



The Ashlar



April 2019

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

Volume 66-04

April 1st marks the 100th anniversary of the first DeMolay International meeting. For those that might not know about DeMolay or would like to know more I offer the following:

DeMolay, the premier international youth leadership organization, striving to shape young men into leaders of character. By epitomizing timeless values, and accepting the challenge of leadership - both of character and of action - the young men of DeMolay transform themselves into citizens of the highest caliber.

Each young man takes ownership of his DeMolay experience. From generating ideas, planning events, coordinating logistics, and executing their plans, each DeMolay Chapter is responsible for defining their success. All of this is accomplished under the mentorship of trained Advisors, selected from the local community, enabling each Chapter to be uniquely tailored to support the interests of its members. DeMolay is an inclusive organization that only asks of young men interested to believe in a higher being. A high level of involvement and enthusiasm is far more important for success in DeMolay than any particular skill or ability.



The namesake of the Order of DeMolay, Jacques DeMolay, was born in France in 1244 and joined the Order of Knights Templar at the age of 21. The Knights Templar was an organization sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church in 1128 to guard the road between Jerusalem and Acre, an important port city on the Mediterranean Sea. The Order of Knights Templar participated in the Crusades and earned a name for valor and heroism.

In 1298, Jacques DeMolay was named Grand Master of the Knights Templar, a position of power and prestige. As Grand Master however, Jacques DeMolay was also in a difficult position. The Crusades were not achieving their goals. The non-Christian Saracens defeated the Crusaders in battle and captured many vital cities and posts. The Knights Templar and the Hospitalers (another Order of Knights) were the only groups remaining to confront the Saracens.

The Knights Templar decided to reorganize and regain their strength. They traveled to the island of Cyprus, waiting for the general public to rise up in support of another Crusade. Instead of public support, however, the Knights attracted the attention of powerful lords, who were interested in obtaining their wealth and power. In 1305, Philip the Fair, King of France, set about to obtain control of the Knights Templars. They had been accountable only to the Church. To prevent a rise in the power of the Church, and to increase his own wealth, Philip set out to take over the Knights.

The year 1307 saw the beginning of the persecution of the Knights. Jacques DeMolay, along with hundreds of others, were seized and thrown into dungeons. For seven years, DeMolay and the Knights suffered torture and inhuman conditions. While the Knights did not end, Philip managed to force Pope Clement to condemn the Templars. Their wealth and property were confiscated and given to Philip's supporters.

During years of torture, Jacques DeMolay continued to be loyal to his friends and Knights. He refused to disclose the location of the funds of the Order and he refused to betray his comrades. On March 18, 1314, DeMolay was tried by a special court. King Philip ordered him to be burned at the stake that day, and thus the story of Jacques DeMolay became a testimonial to loyalty and friendship.

From The East



I recently had the pleasure of visiting with a family friend, Dave, and the subject of Masonry came up. Most of the discussion was about what we are doing here at Kempsville to

strengthen and grow the fraternity. It became obvious to me that this good man might have been a great candidate for masonry had it not been for interactions and experiences with Masons at his workplace. These experiences tainted his opinion of the order.

Dave worked at a small company with a long history of masonic ties. Many of the executives, managers and other employees over the years were masons. These were well respected members of the community and the company.

Several years ago, Dave noticed a change in the conversation of masonry around the shop. It was much more open and contained more detail on what transpired in a lodge than he was accustomed to hearing. This troubled Dave. It troubled him so much that he went to the "oldest" mason he knew and expressed his concern; that secrets were being discussed in open forum. Although Dave wasn't a mason, he had a good idea of what was intended to be public knowledge and what wasn't.

This "Old Mason" explained to Dave [in a condensed version] that the fraternity is made up of men of all walks of life, each meeting the requirements for entry. Each man has his own reasons for joining masonry, some charitable, some altruistic while others are less noble. Some men join just so they can wear the square and compass.

At first, I was offended and didn't want to accept that we would allow such a thing. After some reflection I recalled masonry teaches the proportions of this vast machine are made up of numberless parts, all with a purpose. The Great Architect assembled those parts and orchestrates their movement according to his plan. The fraternity needs members of all types. So long as a brother governs himself and keeps his actions within due bounds, he is a welcomed brother and friend among us.

We need members of all types. Those that wear Masonic jewelry but rarely attend lodge as well as those that attend every meeting. Those that talk about the craft openly and those that never say a word about it outside of the lodge.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

From The West



One of the most important of the (many) responsibilities of a Senior Warden is planning for his year in the East. As I go through this process, I fortunately have the strong legacy of

my many talented and dedicated predecessors to build upon. That being said, conducting this planning has caused me to think long and hard about what makes a Lodge thrive. How do we measure the success of a Lodge?

In order to answer this question, we have to look at the full masonic "life cycle" of each of our brothers and ask ourselves a number of questions. When we bring in and confer the degrees on new members, do we give them the proper time and attention to ensure that they mature into knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and capable Master Masons? Once they are Master Masons, do we encourage their continuing masonic education by providing them with interesting and meaningful presentations during Stated meetings and encourage them to participate in our Lodge and District schools, ritual work, and Lodge visitations? Do we routinely contact our older and infirm brothers to check on their health and welfare and, when they have finally put down their working tools and departed this life, do we pay them the last full measure of respect by ensuring the craft is well-represented at their funerals? These are all areas we need to continually and carefully monitor if we are to maintain a healthy, vibrant, and active Lodge.

On a different note, we are off to a great start with our food donation program. We collected a nice amount of food and cash donations during our first collections in February, and at the March Stated alone we doubled the amount of cash donations collected over the previous month. Please make it a habit to bring a food item or make a small donation at our Stated and monthly breakfasts! Your generosity benefits the community, the Lodge, and the Craft as a whole.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

From The South



Thank you to Worshipful Roger Taylor and all the Brethren of Kempsville in allowing me the opportunity to set in the East for our March Stated Communication. I greatly appreciate the support and vote of confidence, it was a night I will remember fondly.

We elected another candidate to receive the degrees in Masonry along with two more first readings. Although I sound like a broken record, it is a welcome repeat. Our cup runneth over with good fortune that candidates continue to look to Kempsville Lodge to call home. Please consider becoming a coach to guide new members in their journey. With all the new candidates so far, many hands make for light work and the friendship built as a coach lasts a lifetime.

As Masons we are instructed that our generous principles are to extend further. Every human being has a claim on your kind offices. In this vain, Brother Hughes is collecting donations for the local food bank on behalf of Kempsville Lodge. A basket is positioned inside the door of the Lodge to hold contributions. Please consider bringing a food item when you stop by.

Brother Mike Denning, Junior Warden

Masonic Birthdays for April

Eugene M. Ambrose '90	Todd C. Moissett '11
Charles R. Bateman, Jr. '14	Michael R. Moseler '72
David E. Boyd '88	Richard E. Neisinger '74
Allen K. Chandler '87	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
S. Ray Connard '91	Brian E. Parton '01
Louis P. Dunn '77	Emmett R. Reynolds '11
Aaron J. Dyer '12	G. Frank Roberts, Jr. '64
Thomas C. England '11	Alaric J. Roche, Jr. '64
Justin C. Faucette '16	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Christopher M. Favata '10	John R. Settle, III '12
Justin A. Flowers '12	W. Earle Spruill, Sr. '67
L. David Foxwell '75	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
John A. Gabor '92	Robert J. Tidwell '77
George L. Gunter '69	David M. Trzeciakiewicz '15
Warren C. Massey '50	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
Terrence P. McNally '78	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 943 years in Masonry!

Trestleboard

March 30 Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
 April 2 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 April 9 Stated Communication
 Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
 April 12 Grand Master's 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
 April 23 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 April 27 Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
 April 30 Entered Apprentice Degree, 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 April:

Cheryl Farrer	April 2 nd
Patricia Quinton	April 4 th
Judith Naprsteh	April 7 th
Sherry Vancampen	April 7 th
Mary Lou Cochran	April 20 th
Denise Bement	April 20 th
Paige Mason	April 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.

Save The Date - May 18, 2019



The May Stated Communication is being held on Saturday May 18th 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.

The Finer Points - Left Foot Forward

As Masons, we always step off with our left foot. Just as important as this first step into Masonry is the follow through with the right. The right foot tells of not only our level attained in Masonry, either Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason, but it also shows our commitment to the Craft. Our footwork is our initial physical evidence that we show of our Masonic dedication. Are we placing our heels properly? Are we squaring our corners when we approach the altar or the East? When we give the Due Guard and sign, our feet set the tone of our commitment.

When we stood in the northeast corner of the Lodge, we were just and upright Masons. This charge, demonstrated with our feet and erect posture, acknowledges our desire and commitment to the Craft. Just as the corner stone of a building must be set perfectly square and level, our feet must be similarly set. If a Mason steps off incorrectly, his body language and actions will follow. We all must focus on the Craft one step at a time. Every word in Masonry is vital to the true understanding of our Craft. Just like these words, many unspoken signs and symbols are used to convey meaning and purpose without saying a word.

Brother John Settle III, Senior Deacon

Additional Community Service

Kempsville Masonic Lodge is collecting food items and cash donations for 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.

Brother Bob Hughes, Food Drive Coordinator

Grand Master's Official Visit



Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, Jr., the 174th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia will hold his official visit at Khedive Shrine Temple in Chesapeake as a combined event with the 56th and 36th Masonic Districts on Friday, April 12th. 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

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