

Trestleboard

Unity No. 146 Masonic Lodge
Chartered December 13, 1870 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia
www.Unity146.org

February 2013

Master's Message

Brethren of Unity Lodge No.146 A.F.&A.M.,

I trust this message finds each of my brothers and your family well. Last month my message focused on our thoughts and how thoughts affect and control our lives and even our health. This month my message will address how Master Masons meet, act, and part; The Level, The Plum, and The Square.

Our Lodge programs have been both informative and thought provoking and we have enjoyed our fellowship with each other. Administrative matters have been heard and decisions made. There is nothing else to offer from the West, South or from the brethren. We offer our devotions to Deity and assemble about the altar. The closing charge is recited and we are reminded of our solemn duties. The next time you have the opportunity to witness the closing charge, I challenge each brother to listen carefully to the next; Brother Senior Warden, how shall Master Masons meet? On The Level. How act Brother Junior Warden? By The Plum. And Part upon The Square, thus may we ever Meet, Act, and Part.

We Meet Upon The Level: All men are created equal in the eyes of The Great Architect of the Universe. It matters not of wealth, material objects, stature or position in life. The Level reminds even a King that although a crown may adorn the head and a scepter the hand, yet the blood in his veins is derived from the same Almighty Parent, and is no better than that of the humblest citizen. When we walk through The Door, we become equal. Do we really treat all men equal? Do we have some unkind thought or word about our fellow man, more especially a brother? Dealing with problems and personalities can be very challenging and difficult, we are not perfect, but we have promised to remind our brother of his error and aid a reformation. We must treat each other with respect and dignity as we search for solutions together.

WE Act Upon The Plum: The Great Architect of the Universe knows what is in our heart and mind and bears witness to all that is true. The Plum admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations in life before God and man. Do our brothers, our family, friends, co-workers and even strangers think, there stands a just and upright Mason? We are instructed to ever walk and act as such, but do we really? Sitting in Lodge is our opportunity to refresh our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life.

We Part Upon The Square: We square our actions by the square of virtue treating each other with equal reverence and dignity. We are received on the angle of a square, which reminds us to square our actions by the square of virtue toward all mankind, and teaches us friendship, morality and brotherly love. Do we treat every human being with dignity and respect? Do we look down on people because they may be different?

These three very important reminders we hear just before closing our Lodge should reminds us that we are traveling on that broad level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. When our time on earth is over and we are finally called home to that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, we will receive our reward, "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

S & F,
Dennis Mark Haas
Worshipful Master

Events

February 6

Lodge Dinner 6:30 pm
Stated 7 :30 pm
Office Visit of
DDGM RW
Joel David Ratliff, Sr.

February 23

Breakfast 8:00 am

April 2

Official Visit of Grand
Master to District 3
Unity Lodge, 6:30 pm

April 13

Table Lodge

April 24

Blood Drive
Unity Lodge

Inside

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A Revolutionary Suggestion

By D. McN. Lowe, M.M.

In the ancient cathedral days when Operative Masonry was at its height and Operative Lodges had formed that pattern on which our rituals of today are based Lodges were truly places of instruction.●

The supervisors who formed the officers of the Lodges were well skilled craftsmen who had earned their position by a study of the principles of their craft.

Not to be found among them were men solely engaged and only interested in the shaping of stones in the quarry or the laying of these stones in serried tiers, content with the accomplishment of the routine task and the collection of the daily wage.

Only those who, with greater ambition, studied the then difficult sciences of algebra and geometry and who had proved themselves master craftsmen by their knowledge of the fundamental principles of Architectural science could hope to achieve the position of Overseer or aspire to that of the principal officer of the Lodge.

Is it not time that we went back to that ancient and salutary custom?

Today too often we promote up the ladder of Masonic advancement too many who are only layers of stone tier on tier, their Masonic knowledge nothing but the ability to repeat, word perfectly, the lectures and the various portions of the ritual laid

down for their guidance, who, Masonically, have never progressed beyond the ancient hewers of stones and layers of blocks.

Like those ancient workmen interested only in placing their stones along the strict lines set by the chalk line and the plumb line they have no vision of the beauty of the finished structure on which they work. Content with perfection in the repetition of ritualistic phrases the search for the meaning and the message behind those phrases is too often regarded as of secondary importance.

As the overseers of the ancient Operative Lodges had to prove their knowledge and their grasp of the fundamentals of their craft why should not the prospective officers of our Lodges have also to prove that they are not merely layers of stone in line but fitted to act as leaders and teachers?

All we ask of our initiates is a parrot-like repetition of ceremonial details and too often, that same parrot efficiency is sufficient passport to the highest office.

Nowhere in the procession which

leads to the East is the man who is so raised in order that he may instruct his brethren' ever called upon to prove that he has looked beyond the symbols and ritual he so correctly repeats to fathom the lessons which they convey.

Is it too late to return to the practice of our ancient operative brethren by calling upon any member who has ambition for advancement through the chairs to present before the Lodge a paper on some aspect of Masonic symbolism or ritual as a pre-requisite to election or appointment to office?

The idea is not impossible of attainment. Ample literature is available for the man who has incentive to study. Most lodges boast libraries although too often the key to these might well be lost without anyone being aware of the fact. Fortunately, too there are few lodges, which do not count among their members some students of Freemasonry, its history and its meaning, able to aid the brother who aspires to office in the lodge.

With leaders so prepared Masonry will then take a tremendous step toward becoming that moral force in the world which should be its destiny.

AF&AM of Germany and visited a Grand Masters' conference in Washington, DC, he distributed. 2

FRATRIBUS IN UNITATE
BROTHERS IN
UNITY //

Message from the Order of the Eastern Star

February Star Light news

Sisters and Brothers,

This past January 18, we had the privilege to pay tribute to a dear departed Sister with a funeral service for her and her family. Sister Freda Downey was laid to rest with her beloved husband Brother Clyde Downey Jr. Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Virginia. She was a long time dedicated member of Eastern Star and dear friend of all. Now she is a member of the Great Chapter above. God Bless

We look forward to February and improving weather. Coming out on cold winter nights is above and beyond the call of duty but our dedicated members are willing. We have had many with colds and flu, and send best wishes that all are better and recovering. We extend our prayers and good wishes to all.

Tickets are still available for the GM official visit April 2 and the Table Lodge on Saturday, April 13th at 4:00 PM tickets are still available.

Contact

Master@unity146.org or call 540-539-8917 to reserve their ticket for both events.

Our next stated meeting will be Friday, February 1, 2013 at 7:30 pm. We will be doing a memorial for Sister Freda Downey and celebrating Valentine's Day. Please plan to attend.

Again a reminder that we will be having a school of instruction for installation on Sunday, Feb. 24th at 2:00 pm. This is a required school so please put it on your calendar. Also the installation for new officers for Front Royal Chapter No. 6 will be on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm. It will be an open installation so friends, family and Masons are welcome to attend. Sister Sandra Ratliff will be Worthy Matron, and Brother Joel Ratliff will be the Worthy Patron. Please put these events on your calendar.

A reminder that the Eastern Star members have been invited to the dinner being scheduled by the Masons on Friday, February 22nd, time to be announced. I hope to see a good turn out from our members.

Until March, I wish you Gods Blessings and Keep your eyes on the Star in the East. Let it guide you.

In Star Love and Hugs to all

Sister Sandra Engle Worthy Matron

Brother Rodney Ayers Worthy Patron

Masonic Birthdays

Brother Steven Lee Brill, II - 2/16/2005

Brother James Joseph Broadbent, III - 2/13/1999

Brother James Arthur Hopper, Jr - 2/13/1999

Brother Bryan Cecil Knupp - 2/27/1986

Brother George Lee McIntyre - 2/9/2000

Brother Joseph Paul Plazio - 2/26/2011

Brother Charlie James Starnes - 2/20/1991

Worshipful Stanley Richardson Wade, Jr. - 2/11/1965

Brother James Steven Wells - 2/26/1983

Worshipful David Martin Zuckerman - 2/16/1995

Living Past Masters:

1963 - Wor. William Newton Wood

1968 - RW Ward Easton Myers, Jr.

1975 - Wor. Ronald Grant McManus, Sr.

1977 - Wor. Edward William Ahlers

1978 - Wor. Harry Wesley Hammack, Jr.

1979 - Wor. William Amos Hall

1982 - Wor. Darryl E. Windham, Jr.

1985 - Wor. Robert Keith McMillen

1991 - Wor. Timothy Darr

1993 - Wor. Raymond Mickey Moats

1995 - RW Charles Randal Seaford

1998 - RW Arthur Alvin Heiserman

1999 - Wor. Charles Edward Davis

2001 - Wor. David Martin Zuckerman

2002 - RW Scott Douglas Cabazolo

2004 - Wor. Robert Mitchell Cairnes

2005 - Wor. Neil Gene Lilly

2007 - Wor. Darryl Bowser

2008 - Wor. Larry Lee Adams, II

2009 - RW Joel David Ratliff, Sr.

2010 - RW Kevin Joseph Davidson

2011 - RW Kevin Joseph Davidson

2012 - RW Scott Douglas Cabazolo

Living PDDGM:

1985 - RW Ward Easton Myers, Jr.

2001 - RW Arthur Alvin Heiserman

2003 - RW Charles Randal Seaford

2005 - RW Scott Douglas Cabazolo

2007 - RW Kevin Joseph Davidson

Stated Agenda

6:30 PM

Dinner

Stuart C. Payne Social Hall

7:30 PM

Open Lodge

7:45 PM

Introductions

8:00 PM

Lodge Education Talk:
The Masonic Cable Tow

8:15 PM

Lodge Education
Video Presentation:
What is Freemasonry?

8:30 PM

A Brothers Biography:
Brother Senior Warden,
Melton "Mick" Jewell Roland, Jr.

8:35 PM

Reading from the
Book of Constitutions

8:45 PM

Administrative Matters:
Secretary Clear Your Desk
Treasurer Report
Committee Reports
Business Matters

9:00 PM

Featured Speaker:
Right Worshipful
Joel David Ratliff, Sr.
District Deputy Grand Master

9:30 PM

Close Lodge

Secretary's Message

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
4115 NINE MILE ROAD
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223-4926
804-222-3110, FAX 804-222-4253

ALAN W. ADKINS
Grand Secretary
4115 NINE MILE ROAD
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223-4926

January 22, 2013

Dear Brethren,

We have entrusted Harris Connect, a company with a reputation of integrity and many years of experience in the industry, with the task of compiling our Grand Lodge of Virginia Member Album. The purpose of this Directory is to raise funds for the Masonic Home Outreach Program. Contact from Harris Connect to our members has already begun.

Information is available on our website concerning this program. It can be found under the Yearly Announcements link. If after reading the information, you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Alan W. Adkins
Grand Secretary

Royal Arch Chapter Update

Greetings Companions. Our January meeting was a memorable occasion with members four of the five chapters in our district present, and helping confer two degrees on 4 candidates.

At our next stated meeting, we will vote on By-Laws changes which were initiated by grand Chapter, and will effect our chapter.

Our next stated meeting will be held on Feb. 15th at 7:30 p.m. Come out and support your chapter and Further The Spirit Of Friendship and Brotherly Love.

- H. Wes Hammack H.P.



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2013 Officers



Dennis Mark Haas
Worshipful Master

Stephen Craig Wheeler
Treasurer

Luther William Wheat
Junior Deacon

Cory Bradford Michael
Junior Steward

Melton Jewell Roland, Jr.
Senior Warden

Charles Randal Seaford
Secretary

Larry MacRae Funk
Chaplain

Edward Neal Powell, Jr.
Marshal

Harry Wesley Hammack, Jr.
Junior Warden

Joseph Paul Plazio
Senior Deacon

Joseph Embree
Senior Stewart

Edward Neal Powell, Sr.
Tiler