



The Ashlar



February 2017

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvillelodge.org

Volume 64-02

My Obligation...

Every Mason has been asked the question - "What makes you a Mason" - and has answered "My Obligation." The obligation is the most important part of the conferral of the Masonic degrees, it is the thing that separates Masons from non-Masons, and it provides every Mason with knowledge about another Mason before personally meeting the Brother.

In its original sense, the term obligation was very technical in nature and applied to the responsibility to pay money owed on certain written documents that were executed under seal. Currently obligation is used in reference to anything that an individual is required to do because of a promise, vow, oath, contract, or law. It refers to a legal or moral duty that an individual can be forced to perform or be penalized for neglecting to perform.

To a Mason, the obligation regards that which he will do and that which he will not do, or more simply that he will do what he says he will do and the Brethren know that. Therefore the obligation is a pledge which ties the Mason to the Craft and to the duties and responsibilities he has agreed to uphold. Its preamble expresses free will and accord. It contains actions on the part of the Mason. It refers to Masonic Law but stresses that Masonic Law is subordinate to Civil Law. It references a belief in God, and refers to two patron saints of Jesus Christ.

Its conclusion binds the Mason to comply with that which he has obligated himself to uphold. The strength of the obligation is that it guides the Mason through his several stations in life. But it is worthless if it is not well taken and upheld.



From The East



Thank you for your support at the January Stated and for your support of Right Worshipful Steve Ridgeway on his official visit to our Lodge. As well, I enjoyed accompanying Right

Worshipful Steve during his official visit tour of the 56th District. It was a pleasure to represent you to other Lodges in Virginia Beach.

Over the past few years our Lodge has undergone a face-lift, and Kempsville Lodge owes a debt of gratitude to Worshipful Steve and the other Past Masters who worked to beautify our building and grounds, and to accomplish needed structural repairs and repairs to our heating and air conditioning systems. Each of these actions was needed to sustain our Lodge for future generations of Masonry.

Further thanks to each of you who financially supported the efforts. Even with your additional support, the unforeseen repairs have placed our funds on hand at a low point that we have not seen in many years and will preclude any major aesthetic improvements during 2017. In that regard, during the January Stated I appointed a Committee consisting of the next three officers in line to serve as Worshipful Master, I tasked them to analyze our short-term and long-term budgets and to make responsible recommendations to you following that analysis. I have given them a goal of reporting to the Brothers during the March 2017 Stated Communication.

Additionally, I ask for your presence and for your input as part of their presentation at the March Stated. I encourage you to express yourselves and to be part of an effective decision making process. I hope to see you in Lodge soon.

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



Have you ever wondered why we call our Masonic Lodge a Blue Lodge? We are told that the blue refers to the Canopy of Heaven and teaches the universality of Masonry. But what does that really mean and where did it originate? We are taught that blue was the color of the Ancient Craft degrees. Perhaps that is why we use it today in our Symbolic Lodges.

Interestingly, we can trace the use of the color blue to many groups throughout history. Among the ancient Jews, the robe of the High Priest's ephod,

the ribbon of his breastplate, and the plate of the miter were of blue. The people of the Jewish nation were charged to wear a blue ribbon above the hem of their garments and it was the color of one of the seven veils of the temple. Among the Druids it symbolized "truth." The Egyptians esteemed blue as a sacred color, signifying heavenly nature. Jeremiah tells us that the Babylonians clothed their idols in blue, and to the Chinese in their mystical philosophy "blue" was represented as the symbol of Deity. The Hindus assert that their god, Vishnu, was dressed in celestial blue, thus indicating that wisdom from God was symbolized by this color. Among the medieval Christians blue was considered the emblem of immortality. As you can gather, Blue has enjoyed universal appeal.

We can conclude with some measure of certainty that it is by custom and symbolism and not by any adopted law or by-law, we refer to the Masonic Lodge as the "Blue Lodge." Blue, therefore, being the symbol for universal friendship and benevolence and the color of the Canopy of Heaven which covers and embraces all the world, should encourage every Mason to be equally extensive in his virtues of friendship and brotherly love.

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

From The South



I recently saw a video that claimed a number of Academy award winning actors, championship athletes from the NFL, NBA, PGA and MLB as well as Grammy award winning musicians were masons. The video didn't present these celebrities or the fraternity in a positive light yet focused on the secrecy and what the producer's considered sinister underlying pretext of freemasonry. The video suggested that these celebrities reached their pinnacles of success due to the influence the society had on their careers and not on the individual's own merits.

The men noted in that video achieved greatness because they were great at what they did and good men not because they were masons. Masonry makes good men better regardless of their occupation or worldly stature.

I anticipate 2017 will be just as busy as 2016 and will require a lot of degree work. If you are interested in participating on a degree team in any capacity please come to school on Monday evenings. School starts at 7PM and is typically over by 8pm but may extend longer if needed. This is an

excellent opportunity to learn a role on the degree team in a fun and lighthearted environment. All Master Masons are welcome, all others must check with their coach before attending to ensure you are eligible to participate.

Brother Roger Taylor Junior Warden

Trestleboard

January 28 Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
January 31 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
February 1 District Deputy Grand Master
Official Visit to Princess Anne Lodge, 7PM
February 7..... District Deputy Grand Master
Official Visit to Willis V. Fentress Lodge, 7PM
February 8 District Deputy Grand Master
Official Visit to Virginia Beach Lodge, 7PM
February 10 Grand Master's Official Visit
Khedive Shrine Center, 6PM
February 14 Stated Communication
Topic: Firearms Safety and Concealed
Carry by Brother Curtis Hardison
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
February 20 District Blood Drive
Lynnhaven Lodge, 2-7PM
February 25 Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at
www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Masonic Birthdays for February

Alex Harvey Adkins '76	Robert Hunter Johns '05
David H. Armstrong, Jr. '77	Kenneth W. Lancaster '05
Scott Edward Bateman '99	Marvin Boyd Lancaster '05
Dennis Leonard Eaton '11	Brian Donnan Littlehale '10
Charles Frank Edwards '70	David Joseph Meers '10
Edward Joseph Foley '93	John Mark Nuzum '02
Lewis Jackson Forrest '85	Galen Keith Rogers '99
Glenn D. Fraser II '80	Joseph Max Snook '65
Glenn Lincoln Gilman '78	William Charles Vahle '13
William Franklin Grice '70	Arthur F. Wadford, Jr. '08

The Brethren shown above have a total of 479
years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in February:

Catherine Hamilton	February 4 th
Lorraine Johns	February 5 th

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

Freemasonry in the Modern World

Freemasonry is the most remarkable and altogether unique institution on earth.

Will you tell me of another that girdles the world with its fellowship and gathers all races and the most ancient religions, as well as our own, into its brotherhood?

Will you tell me of any other that is as old or older, more brilliant in its history; more honored in its consistency, more picturesque in its traditions?

Today it lies in the hand of the modern man, largely an unused tool, capable of great achievements for God, for country, for mankind, but doing very little.

For one, I believe that circumstances may easily arise, when the highest and most sacred of all freedoms are being threatened in this land, Freemasonry may be its most powerful defender, unifying all minds and commanding our best citizenship.

Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Blood Program

Greetings brothers. We are off to a grand start for the 2017 blood year. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everybody of the time requirements for donating blood.

- Whole blood: 56 days
- Platelets every: 7 days, 24 times per year
- Plasma: 28 days, 13 times per year
- Power red (formally known as "double red"):
112 days or 3 times per year. To donate power red as a male you must be 17 years old, 5'1"/130 pounds. Females must be 17 years old, 5'5", and 150 pounds.

Our next drive will be at Lynnhaven Lodge on February 20th sponsored by Princess Anne Lodge. Please make time in your busy schedules to give the gift of life.

Patrick Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

Grand Master's Visit

Most Worshipful Vernon Stuart Cook, Grand Master, AF & AM, of the Commonwealth of Virginia will visit Districts 36 and 56 at the Khedive Shrine Center in Chesapeake. The event will run 6-9PM and all Masons, their ladies, and Masonic Widows are invited to attend. Dress code for men is suit

and tie, appropriate dress (church worship attire) for ladies. Master Masons please communicate your intention to attend to Worshipful Greg Muir (757-676-3761), Masonic Widows will be contacted by Right Worshipful Bill Knowles. We request you RSVP in order to provide our District Deputy Grand Master with an accurate number of people who plan to attend. We look forward to enjoying this special night with you!

Visitors from Near and Far



Kempsville Lodge enjoyed fraternal visits from two traveling Masons at our January 17th Entered Apprentice Degree conferral. Brother Ali Gagan

Ozturk of Ugsutun Lodge No. 78, Grand Lodge of Turkey (left), Worshipful Greg Muir, and Worshipful Fred Donald Dickson, Jr. of Howard Lodge No. 101 in Maryland (right).

Valentine’s Day

All wives, fiancées, girlfriends, and Masonic widows are invited to join the Brothers of Kempsville Lodge for a special Valentine’s Day Meal during our Lodge Dinner at the February 14th Stated Communication. We will be honored to prepare, serve, AND CLEAN UP as a tribute and thank you for your support of our Lodge. The meal will be served from 6 to 6:45PM. Please come out and join us!



Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Greg Muir	676-3761
Senior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Warden	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Deacon	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	John Settle, III	675-9695
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Justin Gray	338-7218
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539

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