good donations. Any money collected will be used to help pay off student lunch debt for students who cannot afford a meal at school. You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open; we will have out a well-marked box to receive food items. We particularly encourage

brothers to bring a food item (or to make a small donation) at each Stated meeting and for families to bring a food item to each of our monthly breakfasts. If everyone does this, we should be able to help the food pantry stay well stocked!

Brother Bob Hughes, Food Drive Coordinator

## Grand Master's Official Visit



Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr., the 174<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of Masons in Virginia will hold his official visit at Khedive Shrine Temple in Chesapeake as a combined event with the 56<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Masonic Districts on Friday,

April 12<sup>th</sup>. Reception will begin at 6PM with dinner, remarks, awards, and presentations to follow.

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ben Jamal	553-2635
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

Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
4869 Princess Anne Road  
Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM

**The Ashlar**

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NORFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 508