



The Ashlar



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Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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Masonry in Action at Kempsville Lodge No. 196

At Kempsville Lodge No. 196, Freemasonry is more than a set of traditions—it is a commitment to action, service, and community. Through our efforts to uphold the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth, we have had the privilege of participating in diverse and impactful activities. Whether visiting historic lodges, hosting cherished community events, supporting education, or building connections with brethren across the country, Kempsville Lodge exemplifies the enduring values of Freemasonry in tangible ways.

One of the most memorable experiences for Kempsville Lodge was visiting the historic Bannack Lodge, nestled in the heart of Bannack, Montana. This lodge, located in what was once a thriving mining town, is a testament to the resilience and history of Freemasonry in America. Bannack Lodge, dating back to the 1860s, stands as a reminder of the enduring spirit of the Craft, even in the face of changing times and environments.

For our members, the trip to Bannack was more than a historical pilgrimage; it was an opportunity to connect with the roots of our fraternity. Exploring the original lodge room, preserved in its rustic authenticity, gave us a sense of the dedication and perseverance of early Masons. While there, we conducted a symbolic meeting and reflected on how our predecessors laid the groundwork for the principles we still cherish today.

This visit reinforced the idea that Freemasonry is not confined to any single lodge or generation. The experience reminded us that we are part of a legacy that spans centuries and continents, inspiring us to continue our work with the same sense of purpose and commitment.

The annual Bull Roast at Kempsville Lodge is one of the most beloved and successful events on our calendar. Combining delicious food, fellowship, and community spirit, the Bull Roast serves as both a fundraiser and a celebration of our shared values.

Planning and executing this event requires teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision. From preparing the slow-roasted Brisket to hand creating the side dishes, every aspect of the Bull Roast is a labor of love. The camaraderie among brethren during setup and execution is a reflection of the spirit of brotherly love that lies at the heart of Freemasonry.

Over the years, the Bull Roast has grown into a major community tradition, drawing attendees from across the area. The funds raised help support lodge initiatives, charitable efforts, and maintenance projects, ensuring that Kempsville Lodge remains a vibrant and active part of the community. Beyond the financial impact, the event strengthens our bonds with neighbors and reinforces our commitment to service and fellowship.

Freemasonry has long valued education as a cornerstone of personal and societal improvement. At Kempsville Lodge, this commitment is evident in our work with local schools. From donating school supplies to providing scholarships, our lodge strives to support educators and students in meaningful ways.

One of our most rewarding efforts involved recognizing outstanding students within our district. By honoring their achievements, we not only highlight the importance of education but also strengthen the relationship between the lodge and the community. Teachers have expressed their gratitude for the recognition, and students have been inspired by the support of an organization dedicated to their growth and success.

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From The East



Serving as Worshipful Master of Kempsville Lodge No. 196 was one of the most profound privileges of my life. The opportunity to lead a group of dedicated, like-minded brethren committed to the values of Freemasonry was both humbling and inspiring. As I look back on my time in this role, I am filled with a mix of gratitude for the progress we made and regret for the things I wish I could have accomplished.

When I assumed the role, I was eager to contribute to the long-standing legacy of Kempsville Lodge. I wanted to honor our traditions while finding ways to strengthen our brotherhood and enhance the experiences of our members. In many ways, I believe we achieved a lot together, but at the end of my year in the east, I find myself reflecting on what could have been done differently.

One of my lingering regrets is not tackling the aesthetic and functional updates to the lodge room itself. For years, I envisioned a fresh coat of paint that would breathe new life into the room—a place where so many meaningful moments occur. Our lodge room is more than just a physical space; it's a symbol of our shared commitment to Freemasonry. While it served its purpose admirably, I couldn't help but feel that a few simple updates could have made it even more inviting and inspiring for our members and visitors alike.

Another area where I wish I had done more was organizing additional events that could have strengthened the bonds between our brethren and our community. Social events, charity drives, and educational opportunities are the lifeblood of a vibrant lodge. While we held some memorable gatherings, such as the bull roast, there's always a sense that more could have been done to bring our members closer together and showcase the values of Freemasonry to the outside world.

I am proud in the items we did get done. With the help of past masters, we were able to correct a lot of the deficiencies that had cropped up during covid. The best example of this was the bull roast. Switching to brisket was a major success. The amount of money we pulled in, and the rave reviews gave ample evidence of this success

Despite these regrets, my time as Worshipful Master of Kempsville Lodge taught me invaluable lessons about leadership, teamwork, and the importance of balancing vision with action. One of the most significant realizations was that a leader's

role is not just to guide but to inspire and empower others. While I may not have achieved everything, I set out to do, I hope I encouraged others to take pride in our lodge and to continue striving for improvement.

I also learned the importance of time management and prioritization. Looking back, it's clear that some of the projects I wanted to undertake could have been broken down into smaller, more manageable steps. By focusing on incremental progress rather than waiting for the perfect moment, we might have been able to achieve more together.

Above all, I am deeply grateful for the brethren of Kempsville Lodge No. 196. Their support, camaraderie, and shared commitment to our principles made every challenge worthwhile. It was their enthusiasm and dedication that kept me motivated, even on the most demanding days.

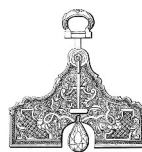
As I look to the future, I am optimistic about what lies ahead for our lodge. My time as Worshipful Master may have come to an end, but my connection to Kempsville Lodge remains as strong as ever. I hope that those who follow in my footsteps can build upon the foundation we've laid and take the lodge to even greater heights.

If I could leave one piece of advice for the next Worshipful Master, it would be this: don't let the desire for perfection hold you back. Start small, take action, and trust in the support of your brethren. The work we do as Freemasons is a collective effort, and every contribution, no matter how small, brings us closer to our shared goals.

Serving Kempsville Lodge No. 196 was an honor, and though there will always be things I wish I had done differently; I am proud of the time I spent in the East. It is my hope that my reflections will inspire others to embrace the challenges and opportunities of leadership with open hearts and a determination to make a difference.

Brother Michael Turner, Worshipful Master

From The West



As I complete my time in the West, it has been a year of attempting to return to normal operations following the pandemic. Many stepped up this year and helped return our stalwart events to prominence. The monthly breakfast was a huge success throughout the year. I can't thank

those that worked hours in the kitchen enough for putting on an event that members and friends of Kempsville could put on their calendar and count on. This return to normalcy should not be underestimated in helping people feel like a community. Additionally, the Bull Roast was a resounding success with money raised for MAHOVA and scholarships, great food and plenty of fellowship. Finally, our family picnic was held.

The main focus of this year for me was to obtain my Warden's Certificate. Starting from scratch last December, it was a tall order to get all the ritual in and to be able to do an acceptable job at demonstrating it. I would like to thank RW Bob Stanek for the many hours spent working with me one on one until I knew the work. I would also like to thank those steadfast attendees of the work nights who filled the chairs and demonstrated that they were as willing to give as receive instructions. W Mike Turner, Karl Wessler, Jay Keplinger, Howard Draper, Ken Cord and our Lodge Instructor of Work, Worshipful Rob Lockwood, invested their Mondays in getting me over the finish line. I certainly appreciate their efforts and hope that in the coming year more brothers will join us for these work nights. I look forward to what next year brings to our wonderful lodge.

Brother Justin Gray, Senior Warden

From The South



As I look back on my time through the line and preparing to move to the chair of Senior Warden, I realize it has gone by much quicker than I had hoped. Only two years ago, I was being installed as Junior Deacon. It

also causes me to pause to reflect on two individuals in the lodge that meant so much yet are no longer with us. With Senior Warden Doug Dunn passing halfway through the year, which pushed my move from Junior Deacon to Senior Deacon up by six months, giving me a year's less time to get everything learned for my Warden's Certificate. At this point, I readily began working with another member to help me with the ritual. Worshipful Jerry Hallal and I were finally able to begin work. After several months of trying to get our schedules together, he and I were finally able to begin working 2-3 days per week from October until his passing in April. We had gotten to where I was about ready to open, confer, and close an Entered

Apprentice when he passed. I also cannot help but be extremely happy that my father, a Mason of over 56 years, is now a member of the lodge to see me through these last few stages of the journey. I am a third generation Mason with his father, my grandfather, being a Mason for more than fifty years. Needless to say, I have quite a bit of work ahead of me in the next twelve months, but with so many looking down on me from above and those around me at present, it will get accomplished.

Brother Howard Draper, Junior Warden

Trestle Board

December 10..... Annual Stated Communication
Lodge 6PM, Dinner 7PM
December 14 .. Open Installation of Officers, 11AM
December 16 District Blood Drive
Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220, 1-6PM
January 14 Stated Communication
Official Visit of the
District Deputy Grand Master
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

Masonic Birthdays for December

Timothy Berkhimer, 12/02	James Smith, 12/94
Michael Brolly, 12/94	David Weast, 12/87
Lincoln Figuereo, 12/01	Ricky West, 12/83
Timothy Maguire, 12/01	

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in December.

Carolyn Harrison	12/1
Priscilla Adkins	12/4
Peggy McGuire	12/10
June Wilder	12/10
Mary Anne Fausel	12/11
Loretta Cedola	12/21
Sherry Greene	12/21
Betty Meyer	12/31

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.

Masonry in Action at Kempsville Lodge No. 196 *(cont'd from page 1)*

One of the most enriching aspects of Freemasonry is the opportunity to connect with brethren from all over the world. At Kempsville Lodge, we actively embrace this opportunity by visiting lodges across the country.

Each visit is a chance to learn, share, and grow. Whether it's a small-town lodge with a handful of dedicated members or a historic urban lodge with a storied past, every lodge has something unique to offer. These visits allow us to witness different traditions, rituals, and approaches to the Craft, broadening our understanding of Freemasonry's diversity and universality.

Beyond the lessons learned, these travels strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. The hospitality extended by other lodges is a testament to the universality of Masonic principles. Sitting in lodge with brethren from different regions, sharing meals, and exchanging stories reinforces the idea that we are part of a global fraternity united by shared values.

These experiences also inspire us to bring new ideas and practices back to Kempsville. Whether it's a creative fundraising initiative, a unique educational program, or simply a new way of fostering engagement among members, these insights help us continue to grow and evolve as a lodge.

Through visiting historic lodges like Bannack, hosting community events like the Bull Roast,

supporting education, and building connections with brethren across the country, Kempsville Lodge No. 196 demonstrates what it means to put Masonry into action. Each of these activities reflects the core tenets of Freemasonry—brotherly love, relief, and truth—and serves as a reminder of the impact we can have when we live by these principles.

As we continue to build on these efforts, we remain committed to making a difference in our community and beyond. Whether by preserving history, fostering fellowship, or supporting education, Kempsville Lodge will continue to be a beacon of light and hope, ensuring that the values of Freemasonry endure for generations to come.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Michael Turner	581-4239
Senior Warden	Justin Gray	338-7218
Junior Warden	Howard Draper	515-3540
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Emmett Pate	404-8594
Senior Deacon	Chris Kammerer	348-9822
Junior Deacon	Leandro Herculano	267-678-9978
Senior Steward	Jim Reyes	469-0717
Chaplain	Karl Wesseler	439-1858
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Jay Keplinger	615-9240
Instructor of Work	Rob Lockwood	617-2166
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	John Donahue	685-5686

