

head of the kitchen, the boss of the take-outs and the king of the dining hall to make this our most successful Bull Roast ever. I look forward to seeing all of you either pitching in or enjoying the fine food and fellowship.

Fraternally,
Worshipful Adam Green, Chairman

Masonic Veterans for 2009

May	Gerald W. Nelligar	25 years
	John S. Ward	60 years
June	Lee Kelberg	50 years
	Kenneth Lancaster	25 years
September	Harold R. Brenneman	60 years
	Archie R. Nobles	25 years
October	Edward K. Andrews	25 years
	Robert H. Foxwell Jr.	50 years
	Harold A. Young	50 years
November	Curtis Raeford Eure	50 years
	Franklin M. Gamage	50 years
	James G. Moore	50 years

Masonic Birthdays for May

Brandon Ray Angel '07	Stanley D. Moss '96
Andrew Scott Barnard '90	Gerald W. Nelligar '84
Wayne C. DeFord '93	Frank B. Nickerson '83
Herbert Boyd Foxwell '70	Joseph R. O'leary '96
James Olney Freeman '74	Charley Orsargos '61
Brian Gay '96	Gregory K. Pruitt '02
Goodwin Glassman '68	Oscar J. Quintin '80
Billy F. Gordon '03	William H. Rainey '87
Herbert T. Gordon '86	Richard D. Rawles '92
Dennis R. Harrison '83	Ralph W. Rawles Jr. '76
Adam Hernandez '07	Charles Allan Roys '08
John Matthew Hewitt '02	Joseph T. Salt '62
Monte Pearson Howell '70	Jimmy B. Shehan '97
Ross O. McLeod '06	John S. Ward '49
Leslie H. Miller '72	Carl R. Weast '72
Steve T. Miller '71	Morris D. White '80
Larry Montgomery Jr. '97	William Wyndham Jr. '83

Roof Update

Brethren, as most of you already know, we have a new roof with a 30 year warranty. Several members and widows have made a contribution, however, we need a lot more. If you would like to make a contribution please contact me, the Secretary or the Worshipful Master. We are trying to sell the shingles for \$220 a square, \$55 a bundle, or for any contribution you wish to make. I thank you for your assistance.

Right Worshipful Bill Knowles

Consideration of By-Laws Amendment

At the April Stated Communication, a proposed amendment to the By-Laws of Kempsville Lodge was read, recommending amendments to Article II and Article IV of the By-Laws. The amendments primarily concern compensation for the Lodge Treasurer; also, adds that the "Treasure is a member not being required to pay annual dues plus Grand Lodge assessments." This matter will be considered by the brethren at the May Stated Communication for approval or rejection; you are hereby accordingly notified.

Respectfully, Bob Stanek, Secretary.

District Blood Drive

I was out of town on our March 23rd drive and asked several brothers to help out. The results are self explanatory—20 units of whole blood. I’m bursting with pride with the participation, donors, and results of this drive (blatant bragging about our lodge could be in order, but probably not very Masonic...still tempting). After listening to our guest speaker at our April Stated, it’s obvious our lodge will steadily move forward with this and our other functions. All I can say is “THANKS, THANKS, and more THANKS.” The next drive is at Bayside,Tuesday, May 26th. I hope to see every one there for another great success. Please make it easier on yourself by going online to givelife.org, then use the sponsor code “vbmasons” to make an appointment time.

Brother John Preddy, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Past Masters Night



26 Past Masters and Affiliated Past Masters attended the March 31st Past Masters Night.



The Ashlar




May 2009

Kempsville Lodge #196, AF&AM
www.kempsvill lodge.org

Volume 12-5

From The East

Fraternity. Our organization is often referred to as a Masonic fraternity. I was reflecting on this today and found this definition of the word Fraternity: “A brotherhood and group united in common interest and activity.” This aspect of being united refers to all of us coming together in some way. Sadly, fraternal organizations like ours are a dying breed, diminishing in both number of members and the level of participation by those who do belong to lodges. Just a couple of days ago I read an article in the national news regarding the struggles of The Shrine. It seems that, for the first time in their history, the Shriners will have to close at least a quarter of their hospitals. What is occurring on the national level is also occurring within all community organizations, including ours. We currently have around 470 members. With respect to lodge participation, my review of our participation trends reveals that only about 40 to 60 members are conducting the entire business of the lodge. More specifically, about 18 brethren are completing about 90% of the total work at Kempsville.

I am writing this the night after RW Matt Szramoski, Chair of the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance, gave a rousing speech at the Kempsville Stated on “Lodge Solvency in the 21st Century.” Some key points from this talk include: (1) a total decrease in Masons in Virginia of 31,000 between 1969 (71,000) and 2008 (40,000) – in spite of an overall population increase of 3.5 million Virginians during that same time period; (2) a lack of younger members in ALL fraternal organizations (due an increase in overall family demands and because males under the age of 50 now work an average of 17 more hours per week than males did during the heyday of Freemasonry immediately following WWII); (3) decreased involvement in Masonic youth organizations; and (4) continued decline in the number of wives belonging to the OES, Amaranth, etc.

Kempsville, however, is blessed in many regards. We still maintain a large number of total dues-paying members. Our overall membership in recent years has remained fairly stable. Our youth

organizations are actually thriving and growing in numbers. We are attracting younger brethren to the lodge. Kempsville has a rich tradition in all areas important to masonry – fellowship, ritual, and community service. In all, Kempsville is a lodge with a lot of heart.

All of this leaves me with confidence about how we will face two issues critical to maintaining the viability and solvency of Kempsville Lodge #196 – (1) eliciting the participation of inactive members, and (2) sustaining the financial health of the lodge in forthcoming years.


As stated in the “Lodge Membership Revitalization Resource Guide,” the important task is for each lodge to make an ongoing effort to its members to make the percentage of inactive members a minority, rather than a majority. If this is done, the lodge will benefit in the following ways: More members available to serve as officers on committees; a larger pool of brethren to draw from to assist with conferring the degrees; a more stable financial base for the lodge with decreased NPDs and demits; with inactive members attending lodge and more families coming to open functions the word will spread and a positive attitude will grow!; and the officers will have less (not more) work to do (Many Hands Make Light Work!).

This will require immediate action with all of us – officers and brethren – pulling together in solidarity. I am proposing the following three part plan of action. First, we will appoint a Survey Committee who will be tasked to discover the reason (and not the opinion) for why many members of the lodge have not been active. Secondly, we will be distributing (via email, the Ashlar, and handouts at lodge) a sign-up sheet entitled “150 Ways You Can Help the Lodge.” Research has revealed that if you do not assign a new brother a task to help the lodge within the first 6 months of his being initiated, he will likely become an inactive member. Lastly, we need to increase our dues. For the past 10 years, our lodge dues (not counting the assessment portion which goes to grand lodge) have been unchanged at the reasonable rate of \$56 per member. This per member lodge membership fee of \$56 is lower than most lodges and has not been adjusted to

account for normal increases in inflation. I am proposing an increase of \$6 per member (a 50 cent increase per month) so that the lodge portion of the dues will be \$62 annually. Coupled with the Grand Lodge assessment of \$28, this will make the 2010 total dues \$90 (instead of \$84). My good brethren, I promise you that my heart is in the right place with these ideas. One of my key responsibilities as Worshipful Master is to protect the lodge and make sure that it is set for the immediate and distant future. I look forward, with the best of intentions and integrity, on making these changes happen together with you.

Brother Ron Jacobson, Worshipful Master

From The West

 To all not in attendance on April 7th's Entered Apprentice Degree, Worshipful Michael Lombardo (Worshipful Master of Kempsville No. 196 in 1974) gave the Entered Apprentice Lecture to our two newest initiates. Worshipful Lombardo has given the Lecture before but he said it has been so long ago he can't remember when. And Brethren, he did a fantastic job--BRAVO Worshipful Mike. Great job.

As attested by our enclosed trestle board we are blessed to have many events upcoming in our Lodge soon. Brethren, now's the time to jump in and lend a hand. Help is needed for kitchen work as well as ritual events. If you have the time, I'm sure our Junior Warden can find a spot for you to fill, and I know he will appreciate the assistance.

Two gentleman were having a discussion.

“You know, someday I'd like to ask God why is there so much hunger, disease, homelessness, and suffering in the world when He can do something about it?” said the first.


“Why don't you?” questioned the second.

“Well, I guess I'm afraid he might ask *me* the same question” he replied.

Hope to see you in Lodge soon.

Brother Bill Rawson, Senior Warden

From The South

 We have had a very busy year thus far, as evidenced by us working every Tuesday night. I would like to thank everyone who has assisted on our degree teams and also echo the Senior Warden’s comments regarding our special lecturer Worshipful Lombardo. The candidates were very impressed (as was everyone in the room that night) by his presentation of this lecture. I would also like to thank Bruce

Cummingham for participating in April 7th degree work on such short notice. It was a nice to have Bruce assist in the initiation of his son. Please note the Trestleboard below, as our work continues. Pending favorable ballots at the May Stated, we will have another 4 candidates to be initiated. I have called on several brothers from around the area to assist with various parts of upcoming degree work, so join us to see who is helping us. Speaking for the junior officers, we greatly appreciate the sideline support as we work and learn other parts. As some of you know the Senior Warden, Senior Deacon and I have been sharing the duties of Worshipful Master in hopes of obtaining our Warden Certificate and to give Worshipful Ron a break. Please join us on work nights to see who is in the East.


See you at the Lodge!


Brother Michael Johnstone, Junior Warden

Trestleboard


April 28 6th Annual Armed Forces Night
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
May 5 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
May 12 Stated Communication
National Sojourners Night
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
May 19 Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
May 26 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
May 26 District Blood Drive
Bayside Lodge, 3-7:30PM
May 30 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

Our Newest Masonic Veterans

 Worshipful Robert G. Lockwood receives his 60 Year Veterans Emblem. Attending the ceremony was his wife, Mrs. June Lockwood, his son, Worshipful Robert D. Lockwood along with his wife, Jan.

 Most Worshipful William Lee Holliday presents Brother Charlie B. Taylor Sr. his 50 Year Veterans Emblem.

Brother Secretary, Clear Your Desk!

 The month of May already – wow! Spring is here, and this Masonic year is almost half over, “Behold how swiftly the sands run...”

Brethren, one very important duty of the Secretary is to collect the dues of the Lodge. Our Lodge depends on dues income to operate from month-to-month.

At present, here is an accounting of “past due” Lodge dues:

2008: 23 (\$1,932)
2009: 51 (\$4,284)
Total: 74 (\$6,216)

Sadly, those Brothers owing their 2007 are now subject for citation to be suspended from the Lodge. Before this occurs, we will notify the Grand Lodge for a last attempt to prevent this from happening. Unfortunately, we do suspend members annually for non-payment of dues. Please know; the Worshipful Master and I have worked very hard to avoid this action.

Brethren, please look at your dues card now. It should indicate that it is valid through “December 31, 2009.” If not, please contact me to settle this most important obligation.

If you know of a brother in need of special assistance regarding any difficulty, please contact the Worshipful Master or me, for as you know: One of the most important principles of Freemasonry is charity.

Most Fraternally, Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Youth Corner


The DeMolay Chapter remains busy during May. These young men will be performing the Flower Talk for the OES chapter #40 at St. Tamany Lodge on the May 12th at 6:30PM. They will also be hosting a car wash on the 16th so come by and have your car spring cleaned.

The Jobies completed a wonderful service project in April, delivering 55 Easter baskets to the widows of our lodge. This was very well received and a delight for the girls. Please purchase your tickets for the Mystery Dinner Theater on May 8th and 9th. This will be a wonderful performance by

these young ladies who have worked very hard to make sure that you have a most entertaining evening.

Fraternally, Brother Justin Gray

The Bull Roast

 It is that time again!! The 26th Annual Kempsville Lodge Bull Roast will be held on June 13, 2009 from 11am - 7pm. Come out and support our biggest fund raiser of the year. We will again be supporting the Masonic Home of Virginia and our Lodge Scholarship Fund. From years past, you know how good the food is. And if you have attended you know the fellowship is beyond measure. All lodge members will be receiving 4 tickets to sell (or purchase) in this Ashlar. If you think you can sell more, let me know - I have plenty. If you know of any places that will be open on that Saturday and may want to provide their staff with a quality lunch or dinner, find out how many take-outs they would like (at \$6 each) and make sure I get that information early.

Also, as always, we need the physical support of you, my brethren. Volunteers are needed throughout the day to assist in the kitchen, preparing take-outs, keeping the lodge spiffy, and cleaning up at the end of the day. If you can donate some of your time, please let me know what you would like to do and when. I plan on holding a department head meeting with all of the major players in the very near future to discuss final planning and manning. If I know who wants to assist where, I can provide those names to the

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Ronald S. Jacobson	343-3460
Senior Warden	William H. Rawson	467-5913
Junior Warden	Michael D. Johnstone	334-3013
Treasurer	Wor. Bill Nelligar	456-0034
Secretary	Wor. Bob Stanek	495-7645
Secretary Emeritus	RW Bill Pierce	804-226-4181
Senior Deacon	William T. Peterson	237-5249
Junior Deacon	Steven V. Sorano	321-0392
Chaplain	Gerald T. Hallal	472-1200
Marshal	Joe T. Salt	481-0652
Musician	Robert S. Foxwell	490-2797
Tiler	Wor. Chris J. Jaeger	893-9253
Instructor of Work	RW Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Wor. Adam Green	615-1659
Blood Coordinator	John Preddy	439-3225
Youth Advisor	Justin Gray	338-7218

Articles for the next next Ashlar should be submitted by 5/20/2009 to RW Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or Worshipful Bob Stanek (rstanek1@cox.net)