

November 1st 2015
Volume 110, Issue 11

The TRESTLEBOARD of ASHBURN-STERLING LODGE NO. 288

Chartered on February 15, 1906



Stated Meeting:

Second Tuesday of
every month

Dinner at 6:30pm
Meeting at 7:30pm

Ritual Practice:

Tuesday evenings
at 6pm

Saturday mornings
at 8:30am

Lodge Attire:

November Stated
Meeting

Officers:

Ugly Sweater

Everyone Else:

Ugly Sweater,
Business Casual or
Dark Suit and Tie

Degree Nights:

Navy Jacket, White
Shirt & Khaki Slacks

DUES COUNTER

as of
10/31/2015

124 PAID
2 UNPAID

From the East

My Dear Brothers,

Here we are in November! The time has just zipped by!! This is the month of Thanksgiving and we each have so very much to be thankful for. Our family, friends, each other, those that came before us and those who will follow, the Great Architect provides in abundance.

We lost our Temple's namesake on October 9, 2015 when Worshipful Brother Richard H. Stuart laid down his working tools. Bro. Richard built the majority of our building with his own hands and financial support. Please keep his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

November is dedicated to raising awareness for men's health issues. The Movember Foundation is a global charity committed to men living happier, healthier, longer lives. Since 2003 there has been over \$650 million raised to fund over 1,000 programs focusing on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, poor mental health and physical inactivity. Beginning on November 1st participants grow a mustache to do their part in helping to raise awareness. Sometimes, out of the box thinkers who already have a full beard do Movember in reverse and shave parts of it during the month so they are clean shaven by the end of November. I hope you will join us.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia convenes from November 6-8. The fellowship alone makes the experience worth it. If you are able to attend, even for a day, please reach me or our Secretary so we can arrange to meet you.

Dues notices were sent on November 1st. Our dues will be increased to \$180 for 2016 to adjust for the cost of living. Your dues should be received by the Lodge on or before December 31st of 2015 for you to be current and in Good Standing for 2016. Please remember to fulfill your obligation and pay your dues on time.

The cost of Lodge meals has not been adjusted in over 6 years. Therefore, the current cost of providing meals is being subsidized. In 2014 there was an effort to begin a program whereby, on a rotating basis each month, 1 member of our 126 members would donate a meal instead of the Lodge having to subsidize the cost of meals. This meant that any one active member...

Contd. on page 3

Quote for the month

"We are only bound by the limits of our own conviction; we can transcend the script of a pre-defined story, and pave the way for the future that we design. We just need to tap that power, that conviction, that determination within us." By Bro. Robert F. Smith

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

"We're a group of men who meet on the level, act upon the square, and walk uprightly in life. We take good men and make them better by the teachings of Masonry, and work towards brotherly love, relief, & truth."

by our late friend and Brother, Charles Richard (Dick) Walk

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

November (Awareness of Men's Health Issues - The month of November)

Dues Notices Sent (11/1/2015)

Fraternal Visit (Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 91 Stated on 11/2/2015)

Lodge Game Day (1st Thursday of each Month for Board Games at 7pm on 11/5/2015)

Attend Grand Lodge (11/6/2015 - 11/8/2015)

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Virginia (11/13/2015 - 11/15/2015)

Fraternal Visit (John Blair Lodge No. 187 Stated on 11/16/2015)

DECEMBER

Lodge Game Day (1st Thursday of each Month for Board Games at 7pm on 12/3/2015)

Open Installation of your 2016 Officers (11am on 12/12/15)

Hamilton-Thompson Lodge No. 37 Elections and Installation (7:30pm on 12/17/2015)

Olive Branch Lodge No. 114 Open Installation of officers (at AS288 1pm on 12/19/2015)

Visit to Catocin Creek Distillery (10am on 12/20/2015; RSVP to WM by 12/4/2015)

Holiday Party for our Youth Groups (7pm on 12/20/2015)

Fraternal Visit (Columbia Lodge No. 285 Stated on 12/21/2015)

Dues Reminder (Due on or before 12/31/2015 for 2016)

FURTHER OUT

Division Leadership Conference (8am on 1/9/2016 at Highland School located 597 Broadview, Warrenton, VA 20186)

DDGM Official Visit (2/9/2016)

District Bowling Night (2/10/2016 from 6pm-8:30pm) at Village Lanes Bowling Center located at 49 Catocin Circle SE, Leesburg, VA 20175

Grand Lodge Ken Shelton School at Olive Branch Lodge No. 114 (3/5/2016)

Grand Master's Official Visit to the District (At Creek's Edge Winery at 6pm on 3/19/2016 Tickets - \$25 each)

Grand Master's Official Visit to AS288 (At our April Stated meeting on 4/12/2016)

District Official Visit to St. George Lodge No. 200 for the Peppercorn Festival in Bermuda (4/17/2016 - 4/22/2016)

Masonic Birthdays for the Month

1971 - Lige M. Shick

1975 - Garrett D. Huskins

1978 - Michael J. Kastle

1979 - Marvin M. Shoaf

1983 - Robert A. Murdick II

1984 - James D. Phillips

1988 - James F. Jones

1999 - John E. Bowman

2008 - Daniel M. Potter

2010 - Francisco A. Aguillon

2014 - Joseph B. Crosswhite

2014 - Kelly O. Doyle



*"Grow your mo and do your part for men's health...
...knowledge is power,
moustache is king!"*



Where is the Travelling Gavel?

A long standing tradition in District 2; any Lodge wishing to take possession of it or transfer it must do so at a Tiled Communication, must have the Worshipful Master and 3 members of his Lodge present, it cannot be passed to the Lodge from which it was received and the exchange must be recorded in the minutes. If it isn't transferred within 2 months, the possessing Lodge will donate \$25 to Loudoun Interfaith Relief for each month beyond the initial 2 until it is transferred. Our Traveling Gavel is currently in the possession of: **Olive Branch No. 114 as of 10/15/2015.**



Your Officers Thoughts

FROM THE EAST CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

.. would only be providing a meal once every 3-4 years. That program is quite successful in other Lodges and was successful in our Lodge as we were able to initiate our Steward's Fund. This fund was used to subsidize the meals when a particular Brother wasn't able to manage providing the entire meal himself, provide 2 catered meals for the year, to purchase Lodge supplies and purchase snacks or desserts for each practice or Called Meeting. All this was accomplished without using any of the Lodge funds that are needed for operations, maintenance and repairs. In other words it was a self-sustaining program. We plan on restoring that program in 2016. The difference being that the cost of Lodge meals will increase from \$5.00 to \$7.00. This still allows us to provide our dinners at a lower cost to our members than many other Lodges.

Summary of October

Our Junior Warden held a successful Fall Lodge cleanup day on October 3rd. Thank you to all those who came out and helped in making our Temple a place to be proud of.

The second District Bowling Night of 2015 was hosted by Village Lanes Bowling Center on October 8th. AS288 brought the trophy home with a great performance! A good evening of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Of note, there were 3 potential petitioners in attendance who were able to ask questions and enjoy the fellowship as well. Thank you to all those who came out and supported our Lodge and the District.

We had a Fraternal Visit to Brunswick Lodge No. 191 in Brunswick, Maryland on October 14th. We enjoyed great fellowship and a delicious steak and shrimp dinner. We also visited Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54 where we were enlightened by a great program from North Carolina Masonry on our Masonic Obligations. My Brothers, thus far we have accomplished 22 visits. Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!!

Bella Nova Chorus provided a free concert on October 25th to the families and friends of the Brothers of AS288. What great resources we have available to us!!

What's happening in November?

In addition to Grand Lodge convening 6-8 November, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia is convening 13-15 November. There are many of you who have continued your Masonic journey in the York Rite who will be in attendance and I look forward to seeing you there.

With all of the Grand Annual communications going on we are keeping our Lodge activities to a minimum so Brothers may attend without conflict. Please refer to the "Upcoming Events" listed on page 2.

Brothers, as this year continues to zip by, take stock of the many opportunities you have to receive more light and better yourself as both a man and a Mason. Let us continue being industrious in becoming better together.

In your service I faithfully remain,

Raymon W. Bacchus, WM

SENIOR WARDEN

The Virginia Capitular Degrees (Continued)

Once you have been exalted to the Royal Arch have you received all the light in the York Rite? The degrees conferred in the Symbolic Lodge (or Blue Lodge) and The Royal Arch Chapter constitutes the whole of "Ancient Craft Masonry". All of these degrees are based upon events connected with the erection of King Solomon's Temple, its dedication, and the sequel as recorded in the Old Testament and in secular history. The orders conferred in the Commandery are based upon certain events and teachings of the New Testament and is, therefore, a further extension to that of the Lodge and the Chapter. To the Mason who embraces the Christian Religion, the Orders of Knighthood are necessary for a complete understanding of the many applications of Masonic teachings.

It will be seen that as the Mason climbs the symbolic stairway to the heights of knowledge and wisdom, he needs to receive more and more detailed instruction to enable him to make personal use of Masonry's sublime principles. This knowledge can never become complete.

Ask yourself, am I a Knight Templar? If the answer is no, then there is yet more light. Do I want to be a Knight Templar? What will I receive by becoming a Knight Templar?

Yours in service.

The Senior Warden's Station

JUNIOR WARDEN

Where does a Brother go in search of light in Masonry once he becomes a Master Mason? Our Craft it seems is well setup to take the candidate through a journey of three degrees with each one introducing him to new moral teachings and obligations, further symbols and allegories and so on. Once we become new Master Masons however, the quality of our education varies. Many times it is driven by the strength of our own ambitions, often dependent on the quality of lodge education programs, and sometimes meeting the right Mason at the right time. Personally, I was very lost, unsure what else was expected of me and where else I should look when I became a Master Mason. This sense of confusion exhibited itself by me going so far as to even ask myself if I truly belonged in the Fraternity. Luckily, a Brother approached me and introduced me to a group of Past Masters. One of them, an exceptional human being and a Mason spent a year with me going through ritual, suggesting meaning, and coloring it with personal stories. He helped me turn a fledgling pilot light of curiosity and wonder, into a fire of self-introspection and interest.

I got lucky in meeting the right inspirational figure at the right time, but this does not have to be a matter of luck for any one of us anymore. Brothers, take a look at the past year. The Worshipful Master's theme of Industrious Learning resulted in many opportunities to further our education as Master Masons and I know this will continue into the next year. Our Lodge conducts group Correspondence Course, Tuesday evening Education Programs, Tuesday Ritual, Saturday morning ritual get together. We have a new library in place since October of 2014 with new books being donated on a regular basis. We have a completely private Facebook page where Brothers often throw in a Meme or Masonic thought or article. The opportunities for learning abound. And what about those who like me prefer an environment of one on one learning over banging out ritual or lodge courses? Brethren the get together I mentioned above are full of Brothers with zeal to learn and to share their own discoveries. You could very well come in and find that same inspirational figure, that exceptional human being and a Mason who will help light your fire. We'll see you there Brethren. Yours in service.

Bro. Martin Z. Gruszka

TREASURER

As I see it, this is my last submission for the Trestleboard as I do not know what happens in December. It is appropriate and timely that this month's input be devoted to an apology that I owe to some of the brothers. I have been informed that my previous submissions for the Trestleboard have not been well received by some brothers both inside and outside of our Lodge. I was only trying to get the Brothers to think about our Lodge finances. Apparently that was a misguided effort. As an example, I was informed that I do not understand that our Lodge finances have cycles. Seriously? While any kid running a lemonade stand understands monetary swings, I appreciate the keen and insightful information. For those that have been displeased with my submissions I can't help but wonder if they know anything about our Lodge finances? How about the daily cost to run our Lodge, the fixed costs, the largest expenses, the variable costs, the varied income streams, the positive or negative cash flows, anything at all? While I could guess about the usual suspects who are not pleased, it is more important to me to openly apologize as I sincerely do not like to offend anyone. Yours in service.

Bro. Jeffrey J. Schwarz

SECRETARY

DUES NOTICES! We will begin sending out dues notices in November.

1. Please review your contact information and submit any changes.
2. Please remit payment upon receipt. As a reminder, payment is due by 12/31/15.

Yours in service.

Jason D. Matchett, PM

JUNIOR DEACON

Brethren,

It is with great hesitation and regret that I must inform you of my resignation from the office of Junior Deacon. I am unable to fulfill my office's duties and the duties of future offices at this time. Subsequent to accepting the position and responsibility in April, I have had new professional development requirements and new additional responsibilities consuming my time. I look forward to seeing you at Lodge as often as I possibly can as I will continue to support our Lodge to the best of my ability. Yours in service.

Bro. John R. Hollar

JUNIOR STEWARD

What is Masonic Light? Many enter through the doors of Freemasonry and are initiated from Entered Apprentice to Master Mason. Each man becomes a Mason for his own reason. We all seek our individual light in Masonry. Lately, I have been reading about how to become a better man. God has played a role for me throughout this process and while masonry is not specifically about being faithful; it is about becoming the idealized version of ourselves with faith as our cornerstone. Over the last 3 years I have found that the lessons of Freemasonry can rarely be taken at face value. There is often wisdom embedded in the subtleties of everything we do. Upon receiving the Master Mason degree, a newly initiated Master Mason is told that the degree confers all the light that can be conferred in a lodge. Seeking light seems to me to be of discovery, reflection, and learning our place under the canopy of heaven. The light can be considered akin to those Masonic secrets that are spoken about so often. We are all seeking light; it's the common driver that has brought such a diverse group of individuals together. So it stands to reason that together we are stronger than the sum of our parts throughout our work in

Masonry. So, the next time you attend an initiation be it an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason degree listen carefully to all that you hear. Everything is truly bathed in light for those that have eyes to see and ears to hear. It is together that we truly gain the value we seek from masonry. Yours in service,

Bro. Kelly O. Doyle

CHAPLAIN

"Masonry teaches that all power is delegated for the good, and not for the injury of the People; and that, when it is perverted from the original purpose, the compact is broken, and the right ought to be resumed; that resistance to power usurped is not merely a duty which man owes to himself and to his neighbor, but a duty which he owes to his God, in asserting and maintaining the rank which He gave him in the creation." By Bro. Albert Pike in "Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry" prepared for the Supreme Council of the Thirty Third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States: Charleston, 1871 (Page 155). Yours in service.

William S. Buckler Jr., PM

MUSICIAN

Brothers, did you know that planets and stars actually give off music? Although we know that space is a virtual vacuum, this does not mean there is no sound in space. NASA has developed specialized instruments that can detect numerous electromagnetic signals, including the vibrations of the planets and their moons and rings, and the electromagnetic fields of the planets and moons. These signals were then translated into sound that have been compared to human voices singing, giant Tibetan bowls, wind waves, and birds and dolphins. So it appears the Universe is truly filled with music thanks to the Supreme Architect. Yours in service.

Bro. Bruce A. Lillegard



OFFICIAL LODGE SHIRT ORDERS

Now available to purchase through the following website

<http://www.macoy.com/mobile/Ashburn-Sterling-Lodge-288-Masonic-Golf-Shirt-P9515.aspx>

or by calling Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company at 1-800-637-4640

Your 2015 Leadership Team

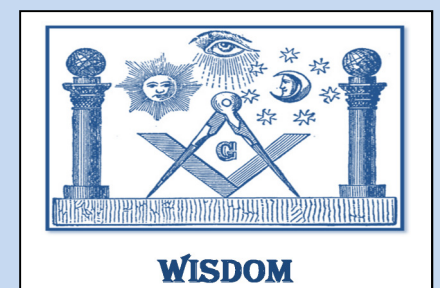
Title	Name	Email
Worshipful Master	Raymon W. Bacchus	Worshipful.Master@Ashburnsterling288.org
Senior Warden	VACANT	Senior.Warden@Ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Warden	Martin Z. Gruszka	Junior.Warden@Ashburnsterling288.org
Treasurer	Jeffrey J. Schwarz	Treasurer@Ashburnsterling288.org
Secretary	Jason D. Matchett, PM	Secretary@Ashburnsterling288.org
Senior Deacon	Jeffrey L. Sparrow	Senior.Deacon@Ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Deacon	John R. Hollar	Junior.Deacon@Ashburnsterling288.org
Chaplain	William S. Buckler Jr., PM	Chaplain@Ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Chaplain	Thomas E. Krouse, PDDGM	Chaplain@Ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Chaplain	Bruce A. Lillegard	Chaplain@Ashburnsterling288.org
Senior Steward	Daniel M. Potter, PM	Senior.Steward@Ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Steward	Kelly O. Doyle	Junior.Steward@Ashburnsterling288.org
Marshal	Jason E. Tayloe	Marshal@Ashburnsterling288.org
Musician	Bruce A. Lillegard	Musician@Ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Musician	Joseph B. Crosswhite	Musician@Ashburnsterling288.org
Tiler	Douglas R. Mason	Tiler@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Instructor of Work	Jason D. Matchett, PM	LIW@Ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Instructor of Work	Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM	LIW@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Blood Coordinator	Jason E. Tayloe	Programs@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Masonic Home Ambassador	Francisco A. Aguillon	MAHOVA@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Education Officer	Michael J. Kastle	LEO@Ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Lodge Education Officer	William B. Bennett Jr.	LEO@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge VACHIP Officer	Jwamer J. Rasheed	Programs@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Membership Officer	John F. Meehan, PM	Services@Ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Membership Officer	VACANT	Services@Ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Services Officer	Douglas R. Mason	Services@Ashburnsterling288.org

Trustees

William B. Bennett Jr.

Thomas D. Feely, PM

Ivan R. Sumpter, PDDGM



Your 2015 Leadership Team continued

Committees & Chair Persons

Activities	Junior Warden	Processes/SOP	Secretary
Audit	Senior Warden	Property	Treasurer
Awards	Senior Warden	Ritual	LIW
Communications	Secretary	Scholarship	Senior Warden
Finance	William B. Bennett Jr.	Temple	Senior Deacon
Historical	Thomas D. Feely, PM	Trustees	Thomas D. Feely, PM
Investigation	Senior Deacon	Welfare	Chaplain
Masonic Relief	Senior Warden		

Service and Commitment

Living Past Masters

Our deceased Past Masters will forever remain in our hearts

David G. Arnold	Charles A. Maranto
Paul L. Baker	Jason D. Matchett
Russell L. Baneck, PDDGM	John F. Meehan
Stanley B. Bowen	Rosser B. Nance Jr., PDDGM
William S. Buckler, Jr.	Daniel M. Potter
Thomas D. Feely	Eugene R. Puffenberger
Darrell R. Fleming	Gregory H. Schwarz
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James C. Gore Jr.	Marvin M. Shoaf
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Raymond F. Houser Jr.	Ivan R. Sumpter, PDDGM
Gerald D. Jenkins	Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM
John L. Jensen III	Richard B. Wade
Kevin L. Kelly	John W. Wailes, PDDGM
James C. Keys, PDDGM	David R. Westenberger
Thomas E. Krouse, PDDGM	Joe E. Workman

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Robert S. Barnes	Richard F. Marshall
Bernard L. Bowers	Felix Pages-Romero
Freeman K. Buxton	Eugene R. Puffenberger, PM
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Darrell R. Fleming, PM	George L. Smith
Walter O. Harrison, PDDGM	Robert L. Spindle, PM
Thomas E. Krouse, PDDGM	

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Marvin M. Shoaf, PM
Richard H. Stuart, PM
Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM
John W. Wailes, PDDGM
Charles R. Walk, PM



The 170th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia (2014-2015)

MW Reese Edward Carroll, Jr.



"Together, We Can Make A Difference"



ASHBURN-STERLING MASONIC LODGE NO. 288 43881 Waxpool Road, Ashburn VA 20147 Phone: 1 (571) 306-2880

District No. 2 Lodges & Masters

- Hamilton Thompson Lodge No. 37 WM - Donald G. Young
Olive Branch Lodge No. 114 WM - Reuben V. Martinez III
Freedom Lodge No. 118 WM - Loyd E. Davis
Ashburn Sterling Lodge No. 288 WM - Raymon W. Bacchus

District No. 2 Leadership Team (www.vamasonicdistrict2.org)

- District Deputy Grand Master Jeffrey R. Gould, DDGM
District Instructor of Work Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM
District Educational Officer Kevin M. Homan, PM
District Masonic Home Ambassador Bro. John G. McWilliams III
District Blood Coordinator James A. Cromer, PDDGM
District VACHIP Coordinator Roy H. McGarrah, Jr., PDDGM
District Membership Coordinator Philip B. Brooks, PM
District Lodge Services Representative Thomas W. Brierton, PM

Resident Bodies

Potomac Royal Arch Chapter No. 88 4th Monday of each month at 7:30pm with dinner at 6:30pm

Piedmont Commandery No. 26 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30pm with dinner at 6:30pm Practice on the 2nd Thursday of each Month at 7:00pm

Ashburn Chapter Order of the DeMolay 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm

Ashburn Rainbow Assembly No. 11 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 7:00pm

Ancient and Honorable Order of the Turtles Contact Wor. Raymon W. Bacchus

Other Bodies and the Fund

- York Rite www.yorkrite.org
Scottish Rite www.scottishrite.org
Beehive Club www.herndonlodge264.org/bee-hive-club/
Job's Daughters International www.jobsdaughtersinternational.org
Kena Shriners www.kena.org
Masonic Benefit Fund www.masonicbenefitfund.org
United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) www.ugle.org.uk

*** Grand Lodge of Catharpin operating at Hay Market Lodge No. 313 on Tuesdays from 8:30am to 11:00am imparting Virginia Ritual, Masonic Protocol and Fellowship

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