

Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219

A.F. & A.M.

P.O. Box 74

Mount Vernon, VA 22121

November 2018 Trestleboard

From the East

Brethren, The year is rapidly winding down, but it is not over yet. We still have some important events.

- We have a called communication to confer another Entered Apprentice degree on 5 November. We have several of our officers travelling that day, so we need all hands to attend.
- We have the Grand Annual Communication (GAC) from 7 – 11 November. We again have a number of our officers/brethren attending (8 in total). Our own WB Dave Smith will be installed at the GAC as our 2019 District Deputy Grand Master for District 1B. And we are expecting to receive the Hillman Award at the GAC, so I hope more brethren will attend to help us celebrate these significant events.
- Our November stated communication will be on 26 November. We should have our Bethel 22 presenting a mock Master Mason meeting. This should be a fun program and provide an opportunity for us to wind down the year with some levity.
- Finally, we are scheduling dates to present two Community Builder Awards before the end of the year. Stay tuned for more information.

On that note, I pray all of you get to spend time with family, friends and loved ones over the holidays. May the God of Peace and Love be with you all during this special time of the year.

Sincerely & Fraternally
Al Glaeser, Worshipful Master

From the Secretary

Brethren, In your dues notice (which will go out on December 1) you will notice an increase in the amount. This is due to a \$10 increase from the Grand Lodge and an \$18 increase by the lodge. This amount was approved by a change to the bylaws at the September stated communication. This is the first dues increase the lodge has had in a decade and was necessary to meet rising costs due to inflation. Annual dues are now \$135, including all Grand Lodge fees and assessments. Please let me know if you have any questions. I encourage you to consider the Life Membership in Perpetuity Program to avoid any increases in the future. For more information on this program or if you have any questions on annual dues please contact me.

Sincerely & Fraternally

Matt Szramoski, PDDGM, Lodge Secretary

Did You Know?

Bro John Philip Sousa (1854-1932), the man called "March King," was proud to be a native-born American. And make no mistake that he was also proud to be a Mason. He was born in our nation's capital in a section then known as the "Navy Yard." As he put it, his home was "in the shadow of the Capitol dome," and as he witnessed the sights and sounds of Civil War activities, his love of America grew.

He enlisted as an apprentice in the U.S. Marine Band at age 13 and eventually spent a total of 19 years in military service. Sousa's Masonic affiliations aren't common knowledge, but he entered Masonry at age 26 and was a Master Mason for 51 years. Three of his best known marches have Masonic origins: "The Crusader" (1888), "The Thunderer" (1889), and "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" (1923).

Sousa loved his native country with a passion seldom demonstrated more eloquently, and he took every opportunity to let the world know. If asked about his occupation, he was quick to answer, "I'm a salesman of Americanism." Some of Sousa's marches have military titles, but his colors show through clearly in his patriotic titles. Consider these examples: "America First," "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty," "The Invincible Eagle," "The Messiah of Nations," "Liberty Bell" and, of course, his most famous composition, "The Stars and Stripes

Forever." His patriotism was even more evident during World War I. At age 62, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy (at the symbolic salary of \$1/ month) to train Navy bandsmen at Great Lakes Naval Training Station north of Chicago. While there, he took a huge "jackie" band (a band made up of recruits) on a tour to raise money for war causes.

The most famous of all his marches is, of course, "The Stars and Stripes Forever." It is our official national march and is considered by many to be the finest march ever written. The title says exactly what Sousa meant it to say.

John Philip Sousa's Masonic History:

- 15 July 1881, Initiated, Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, DC;
- 2 September 1881, Passed, Hiram Lodge;
- 10 November 1881, Raised, Hiram Lodge;
- 16 September 1886, Received Capitular Degrees and exalted in Eureka Chapter No. 4 (later Eureka Naval Chapter);
- 3 December 1886, Received Order of Red Cross, Malta, and Temple;
- 10 December 1886, Knighted in Columbia Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, Washington, DC;
- 21 April 1922, Initiated in A.A.O.N.M.S., Almas Temple, Washington, D.C., named honorary leader of Almas Temple Band;
- 10 March 1932, a Masonic memorial service was held at the grave site in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC, after Sousa's death.

November Calendar

5 Nov 7:00 PM Called Communication, EA Degree
7 - 11 Nov Grand Annual Communication
25 Nov 10 AM – 2 PM, District 1B Blood Drive at
Springfield Lodge No. 217
26 Nov 6:30 PM Stated, *Bethel 22 Mock MM Meeting*

Brethren – the December stated communication will be 17 December and will include the election of officers for next year. The incoming Worshipful Master has planned an open installation on 22 December. Installation practice will be on 19 December at the Lodge. Please mark your calendars.

November Masonic Birthdays

Bob I. Feigenblatt	11/16/1989
William Vernon Hitchcock	11/19/1991
Roy Louis Learnard	11/23/1992
Earl Delbert Magill	11/15/1972
Gene Robert Richardson	11/17/1971
Ronald Louis Stokes	11/15/2000
James Raymond Wallace	11/22/1972

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master- Al Glaeser
wm@mtvernon210.org
(C) 703-595-3200

Secretary- Matt Szramoski, PDDGM
secretary@mtvernon219.org
(O) 202-777-3143 (H) 703-347-9549

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