



The TRESTLEBOARD of ASHBURN-STERLING LODGE NO. 288

Volume 119, Issues 8, 9

Chartered on February 15, 1906

September 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
22
Please Submit Dues
Payments ASAP

From the East



Photo Credit: Bro. JK Leo

Brethren, I appreciate having seen many of you over the past weeks - as the days are beginning to get shorter it has been good to share in the light you each bring to our Craft. I also acknowledge this issue is a bit unorthodox as I failed to publish one last month. I'll ask your indulgence as I include some dedicated space below to talk about things that took place in July and August. As autumn approaches there is line of sight to the end of the 2025 Masonic year, so let's dive in!

In September, I've asked Brother Scott Lambert, our Senior Warden, to lead the stated communication. We will be passing two Brothers to the Degree of Fellow Craft and will polishing our ritual for an upcoming Degree of Master Mason. We will host the Ken Shelton Area Ritual School the morning of September 13th. We will launch a coat drive and have multiple opportunities to volunteer preparing and providing meals for people in our community.

October will have awards night - there are four awards being presented to members of our community (scholarships, community builders) which will take place after dinner, followed by some additional awards during

the meeting (I promise to do my best to get us all out at a reasonable hour.). There is Masonic Family Day at MAHOVA and our annual fall cleanup at the Lodge, and more opportunities to help charitably. We will begin looking at dates in October and November for conferring the Degree of Master Mason.

The 247th Grand Annual Communication will commence November 7th in Richmond. Our November stated communication will be "Move Up Night" and in November we will look for ways to contribute in the community around Thanksgiving.

December will bring election and installation of officers and at least one more call for charitable activity. I will get to watch my Brethren and friends take the next step in their Masonic careers, and I will continue to appreciate and support the strong leadership in the Lodge.

With fraternal love and affection,

Spotlight of the month

This month I am taking some time to acknowledge Bro. Al Omotola, the Senior Steward of Ashburn-Sterling Lodge. Throughout the year Al consistently jumps in to help support our fraternity. Al can be found in the kitchen early at our stated communications (often preparing meals himself), or stepping in to lead ('Freemasons Help Kids' committee); Al puts in time and energy to help make things work in the operation of the Lodge. We appreciate you Al and all you do to support Ashburn-Sterling and the community.



Bro. Omotola at LHR



July and August Recap

I was fortunate to be able to spend time with many of you this summer. Here are some highlights from the past couple of months at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge:

July:

- One Brother raised to the Degree of Master Mason.
- Four Entered Apprentices returned catechism.
- We hosted the York Rite picnic at the Lodge.
- We prepared 50 meals for our community in partnership with Dulles South Soup Kitchen.

August:

- Lodge members showed up to support the next term of officers at the respective installations for Ashburn's Virginia DeMolay chapter and International Order of Rainbow for Girls assembly.
- We held a well-attended Table Lodge, raising \$500 for Loudoun Hunger Relief
- Two Entered Apprentices passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft

I am continually impressed by the steadfast commitment by our active membership in making so much happen in the Lodge and in our community. The collective time needed to practice for and organize this ritual work, manage events, and deliver real impact in the community is significant. Often summer months give us time to get away and recharge, so to still see so much done is inspiring.

While I am proud of the work this Lodge is doing, I also wonder what we might achieve with more of us involved. When I reflect on the short list of names involved in much of this activity it excites my curiosity for what we might erect with more builders at work. I empathize with how busy life gets (see the tardiness of this message), and I hope you know you will be making a difference in the Lodge if you can make time to get involved.

A note of appreciation

It's hard to understate the positive influence Right Worshipful Gregg Schwarz has had on Ashburn-Sterling Lodge, certainly in the time that I have been an officer and long before. Gregg's reliable leadership has enabled Ashburn-Sterling Lodge to continue to grow and serve the community. His professional and Masonic accolades are extensive, and although he is active in many arenas he consistently makes time to participate in Lodge and ensure we keep the Lodge moving in the right direction. In addition to having received many honors and titles, Gregg is often found with his sleeves rolled up and personally performing charitable work or directly improving the community and Lodge – and at times when few or none others are. Thank you Brother Schwarz for your impact on our Lodge.



R.W. Schwarz



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.

FURTHER OUT: SAVE THE DATE

November 7, 8

Grand Lodge: Grand Annual Communication in Richmond – Open to all Members.

November 11 (6:30pm – 9:00pm)

Dinner and Stated communication (Move up Night)

December 9 (6:30pm – 9:00pm)

Dinner and Stated communication (2026 Officer Election).

Masonic Birthdays for the Month (September)



- Jeremy Anspaugh - September 26, 2017
 - James Cravotta, Sr - September 22, 1976
 - Fred Kellner - September 19, 2017
 - Brian King - September 7, 2010
 - Troy Mueller - September 21, 2011
 - Randall Quiambao - September 21, 2011
 - David Rider - September 27, 2016
 - Scott Schultz - September 22, 2017
 - Bryan Short - September 23, 2014
 - Adam Sutton - September 29, 1997
 - Chris Thompson - September 26, 1996
 - Joe Vitale - September 26, 2017
 - Mike Washington - September 18, 2007
-



Schedule

September		
Date	Time	Event
1	6:30 pm	Lodge Philosophical Group – Open to All Members.
2	7:00 pm	Called Communication - Degree of Fellow Craft – Open to All FC Members. (Light Meal Prior)
3	6:30 pm	District Masters & Wardens Meeting - Olive Branch No. 118 – Open to All Members.
3	7:00 pm	District School - Olive Branch No. 118 – Open to All Master Mason Members.
9	7:30 pm	Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 Stated Communication (Dinner: 6:30pm, Meeting: 7:30pm) - Meeting program by our Senior Warden Scott Lambert.
13	7:30 am	DeMolay Monthly Breakfast. Suggested Donation \$10. Open to all Members. Earlier than normal (7:30 – 9:30) to accommodate ritual school.
13	8:30 am	Ken Shelton Area Ritual School at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288.
16	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
16	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice – Degree of Master Mason – Open to All Master Mason Members.
23	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
23	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice – Degree of Master Mason – Open to All Master Mason Members.
29	10:00 am	<i>Volunteer Day at Dulles South Soup Kitchen (RSVP with Worshipful Master)</i>
30	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
30	7:00 pm	Lodge Fun Night – Bowling at Bowlero Leesburg (RSVP with Worshipful Master)
October		
Date	Time	Event
1	6:30 pm	District Masters & Wardens Meeting - Olive Branch No. 118 – Open to All Members.
1	7:00 pm	District School - Olive Branch No. 118 – Open to All Master Mason Members.
4	9:00 am	Masonic Family Day at the Masonic Home of Virginia
6	6:30 pm	Lodge Philosophical Group – Open to All Members.
7	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
7	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice – Degree of Master Mason – Open to All Master Mason Members.
11	8:30 am	DeMolay Monthly Breakfast (8:30am-10:30am). Suggested Donation \$10. Open to all Members and Families.
14	7:30 pm	Ashburn-Sterling Lodge No. 288 Stated Communication (Dinner: 6:30pm, Meeting: 7:30pm) – Awards Night
18	9:00 am	Annual Lodge Fall Cleaning
19	10:00 am	<i>Food Prep at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge for Dulles South Soup Kitchen</i>
21	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
21	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice – Degree of Master Mason – Open to All Master Mason Members.
28	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
28	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice – Degree of Master Mason – Open to All Master Mason Members.
November		
Date	Time	Event
3	6:30 pm	Lodge Philosophical Group – Open to All Members.
4	6:00 pm	Catechism Practice (if you plan on attending, please ensure that coaches are available)
4	7:00 pm	Lodge Practice – Degree of Master Mason – Open to All Master Mason Members.



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)

<u>COMMITTEE NAME</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
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	

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

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.	

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>



Table Lodge at River Creek Country Club, August 12





Degree of Fellow Craft, August 19





Special thanks to the IT Committee for getting us better and cheaper Internet service!

