

Notes from the Secretary

Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219
A.F. & A.M.
8717 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, VA 22308
August Trestleboard
mountvernonlodge219.wordpress.com

A View from the East

My Brethren of Mount Vernon Lodge,

Thanks go to Right Worshipful Gary Taylor, Grand Senior Warden, for your speech on Masonic leadership. His talk was inspiring, challenging, and humorous. The lodge was grateful for his attendance, as well as the attendance of Right Worshipful William E. Hershey, Grand Junior Warden, and Right Worshipful James W. Golladay, Grand Junior Deacon, of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Thank you to the National Sojourners Old Dominion Chapter 364 and Light Horse Harry Lee Camp, Heroes of '76, for making our July stated communication remarkable. The flag presentation and narration was conducted with sincerity and dignity, and filled our hearts with pride. For those who want to learn more about the Sojourner's, visit their website at nationalsojourners.org.

Fund raising: The flea markets in June and July have raised a total \$840 to cover lodge operating costs. The flea markets has been going well and sellers indicate they desire to continue this event next year. Currently, we are scheduled for two more on August 27 and September 24. If you would like to volunteer to support the flea market, contact me.

Temple maintenance update: Improvements are still being made to our lodge. Thanks to Wor. Gary Liebo and Wor. John Stillman for bringing electricity to the dishwasher and garbage disposer; and Bro. Charles Cleveland and Wor. John Killian for updating our marquee. Work projects continue on painting the fire door, replacing the windows in the kitchen and secretary's office, replacing the kitchen countertop, remodeling the women's bathroom upstairs, replacing the stove, and installing a mosaic floor in the lodge, updating the electrical wiring, and maintaining the parking lot. The building committee will develop a five year plan for maintenance projects at the lodge.

We all enjoy eating together and sharing in comradery and fellowship with the brethren. As we do so, please remember to "contribute as liberally as you can, without material injury to yourself or your family" to the steward's box, located at the head of the serving line. Your contribution makes these meals possible; it also expresses gratitude. A gift of \$10 at a meal would make a big difference in covering the cost. Thank you for your understanding and support Brethren.

Finally, dress for our August stated communication will be business casual. Look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

John Wilson
Worshipful Master 2016

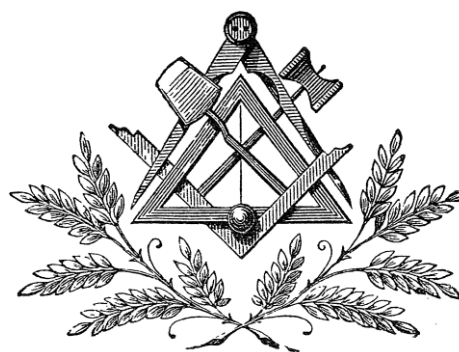
My Brethren and Friends,

Allocation of one's time and effort is one of the greatest gifts any man can give. The Lodge and what it represents in our lives, it is true, means many different things to each of us. But the Lodge is not just one of us, its all of us. Examine your schedule and find just a little space to participate in a Lodge activity. Be it the breakfast or the Stated Communication, a grateful welcome and brotherly handshake awaits you.

I thank each and everyone of you for the thoughts, prayers, cards, offers of assistance and patience during my Illness and Recovery. There are good days and bad days but I am on the path to becoming 100% again.

Fraternaly and Respectfully,

Robert Mertz, PDDGM



2016 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master – John Wilson
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Senior Warden – Gary Leibo
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August Calendar of Events

Vacation Month Limited Activity

- August 13 Lodge Family cookout @ 11am
- August 22 Stated Communication
- August 27 Summer Flea Market and Yard Sale

Future Scheduled Events

- Sept 17 Widow’s Recognition Breakfast
- Sept 24 Summer Flea Market (fund raiser)
- Sept 26 Stated communication
(Past Master’s Recognition Night)
- October 8 Community clean-up day
- October 17 Visit Elmer Timmerman Lodge #54
- October 24 Stated communication
- November 4-6 Grand Annual Communication in Richmond
- November 28 Stated communication
- December 19 Stated communication

Annual Yard Sale

The Lodge’s annual garage sale is set for August 27 and will be held in conjunction with the Summer Flea Market. You are welcome to bring sale items to the Lodge for storage. Contact Bro. John Dahik if you have questions about the garage sale. See John Wilson if you have questions about the flea market.

Masonic Words of the Month

- Bourne** – bound; goal; that which limits; end
- Impious** – ungodly; wicked; lacking reverence
- Reformation** – the act of reforming or correcting



50/50 Raffle in support of MAHOVA

Brethren, we began having a 50/50 raffle at our stated communications. The proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will go to support MAHOVA. One of the requirements of the Hillman award is for the lodge to contribute \$3.00 per member to MAHOVA. After we meet this goal, we’ll use the 50/50 raffle to support our Masonic youth organizations. Tickets are \$5.00 each. You can buy as many tickets as you want.

Distressed or Ill

Please remember those who are distressed or ill.... WB Covert Williamson’s father has passed away, RW Grayson Koogle’s son has passed away.

WB Covert Williamson, WB Charles Hinkle, RW Bill Shortt’s wife, Sonia, Bro. Vearl Bowers, and Bro. James Jewell all suffer from illness. If there are other Brethren we need to remember, please let the Secretary or the Master know.

James Noah Hillman Award

We are making satisfactory progress to the James Noah Hillman Award. The following announcements relate to accomplishing that goal.

Community Builder’s Award.

The Lodge seeks nominations for the Community Builder’s Award. This program is designed to recognize and show our appreciation for outstanding community-oriented achievements of non-Masons who reside and work in our cities and towns. There are many hard working, dedicated men and women in our communities who have served others with no expectation of reward. We should continue with renewed vigor to search them out and show them that we are proud of their good works, that we are happy that they are personally instrumental in making and building our communities into a better place for all people to live, work, and play. The nomination form can be found on our website. Please submit your nominations to the Worshipful Master.

Correspondence courses, Blood donation, MAHOVA donations

Remember, please let the lodge secretary know if you take any correspondence courses, give blood, or make a donation to the Masonic Home of Virginia. All of these good deeds can also be counted as points toward the Hillman award. Thank you.

Widows Recognition Breakfast

September 17, 2016 will mark a day of Thanks and Recognition for the widows of those brethren who have departed this earthly realm. All are encouraged to attend this event to honor the memories our brothers.

In Freemasonry, the broken column is, as Master Freemasons well know, the emblem of the fall of one of the chief supporters of the Craft.

The use of the column or pillars as a monument erected over a tomb was a very ancient custom, and was a very significant symbol of the character and spirit of the person interred.



The broken column memorializes the end of our earthly life. Surrounding the broken column are acacia leaves, symbolic of our eternal life.

Life Membership in Perpetuity

Why become a Life Member in Perpetuity (LMIP):

1. You no longer pay annual dues, so future dues increases will not affect you.
2. Your Lodge will receive an assessment credit from Grand Lodge every year —forever—even after you pass to the Celestial Lodge.
3. You receive a permanent membership card, certificate, and pin.

The cost of a LMIP is determined by multiplying annual dues by 16, so a LMIP in 2016 costs \$1,600. You must also be CURRENT (paid your dues) for the year in which you apply for LMIP. Please contact the Secretary for more information. Please contact the Secretary if you have not received your dues card or for more information.



Masonic Birthdays

JULY

David Edward Boothe	7/30/1969
Donald Lee Cottle	7/30/1969
Manuel Mario Cumes	7/20/1977
Cecil Gene Elder	7/16/1980
Ronald Thomas Graves	7/2/1964
Michael Howard	7/27/2005
Fred Gerd Guerke	7/24/1974
James Keith Harmon	7/10/2002
Grayson Leroy Koogle	7/8/1970
Kenneth Ray Meade	7/15/1981
Aurthur Lynwood Nalls, Jr.	7/14/1976
Douglas Eugene Shelton	7/10/1991
David Henry Smith, Jr.	7/29/2004
John Thomas Tillery	7/22/1972
Donald Walter Wiethuecter	7/1/1964
Covert Wesley Williamson III	7/26/1972

AUGUST

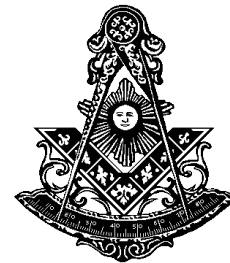
Carl Ray Beard	8/26/1964
Kieth Andrew Carper	8/28/2004
Robert Bruce Chaddock	8/14/1991
Eric Robert Guthrie	8/20/1997
Lucas Ernest Hoska	8/27/2005
Norman Frederick Pedigro	8/18/1960
David Henry Smith	8/16/1978
Wayne Edward West	8/31/2015
David Clinton White	8/25/1965

Honorary Members

<i>Most Worshipful</i> George Harry Chapin	2000
<i>Right Worshipful</i> Samuel Thomas Atkinson	2005
<i>Worshipful</i> Charles Cecil Hinkle	2005
<i>Right Worshipful</i> Lee Jackson Sloppy	2005
<i>Worshipful</i> Covert Wesley Williamson III	2015
<i>Worshipful</i> Arturo de Hoyos	2016
<i>Worshipful</i> Michael John King	2016
<i>Worshipful</i> Arthur Cardoso Ferreira	2016

Calling all Past Masters

1. In an effort to preserve the history of our lodge, I'm asking all past master's to please record the highlights of their year, or in some cases years, as master. Please record humorous or interesting stories, and accomplishments or contributions made by individuals or the lodge. We will lay these records up, in the archives, of the Lodge, as a memorial to our accomplishments.
2. I would also like to invite you all to Past Master's Recognition Night in September. I ask all past masters who are able to please attend our stated communication.



Living Past Masters

WB James E. Coffee	1965
WB Sidney Stark	1969
RW Samuel T. Atkinson, PDDGM	1971
WB Roy C. Bragg Jr.	1981
WB Stanley R. Stewart	1983
RW Ralph E. Simmons, PDDGM	1984
WB Douglas M. Dwyer	1986
WB Lorance D. Lisle	1989
WB David H. Smith	1990 1991
WB John D. Killian	1996 1997
RW Lee J. Sloppy, PDDGM	1998
WB Charles C. Hinkle	1999
WB Daniel W. Hinkle	2000
WB Covert W. Williamson III	2001 2006
WB Manuel M. Cumes	2002
RW Grayson L. Koogle, PDDGM	2003 2014
WB Phillip S. Downs Jr.	2004
WB Bob L. Feigenblatt	2005 2009
WB Ronald G. Elliott	2007 2008 2010 2013
WB John T. Tillery	2011 2012
RW Matthew T. Szramoski, PDDGM	2015

Famous Masons



James Monroe - April 28, 1758 – July 4, 1831) was the fifth President of the United States, serving between 1817 and 1825. Monroe was the last president who was a Founding Father of the United States and the last president from the Virginian dynasty and the Republican Generation. Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, Monroe

was of the planter class and fought in the American Revolutionary War. He was wounded in the Battle of Trenton with a musket ball to his shoulder. After studying law under Thomas Jefferson from 1780 to 1783, he served as a delegate in the Continental Congress. As an anti-federalist delegate to the Virginia convention that considered ratification of the United States Constitution, Monroe opposed ratification, claiming it gave too much power to the central government. He took an active part in the new government, and in 1790 he was elected to the Senate of the first United States Congress, where he joined the Jeffersonians. He gained experience as an executive as the Governor of Virginia and rose to national prominence as a diplomat in France, when he helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. During the War of 1812, Monroe held the critical roles of Secretary of State and the Secretary of War under President James Madison.

Facing little opposition from the fractured Federalist Party, Monroe was easily elected president in 1816, winning over 80 percent of the electoral vote and becoming the last president during the First Party System era of American politics. As president, he bought Florida from Spain and sought to ease partisan tensions, embarking on a tour of the country that was generally well received. With the ratification of the Treaty of 1818, under the successful diplomacy of his Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, the United States extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, giving America harbor and fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest. The United States and Britain jointly occupied the Oregon Country. In addition to the acquisition of Florida, the landmark Treaty of 1819 secured the border of the United States along the 42nd Parallel to the Pacific Ocean and represented America's first determined attempt at creating an "American global empire". As nationalism surged, partisan fury subsided and the "Era of Good Feelings" ensued until the Panic of 1819 struck and dispute over the admission of Missouri embroiled the country in 1820. Nonetheless, Monroe won near-unanimous reelection.

Monroe supported the founding of colonies in Africa for freed slaves that would eventually form the nation of Liberia, whose capital, Monrovia, is named in his honor. In 1823, he announced the United States' opposition to any European intervention in the recently independent countries of the Americas with the Monroe Doctrine, which became a landmark in American foreign policy. His presidency concluded the first period of American presidential history before the beginning of Jacksonian democracy and the Second Party System era. Following his retirement in 1825, Monroe was plagued by financial difficulties. He died in New York City on July 4, 1831. Originally buried in New York his remains are now interred in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Was made a Mason November 9, 1775, in Williamsburg Lodge (now No. 6), A.F. & A.M., and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Trestleboard via Email

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Any Corrections or additions to the Bulletin please contact the Master or Secretary

