

# MARCH 2012

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mar 06 7:30pm Lodge School & EA Catechism  
Mar 10 8:30am Ken Shelton Sch. @ Ham.-Thomp. 37  
Mar 13 7:30pm Stated Meeting (Dinner @ 6:30)  
Mar 17 8:30am Div. Leadership Conference  
@ Alexandria Scottish Rite  
Mar 20 7:30pm Lodge School & EA Catechism  
Mar 22 7:00pm M & W Meeting @ AS 288  
Mar 22 7:30pm Dist. Sch. @ Note New Day (Thur)  
Mar 27 7:30pm Lodge School & EA Catechism

Saturdays - 8:30am Catechism & Ritual Work as needed

A Masters and Wardens (M & W) Association meeting will precede each District School and will begin at 7:00pm. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend both the District School and the Masters and Wardens Association Meeting.

## FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

The District Deputy Grand Master for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Masonic District, Right Worshipful Gary Lee Williams, was received in Ashburn-Sterling Lodge #288 for his official visit. He provided a very interesting presentation and shared his reasons why we all should be proud of our Masonic participation.

Worshipful Bro. Duane Galbraith was recognized for fifty years of service to the craft. The presentation of his lapel pin and certificate was most ably performed by Right Worshipful Bro. Chris Thompson in his usual impressive manner.

I encourage and urge all brethren, but especially our line officers to attend the Ken Shelton Area School of Instruction at Hamilton-Thompson #37 and the Division Leadership Conference at the Scottish Rite Temple on Braddock Road in Alexandria. Please see the list of events above for date and time information.

The District Blood Drive will be hosted by Freedom Lodge #118 in Lovettsville on May 5. We must promise the INOVA blood collection team a certain number of donations to get their participation. So, my brothers, please contact me ASAP and indicate your intent to be there and donate. Bring your friends, family and

neighbors to this community event and let them know that **they can identify other organizations** whom they wish to receive credit for the blood donation. Email me with your contact information.

One EA Degree was conferred in February and so we welcome another brother into our Lodge and the fraternity. His journey begins and I'm sure he would appreciate your support and encouragement.

I wish to thank everyone for their continued support and encourage you to let me know if you need anything.

Be sure to keep up to date with Lodge news at our web site, <http://www.ashburnsterling288.org>. If you have anything to post, please pass it on to me.

## MARCH MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to our March babies:

Fletcher, William Christopher	2009
Gruszka, Martin Z.	2011
Harp, Stuart Kevin (PM) & (WM)	1991
Horsman, Henry Muse Jr.(PDDGM)	1950
Mailander, John Hugh Jr. (PM)	1976
Oates, Edward Rumsey	1992
Sisco, Daniel Warren	2009

## COWAN\*

Cowan, an old Scotch word meaning an ignorant person or, in our profession, a mason who put stone together without mortar, or piled rough stones into a wall without working them square and true. He is a mason without the word, an apprentice who tries to masquerade as a master mason.

## WHAT IS A CLANDESTINE LODGE \*

A clandestine Lodge is one professing to be a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons acting under authority from any source not recognized as regular and legitimate by, and not having Masonic intercourse with, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia

## THOUGHTS

Are you aware that a Master Mason cannot be requested or required to stand examination to gain admittance to **his own Lodge**? Even if his absence from Lodge has been so long that not a single brother

can remember him. He need only be on the Lodge rolls in good standing and properly identify himself to the Lodge secretary. So, you see, the old phrase that you have a fear of the examination to attend your own Lodge can no longer serve as an excuse for not going to Lodge!

## MASONIC RING\*

A masonic ring may be worn in any way that its owner wishes. Traditionally, the points of the compass point outward if you want others to know you are a mason; but, to remind yourself that you are a mason, the points should point toward yourself.

## HIGHER DEGREES\*

There are no higher degrees than those of symbolic masonry! The degrees of the Scottish and York Rites are dependent on the three degrees of the symbolic lodge and, consequently, none is higher than that of the Master Mason degree.

## V.S.L.\*

V.S.L. are the initials for *VOLUME OF SACRED LAW*, the holy book of the prevailing faith. The V.S.L. must be displayed on every masonic altar when Lodge is in session. The singular requirement for masonic membership is a belief in a Supreme Being whether it be GOD, ALLAH, JEHOVAH or by any other name. Therefore, a candidate should be obligated on his accepted V.S.L.

\* Excerpted from, "*The Maryland Master Mason*" dated 1976 and authorized by *The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland*.

## OFFICERS 2012

Worshipful Master Stuart Kevin Harp, PM  
 kharp@ashburnsterling288.org  
 (H) (703)-444-9902

Senior Warden Gregory Homer Schwarz  
 Junior Warden Douglas Randal Mason  
 Treasurer Ivan Rollie Sumpter,  
 PDDGM

Secretary Russell L. Baneck, PDDGM  
 AS288Secretary@aol.com  
 (H) (703)-470-2188

Asst. Secy George Henry Baker  
 Senior Deacon Jason Daniel Matchett  
 Junior Deacon David Lee Wang  
 Chaplain William Stanley Buckler,  
 PM

Senior Steward Raymon Walter Bacchus  
 Junior Steward Martin Zdzislaw Gruszka  
 Tiler Felix Pages



ASHBURN-STERLING MASONIC LODGE #288  
 43881 Waxpool Road  
 Ashburn, VA 20176

Stated Communications  
 2nd Tuesday - 7:30pm

## COMMITTEES

Ritualist (LIW) S. Kevin Harp  
 Masonic Ed. (LEO) Nabile Abdallah  
 Lodge Blood Coordinator George H. Baker  
 Fraternal Visit Coordinator George H. Baker  
 Masonic Home Ambassador William Bennett  
 Budget Committee Jeffery Schwarz  
 Lodge Photographer Thomas E. Krouse  
 Trestleboard Coordinator Thomas E. Krouse  
 tekromason@gmail.com

PLEASE VISIT THE ASHBURN-STERLING  
 WEB SITE AT:  
[www.AshburnSterling288.org](http://www.AshburnSterling288.org)

Ashburn #288	Chartered	1906
Sterling #268	Chartered	1971
Ashburn-Sterling #288	Chartered	1997

## TRUSTEES

Thomas Duane Feeley  
 Stuart Kevin Harp  
 Gregory Homer Schwarz  
 Ivan Rollie Sumpter

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Walter Olden Harrison PDDGM  
 Raymond Francis Houser, Jr. PM  
 Thomas Earl Krouse PDDGM  
 Kenneth Overbay Shelton Sr. PDDGM  
 Richard Henry Stuart PM  
 John William Wailes PDDGM

## MASONIC DISTRICT # 2

### MASONIC LODGES

<u>LODGE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MASTER</u>
Ashburn Sterling 288	Ashburn	S. Kevin Harp
Freedom 118	Lovettsville	Phillip B. Brooks
Hamilton-Thompson 37	Purcellville	Joseph L. Ray
Olive Branch 114	Leesburg	Kevin Homan

### DISTRICT OFFICERS

DDGM	Rt. Wor. <b>GARY LEE WILLIAMS</b>	
DIW	Christopher C. Thompson	PDDGM
DEO	Charles A. Maranto	PM
Blood Coordinator	James A. Cromer	PDDGM
Masonic Home Amb.	Donald G. Young	
Membership Coord.	Jeffery Gould	PM

**ASHBURN-STERLING MASONIC LODGE #288**  
**43881 Waxpool Road**  
**Ashburn, VA 20176**  
 Address Correction Requested