



The TRESTLEBOARD of ASHBURN-STERLING LODGE NO. 288

Volume 119, Issue 6

Chartered on February 15, 1906

June 2025



Stated Communication:

Second Tuesday of
every month

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

Masonic Education & Ritual Practice:

Tuesday evenings
at 6:00pm

Saturday mornings
at 8:30am

Lodge Attire:

Lodge officers
(stated
communication):

Tuxedo

Members:

Lodge Shirt, Business
Casual, or Dark Suit
and Tie

Degree Nights
(Lodge officers &
Members):

Navy Jacket, White
Shirt & Khaki Slacks

UNPAID DUES

26

**Please Submit Dues
Payments ASAP**

From the East



Photo Credit: Bro. JK Leo

Brethren, summer is officially here, and I hope you are finding time to enjoy the warm weather with friends, family, and one another. It has been a fun and rewarding season so far, and there are more opportunities for fraternity, gratitude, and charity just around the corner.

May was an eventful month for the Lodge. We had a great time at our District Picnic with Brothers, family, and friends. Our Senior Deacon, Javier Amaya, served as grillmaster and we made a \$200 donation to Tree of Life charity on behalf of Hamilton-Thompson Lodge who won our District cornhole tournament and left with the belt.

Officers and members of our Lodge came together and conferred the Degree of Master Mason (congratulations to Brother Marinov). I want to take a moment to underscore the importance of participating in degree work to maintain a healthy Lodge. I personally invite you to come to a practice this month if you have never before been in a degree; we have some of the best instructors around and have fun practicing the work. We also find balance, taking time this month to go bowling and enjoy some camaraderie.

In June we will be doing more to fight food insecurity by providing and preparing food and working closely with our partners in the community. We are also making an impact by hosting a Blood Drive with Inova at our Lodge.

We will be conferring another Degree of Master Mason this month, and will pick up practice for the Degree of Fellowcraft. These are both great opportunities to engage or re-engage with degree work.

Looking further, we'll be hosting a picnic with the other York Rite bodies that share our Lodge on July 19th. On August 12th we'll be having our Table Lodge - more information and a form to select your meal and payment is [here on our website](#); proceeds from this event will be donated on behalf of the Lodge to our local charities.

Brethren, as a final thought I remind you that the sun is now at meridian for 2025. Consider what was set out for us by the Architect to do this year, where can we reach out to a Brother for help, and where can we reach out to help a Brother.

With fraternal love and affection,

Spotlight of the month

As I consider my year in the east beginning to wane I am struck with excitement to think I'll be passing the gavel to such an excellent man and Brother as Scott Lambert. Scott is the genuine article, spending his days and nights in the quarry serving our craft and his community. Whether it's keeping the Lodge running smoothly or making sure our local first responders have reliable equipment, you know you're in good hands when Scott is around. I can't wait to see and support Scott in his year next year!



Photo Credit: Bro. JK Leo



Proper Instruction

Throughout the year I will use this section to provide what I believe to be timely and relevant excerpts from Masonic texts and presentations, present messages from our officers, and offer instruction for the consideration of the Brethren.

From The Book of Constitutions



RICHMOND:
PRINTED BY JOHN WARROCK,
...1818...

SECT. 3. *Concerning private Qualities and Duties.*

For the better attainment of these shining qualities, he is to seek and acquire as far as possible, the virtues of patience, meekness, self-denial, forbearance and the like, which give him the command over himself, and enable him to govern his own family, with affection, dignity and prudence; at the same time checking every disposition injurious to the world, and promoting that love and service which brethren of the same Lodge or household owe to each other. Therefore to afford succour to the distressed, to divide our bread with the industrious poor, and to put the misguided traveller into the way, are qualities inherent in the craft, and suitable to its dignity. But though a Mason is never to shut his ear unkindly to the complaints of any of the human species; yet when a brother is oppressed or suffers, he is in a more peculiar manner called to open his whole soul in love and compassion to him, and to relieve without prejudice, according to his capacity.

SECT. 6. *Of the Wardens of a Lodge.*

2. The Senior Warden succeeds to all the duties of the Master, and fills the chair when he is absent. Or if the Master goes abroad on business, resigns, demits, or is deposed, the Senior Warden shall forthwith fill his place till the next stated time of election. And although it was formerly held, that in such cases the Master's authority ought to revert to the last past Master who is present, yet it is now the settled rule, that the authority devolves upon the Senior Warden, and in his absence upon the Junior Warden, even although a former Master be present. But the Wardens will generally waive this privilege in honour of any past Master that may be present, and will call on him to take the chair, upon the presumption of his experience and skill in conducting the business of the lodge. Nevertheless such past Master still derives his authority under the Senior Warden, and cannot act till he congregates the lodge.† If none of the officers be present, nor any former master to take the chair, the members according to seniority and merit, shall fill the places of the absent officers.‡

Masonic Birthdays for the Month (June)



- Nabil Abdallah – June 23, 2009
- Raymon Bacchus – June 29, 2010
- Douglas Collins – June 28, 2010
- Joseph Cook – June 5, 2018
- Matthew Dodds – June 28, 2022
- James Gore – June 13, 1972
- Gerry Manigbus – June 28, 2022
- Rosser Nance – June 22, 1965
- Collin Schwarz – June 5, 2007
- Terry Sutton – June 9, 1998



Schedule

June		
Date	Time	Event
1	10:00 am	Cook/Package meals at Lodge for Dulles South Soup Kitchen
2	6:30 pm	Lodge Philosophical Group - Open to All Members.
3	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
3	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice - Master Mason Degree - Open to All Master Mason Members.
4	6:30 pm	District Masters & Wardens Meeting - Open to All Members.
4	7:00 pm	District School Olive Branch No. 118 - Open to All Master Mason Members.
5	2:00 pm	Inove Blood Drive at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge
6	6:00 pm	Grand Master's Official Visit to District 2 (RSVP required, Link to Register)
10	7:30 pm	Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 Stated Communication (Dinner: 6:30pm, Meeting: 7:30pm) - Meeting program from District 2 MAHOVA Ambassador Right Worshipful Jim Cromer.
14	8:30 am	DeMolay Monthly Breakfast (8:30am-10:30am). Suggested Donation \$10. Open to all Members and Families.
17	7:00 pm	Master Mason Degree - Open to All Master Masons. (Light meal prior)
24	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
24	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice - Fellowcraft Degree - Open to All FC and Master Mason Members.
July		
Date	Time	Event
1	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
1	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice - Fellowcraft Degree - Open to All FC and Master Mason Members.
5	8:30 am	DeMolay Monthly Breakfast (8:30am-10:30am). Suggested Donation \$10. Open to all Members and Families.
7	6:30 pm	Lodge Philosophical Group - Open to All Members.
8	7:30 pm	Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 Stated Communication (Dinner: 6:30pm, Meeting: 7:30pm) - Hawaiian Shirt Night - Meeting program TBD.
15	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
15	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice - Fellowcraft Degree - Open to All FC and Master Mason Members.
19	12:00 pm	York Rite Masons of Loudoun Summer Picnic at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge
22	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
22	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice - Fellowcraft Degree - Open to All FC and Master Mason Members.
29	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
29	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice - Fellowcraft Degree - Open to All FC and Master Mason Members.
August		
Date	Time	Event
2	2:00 pm	Ashburn Rainbow Assembly No. 11 Officer Installation - Open to All Members.
4	6:30 pm	Lodge Philosophical Group - Open to All Members.
5	6:30 pm	District Masters & Wardens Meeting - Open to All Members.
5	7:00 pm	District School Olive Branch No. 118 - Open to All Master Mason Members.
9	8:30 am	DeMolay Monthly Breakfast (8:30am-10:30am). Suggested Donation \$10. Open to all Members and Families.



Your 2025 Leadership Team

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL
Worshipful Master	James Simonetti	worshipful.master@ashburnsterling288.org
Senior Warden	Scott Lambert	Senior.warden@ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Warden	John Lambert	Junior.warden@ashburnsterling288.org
Secretary	Ralph Choueiri	Secretary@ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Secretary	Jason Matchett	Secretary@ashburnsterling288.org
Treasurer	Kevin Kelly	Treasurer@ashburnsterling288.org
Senior Deacon	Javier Amaya	Senior.deacon@ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Deacon	Tim Fields	Junior.deacon@ashburnsterling288.org
Chaplain	Tom Vojir	Chaplain@ashburnsterling288.org
Senior Steward	Al Omotola	Senior.steward@ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Steward	Brian Singer	Junior.steward@ashburnsterling288.org
Junior Steward	Nicholas Carroll	Junior.steward@ashburnsterling288.org
Marshal	Dustin Gelegonya	Marshal@ashburnsterling288.org
Musician	(Vacant)	Musician@ashburnsterling288.org
Tiler	Bret Thomas	Tiler@ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Tiler	Jeff Sparrow	Tiler@ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Tiler	Timothy Dahlman	Tiler@ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Instructor of Work	Bret Thomas	LIW@ashburnsterling288.org
Assistant Lodge Instructor of Work	Dave Stoneburner	ALIW@ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Blood Coordinator	(Vacant)	Blood.coordinator@ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Masonic Home Ambassador	Shawn Mitchell	Mahova@ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Education Officer	Gregory Schwarz	scoutergs@aol.com
Assistant Lodge Education Officer	Timothy Dahlman	Blood.coordinator@ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Membership Officer	Gregory Schwarz	scoutergs@aol.com
Candidate Instruction Officer	David Stoneburner	dav.stoneburner@verizon.net

If any of these vacant roles are of interest to you, please reach out at
worshipful.master@ashburnsterling288.org

TRUSTEES

Bret Thomas, PM

Timothy Dahlman, PM

Jason Matchett, PM



Do you want to get involved? (Committee leads to be updated)

COMMITTEE NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL
Social Committee	Javier Amaya	senior.deacon@ashburnsterling288.org
Community Awards Committee	James Simonetti	worshipful.master@ashburnsterling288.org
Masonic Relief Committee	James Simonetti	worshipful.master@ashburnsterling288.org
Scholarship Committee	Scott Lambert	senior.warden@ashburnsterling288.org
Freemasons Help Kids Committee	Al Omotola	senior.steward@ashburnsterling288.org
Widows Committee	Dustin Gelegonya	marshal@ashburnsterling288.org
Blood Drive Committee	Tom Vojir	chaplain@ashburnsterling288.org
IT & Website Committee	Bret Thomas	tiler@ashburnsterling288.org
Loudoun Hunger Relief Committee	Tom Vojir	chaplain@ashburnsterling288.org
Lodge Property Management Committee	Tim Fields	junior.deacon@ashburnsterling288.org
Finance Audit Committee	Scott Lambert	senior.warden@ashburnsterling288.org

**If you want to help the community in different ways, and lead a new committee, please reach out to:
worshipful.master@ashburnsterling288.org**

Masonic Education

If you are interested in Masonic education, esoteric teachings, and beyond. Please come out to the Lodge's philosophical group hosted by Worshipful Tim Dahlman on the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm.

Also, notable podcasts on YouTube, include:

- The Masonic Roundtable
- Whence Came you?

Notable authors include:

- Manly P. Hall
- W.L. Wilmshurst
- Albert Mackey
- Albert Pike

Lodge Shirts

<https://www.macoy.com/Masonic-Store/Masonic-Apparel/Mesh-Lodge-Polo.aspx>



Service and Commitment



Living Past Masters

Our deceased Past Masters will forever remain in our hearts

Raymon W. Bacchus, PDDGM	John F. Meehan
Russell L. Baneck, PDDGM	Daniel M. Potter
Stanley B. Bowen	Gregory H. Schwarz, PDDGM
Ralph R. Choueiri	Timmy E. Shrum
Timothy A. Dahlman	Jeffrey L. Sparrow
Darrell R. Fleming, PDDGM	Robert L. Spindle
James C. Gore Jr.	David L. Stoneburner
Martin Gruszka	Ivan R. Sumpter, PDDGM
Gerald D. Jenkins	Bret M. Thomas
John L. Jensen III	Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM
Kevin L. Kelly	John W. Wailes, PDDGM
Brian M. King	Farley Warner, Jr.
Jason D. Matchett	

LMIP Members

Raymon W. Bacchus	Stuart K. Harp, PDDGM
Russell L. Baneck, PDDGM	Brian M. King
William B. Bennett Jr.	John F. Meehan, PM
Stanley B. Bowen	Robert J. Moran III
Frederick H. Chandler	Luis Pages, PDDGM
Jimmy L. Clifton	Ivan R. Sumpter, PDDGM
Douglas R. Collins	Adam J. Sutton
James H. Davis	Terry Sutton
Lawrence R. Drewett	Richard B. Wade, PM
Thomas D. Feely, PM	David L. Wang
Charles A. Fritter Jr.	

Veteran Members

Truman E. Cox
James A. Crosen
Darrell R. Fleming, PDDGM
Allen L. Gabriel
James C. Gore Jr., PM
Wendell D. Hansen
Garrett D. Huskins
James C. Keys, PDDGM
Rosser B. Nance Jr.
Thomas O. Mitchell
Lige M. Shick
Robert L. Spindle, PM
Ivan R. Sumpter, PDDGM
David L. Stoneburner
Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM
John W. Wailes, PDDGM

Honorary Members

William S. Buckler, Jr. PM
Walter O. Harrison, PDDGM
Raymond F. Houser, Jr, PM
Thomas E. Krouse, PDDGM
Kenneth O. Shelton, Sr., PDDGM
Marvin M. Shoaf, PM
Christopher C. Thompson, PDDGM
John W. Wailes, PDDGM
Charles R. Walk, PM



**The 179th
Grand Master
of Masons in
Virginia
(2024-2025)**

***MW Gary Dwight
Huffman***

**"Freemasonry: Faith,
Truth, and Harmony"**

**ASHBURN-STERLING
MASONIC LODGE NO. 288**
43881 Waxpool Road,
Ashburn VA 20147
Phone: 1 (571) 306-2880
www.ashburnsterling288.org

District No. 2 Lodges & Masters

Hamilton Thompson Lodge No. 37	Larry Brissing
Olive Branch Lodge No. 114	Alex Fogelson
Freedom Lodge No. 118	Wes Hirschhorn
Herndon Lodge No. 264	Matt Hamill
Ashburn Sterling Lodge No. 288	James Simonetti

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

District Deputy Grand Master	Eric LeHew, PM
District Instructor of Work	Christopher Thompson, PDDGM
District Educational Officer	Rhey Solomon, PDDGM
District Blood Coordinator	Francisco Aguillon
District Masonic Home Ambassador	James Cromer, PDDGM
District Membership Coordinator	Gregory Schwarz, PDDGM
District Webmaster	Phil Brooks, PDDGM

Resident Bodies (Masonic & Non-Masonic)

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

1st and 3rd Sundays 4:30pm

Loudoun Scottish Rite Club

3rd Wednesday of the month except November and December
7:00 pm

Bella Nova Chorus

Sundays 1:00pm-4:00pm

Ancient and Honorable Order of the Turtles

Contact Right Worshipful Raymon W. Bacchus and visit them often!
<http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/masonicmuseum/fraternalism/turtles.htm>



District Picnic, May 17





Degree of Master Mason, May 20





Bowling Night, May 27

