

## *Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219*

**A.F. & A.M.**

**P.O. Box 74**

**Mount Vernon, VA 22121**

### *October 2018 Trestleboard*

*If you would like to receive the Trestleboard via hard copy in the mail, please contact the Lodge secretary.*

#### *From the East*

Brethren, As I write this column I am at my home in Wilmington, NC. I was here during Hurricane Florence. The power of Mother Nature is truly awesome, and very destructive. While I sustained some landscape damage, it pales in comparison to many in my community and surrounding areas. I count my blessings, and I pray for all those severely impacted. The Supreme Architect of the Universe was good to me. I pray he will provide comfort and healing for those around me who were not spared from the wrath of Mother Nature. And I would be remiss if I did not say THANK YOU to my brothers who reached out to check on me and provide words of comfort during and after the storm!

I have attached to this Trestleboard the Lodge Annual Report which I submitted to the District Deputy Grand Master just a few days ago. It lays out a comprehensive report of our accomplishments this year. I am also happy to report that I submitted our Hillman Award application. I am confident we will receive a positive endorsement from our DIW, DEO, and DDGM, and look forward to receiving this award on behalf of our Lodge at the Grand Annual Communication.

In response to a proclamation from our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Gary Wallace Taylor, I have included in the 'Did You Know Piece' the history of our Grand Lodge of Virginia. The full history can be found on the Grand Lodge web site at

<https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/history-grand-lodge-of-va-full/>.

Sincerely & Fraternaly  
Al Glaeser, Worshipful Master

#### *From the Secretary*

Brethren, Dues notices will be mailed by December 1. If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please do so immediately. If you are having financial difficulty, please contact me and we will confidentially resolve it. Your membership is appreciated and needed! If you are undergoing an illness or have lost a loved one, please let us know. If you are local, we'd like to visit you, and if you are not, we will keep you in our prayers and would like to reach out to you by phone or with a card.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Matt Szramoski, PDDGM, Lodge Secretary

#### *Did You Know?*

The Grand Lodge of Virginia was formally constituted on October 30, 1778, with its headquarters in Williamsburg, Virginia by the union of nine chartered Lodges: Norfolk, Port Royal, Blandford, Fredericksburg, Saint Tammany, Williamsburg, Botetourt, Cabin Point, and Yorktown. Responding to a proposition from Williamsburg Lodge, delegates from Norfolk, Port Royal, Blandford, and Cabin Point met in Williamsburg on May 6, 1777. Matthew Phripp, of Norfolk, was elected President of the meeting, and James Kemp, of Port Royal, Secretary. It was the unanimous opinion of the convention that a Grand Master ought to be chosen to preside over the Craft in Virginia. A committee was appointed to prepare a statement giving the reasons for such action. The report of the committee stated that the then chartered Lodges had been established under five distinct and separate authorities (England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania and America); that little benefit could be derived from a Grand Master appointed by foreign authority; that recourse to a "Grand Lodge beyond the sea" was almost impossible; and that the Mother Grand Lodges claimed the right to elect their officers distinct and separate from any foreign power whatsoever, and that therefore they were privileged to claim the same right—a right that Masons in all time had enjoyed.

The contents of the report were sent to each chartered Lodge in the State, with a request that delegates be sent to a convention to be held in Williamsburg on June 23, 1777. Delegates from five Lodges (Blandford, Port Royal, Fredericksburg, Williamsburg, and Cabin Point) met at Williamsburg on June 23, 1777. It was

unanimously agreed that the election of a Grand Master was essential “to the prosperity and dignity of Masonry.”

It was suggested that the several chartered Lodges contact their respective Grand Masters in their Mother country and solicit the appointment of some worthy Mason resident within the State of Virginia as Grand Master. It was further recommended that His Excellency, General George Washington, was a proper person to fill the office of Grand Master (WB George Washington was unable to accept the honor due to his military duties in the war for American independence, and because he had at that time never been installed as Master or Warden of a Lodge and therefore did not consider it Masonically legal to serve as Grand Master). However, if the individual Lodges should prefer some other person, they were to notify Williamsburg Lodge. If no selections had been made by June 1, 1778, a convention, to be called by the Master of Williamsburg Lodge, should proceed to elect a Grand Master. Right Worshipful James Mercer, President of the Convention, called the convention as hereinafter provided, for the 13th day of October, 1778. Blandford, Williamsburg, Botetourt and Cabin Point sent delegates. Robert Andrews of Williamsburg Lodge was named Master of the Convention. After its organization, the convention proceeded to the election of a Grand Master. Right Worshipful Warner Lewis, Past Master of Botetourt Lodge, was named, but declined to accept. Right Worshipful John Blair, Jr., Past Master of Williamsburg Lodge, was then unanimously elected the first Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The installation of Grand Lodge Officers occurred on October 30, 1778, at which time there was a good attendance of Brethren from the several subordinate lodges. After his installation, Most Worshipful Brother Blair was pleased to appoint the following Grand Officers: Right Worshipful Rev. Robert Andrews, Deputy Grand Master; Dr. James Taylor, Senior Grand Warden; James M. Fontaine, Junior Grand Warden; Dr. John Minson Galt, Grand Treasurer; Duncan Rose, Grand Secretary; the Rev. James Madison, Grand Chaplain; Matthew Anderson, Grand Sword Bearer, and William Urie, Grand Tiler. So began the glorious history of Masonry in Virginia. The Grand Lodge of Virginia was relocated to Richmond, Virginia in 1784.

### *October Calendar*

1 Oct 7:00 PM Called Communication, EA Degree  
13 Oct 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM: MAHOVA Open House  
22 Oct 6:30 PM Stated, *US Constitution, Bring-a-Friend*

***Brethren – the October stated communication program is being presented by WB Barry Mensch (we pushed this back from September to October). He will be discussing the US Constitution and the influence Freemasonry may have had on the drafting of that document. This will be an open program and is perfectly suited for bringing a friend. Please reach out to other good men that you know and ask them to join you for this program.***

### *October Masonic Birthdays*

Benjamin Basil Albert	10/22/1952
Philip Sylvester Downs	10/20/1999
Ronald Gene Elliott, Sr.	10/30/1962
Anthony Keith Feigenblatt	10/18/2006
Mark Alexander Keagle	10/20/2014
Robert George Mertz, Jr.	10/18/1993
Ronald Paul Miklovic, II	10/21/1998
Roman Ortega, Jr.	10/04/2007
Karl Luke Park, Jr.	10/16/1974
William Thomas Spencer	10/15/1973
Stanley Rae Stewart	10/10/1973
David Earl Thompson	10/22/2003

### *Lodge Officers*

**Worshipful Master-** Al Glaeser

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**Secretary-** Matt Szramoski, PDDGM

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**Please see the Lodge web site for a complete list of officers and other information for our Lodge:  
<https://mountvernonlodge219.wordpress.com/>**

**PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED MOUNT  
VERNON LODGE ANNUAL REPORT**