

June 2014

Special points of interest:

- National Cathedral for St John the Baptist Day 6/22
- Scottish Rite Blue Lodge Night (Ashburn-Sterling #288 is the host lodge)



4Primary Business Address
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
Address Line 4



FROM THE EAST

It's graduation season, which means a lot of Pomp and Circumstance and endless speeches about how to succeed in the real world. I've been present at a number of speeches in my time but I can't say as I've actually heard them. However, last year I watched a video of a commencement speech by Wynton Marsalis to the University of Vermont that I still think about every day. Yes, every day.

Our society is filled with distractions: TV, cell phones, kids, music, computers, tablets, homework, pets, work, households, sports, chores, activities, even Masonry. We are all guilty of spending a little bit of time in that distracted world and have missed something. Do you know whether that something was insignificant or important?

Wynton's advice was simply:
Be Present.

Whatever you are doing, wherever you are, be present. Be engaged. If your spouse or kids are talking to you, be present. Actively listen to them. Give them your attention. Don't allow yourself to be distracted. If you are present, you won't miss something important and they will know they are important to you. If you are talking on the phone to a friend, be present. In a meeting at work, driving a vehicle, reading a book, deep frying a turkey? Be present.

A friend of mine was telling a story about observing a family of 6 walking into a restaurant (grandparents, parents, grandkids) and asking for a table. With extreme difficulty the staff managed to shuffle customers and push two tables together, only to have the parents and grandkids disappear into their smart phones the moment they sat down. The

grandparents were left staring at each other in disbelief. Why bother with all the inconvenience and production if you are not going to be present?

Sometimes we do have to multitask (working on the computer while talking on the phone, making dinner and listening to your spouse), but sometimes we CHOOSE to multitask because we think we can.

Imagine how successful you would be if you only had to do one thing: Be Present.

Jason Matchett

Worshipful Master



*Summer Attire for
Stated*

Communications:

*Slacks, collared
short sleeve shirt,
shoes (No t-shirts,
shorts, or sandals).*

From the Treasurer's Desk

Brothers,

It is June, six months into the year, and summer is racing by at an accelerated pace. Our Masonic year is also passing very quickly, with so very much to be accomplished. But one item continues to dog us and keep us in a state of perpetual slow motion while the year speeds by. It is our dues.

Let me reiterate, it is June, yet we have a listing of our Brothers that have not paid their dues with 36 names on it. That is not a typo, it is 36 names. Astounding that we have 36 Brothers who have not paid their dues. Dues are to be paid by January 1, not June. To define the situation a bit more, of the 36, 18 have not paid for more than one year, 18. Let's go one step further, 13 Brothers owe more than two years! This totals up to over \$10,000 that is owed to our Lodge, that is owed to your Lodge.

Imagine the money that we have thrown out the window, paying the Grand Lodge assessment for Brothers that have not paid. In excess of \$2,000 has been spent over the years for brothers to front their portion. Money that is gone forever. Your Lodge had to go into its savings account this month to make ends meet because of this situation. Next month will be the same. Unless we get these dues, we will run in the red and be in our savings account for the remainder of the year, and it's only June. Of the total we will only be able to collect a few hundred bucks as most of it is too difficult to recover.

Our contacts with the Brothers on the list have yielded inaccurate information, to the old stand-by "check is in the mail," to "I thought I paid," to "I know I haven't paid," to "I don't want to talk money." Classics one and all. It may sound a bit out-dated but remember we all took an oath, a solemn obligation, to our Lodge? We gave our word. But did you take an oath to the power company to pay your bill? How about that cell phone bill? No oath there either. Yet both of those get paid, right on time, every time. Yet 36 have not paid the dues for the Lodge, your Lodge. \$168 per year, \$14 per month, \$3.23 per week, .46 cents per day.

So now we need to "in the most friendly manner, remind him of his errs, and aid a reformation." We need the \$10,000 to get through the year, after all, it's June.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **June/July Calendar**

6/22—St John the Baptist Day at Washington National Cathedral

7/1—FC Degree @ 7:30PM

7/8—Monthly Stated Communications. Dinner @ 6:30pm, tiled meeting at 7:30pm. Programs include Book of Constitutions and Patriotism.

7/15—MM Degree @ 7:00PM

Check out the District 2 Calendar on our website for the latest information.

St. John the Baptist Day

June 24th is St John the Baptist Day. Or as some refer to it as The Feast of St John the Baptist. St John the Baptist, according to the scriptures, was the cousin of Jesus and baptized his followers in the River Jordan as he preached. He preached rectitude of conduct, righteous living, and change of character and lived his life as such. So much so that he was eventually beheaded by King Herod for his unwavering dedication to his message and to the Great Architect of the Universe.

Ancient lodges organized feasts around the summer solstice in celebration of St John the Baptist. As masons we should pause to remember those whom have lived a life of rectitude as strive to do ourselves.

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge will be attending the Washington National Cathedral on June 22nd in celebration of St John the Baptist. All are welcome. If you would like to coordinate and sit with some of the brothers and their families, contact chaplain@ashburnsterling288.org.

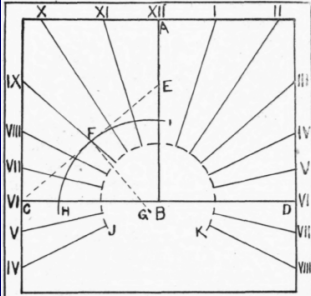


Special thank you to the brothers who facilitated the seating upgrade in the Lodge!

If you haven't already, please come by and give them a sit (or a snooze).

Did You Know?

Typical graduation attire includes a gown and cap, also known as a mortarboard, which is used by masons.



MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

- Eugene Puffenberger, PM
6/3/1953
- Rosser Nace Jr, PDDGM
6/22/1965
- Manuel Sams
6/7/1968
- James Gore
6/13/1972
- Robert Hoffer
6/15/1996
- Terry Sutton
6/9/1998
- Collin Schwarz
6/5/2007
- Nabil Abdallah
6/23/2009
- Raymon Bacchus
6/29/2010
- Ward Giannini
6/29/2010

OFFICERS

- Worshipful Master Jason D. Matchett
Worshipful.Master@AshburnSterling288.org
(703) 505-7257
- Senior Warden David L. Wang
Senior.Warden@AshburnSterling288.org
- Junior Warden Raymon W. Bacchus
Junior.Warden@AshburnSterling288.org
- Treasurer Jeffrey J. Schwarz
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Secretary@AshburnSterling288.org
- Senior Deacon Martin Z. Gruszka
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- Junior Deacon Jeffrey L. Sparrow
Junior.Deacon@AshburnSterling288.org
- Chaplain William S. Buckler, PM
- Senior Steward John L. Rutan
- Junior Steward Jason E. Tayloe
- Marshal Collin G. Schwarz
- Tiler Douglas R. Mason

HONORARY MEMBERS

- Walter O. Harrison PDDGM
- Raymond F. Houser, Jr. PM
- Thomas E. Krouse PDDGM
- Kenneth O. Shelton, Sr. PDDGM
- Richard H. Stuart PM
- John W. Wailes PDDGM
- Charles R. Walk PM



TRUSTEES

- Thomas D. Feeley, PM
- S. Kevin Harp, PM
- Gregg H. Schwarz, PM
- Ivan R. Sumpter, PDDGM