



Freedom Lodge No. 118

The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia
<http://FreedomLodge118.org>

Stated Communication – March 7, 2014
Dinner at 7p, Lodge at 8p

MARCH 2014

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2014 Officers

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Treasurer

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Secretary

George Shoemaker

Senior Deacon

Chuck Wyant

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Wes Hirschhorn

Senior Steward

Mark Shapiro

Junior Steward

Brad Westerman

Chaplain

Ray Mauk

Marshal

Dave Kirk

Tiler

Dick Bond

LIW

Harris McGarrah

LEO

Dick Phillips

From the East

Greetings Brethren –

I trust you are all surviving the cold and snowy weather well. Should you be in need of assistance during the bad weather or at any other time, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Lodge Brothers who are ever ready to help, aid, and assist.

At our February Stated, Freedom received RW Stuart Kevin Harp, DDGM for the 2nd Masonic District. RW Harp provided insights into the Grand Master's plans for 2014 in addition to providing Freedom with a "green light" on our annual audit (thank you Brother Secretary!). Freedom also joined RW Harp for his visits to both Ashburn-Sterling and Hamilton-Thompson Lodges recording Fraternal Visits at each Lodge. Freedom closed the month by hosting the D2 School of Instruction and by initiating a new Brother into the Craft.

March is shaping up to be another active month as well for Freedom. Items of particular note are a Blood Drive on March 6 at the Leesburg Rescue Squad, our own Stated on the 7th, followed by the Ken Shelton Area School of Instruction on the 8th. Later in the month we'll hold the Meet Up and Freedom School of Instruction. Please try to attend as many of these activities that your cabletow will permit.

Blood Drives are the only source for this valuable, life saving commodity. Freedom will also host our own Blood Drive on May 10 at the Lovettsville Game Club.

Both the Ken Shelton and Freedom Schools of Instruction provide much needed forums to share and learn our ritual in a low pressure, supportive environment. If you want to learn a new part to help with degrees or just to brush up on a word here or there, then you should make a point to attend ritual schools whenever possible.

The Meet Up and our own Stated (dinner proceeding) provide venues to nourish both your mind and body. The food selections are outstanding and the fellowship and dialogs associated with both are even better.

Looking forward into spring, Freedom will host a Festive Board on April the 13th at the Market Table Bistro and Wayne Sawyer Flora, the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, will make his Official Visit to District 2 on May 9 at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge.

There have been some updates and additions to the Lodge website (<http://FreedomLodge118.org>) of late. You can view full copies of articles and programs presented at Lodge under the "Freedom Blog" tab and keep apprised of upcoming events posted on the Lodge Calendar.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Philip Brooks

Worshipful Master

Please wish this Brothers a Happy Masonic Birthday

Frank Lamm (1963)

Garland Cooper (1969)

Dovovan Libby (2011)

Correct in the West

Greetings Brethren

This month I thought it appropriate to talk about why Masonry is not a religion. Much of the anti-Masonic writing insists that Masonry is a religion and as such Masonry is a false religion. So in order to be prepared to discuss Masonry with people who believe this, I present the following distinct reasons why Masonry is not a religion obtained from the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon web site.

“Our purpose as freemasons is not that of a religion. Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion. Freemasonry is not a religion nor is it a substitute for religion.

- Freemasonry advocates no sectarian faith or practice.
- We seek no converts.
- We solicit no new members.
- We raise no money for religious purposes.
- We have no dogma or theology. Religious discussion is forbidden in a Masonic Lodge thereby eliminating the chance for any Masonic dogma to form.
- It offers no sacraments and does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with the modes of recognition only and not with the means of salvation.
- By any definition of religion accepted by our critics, we cannot qualify as a religion.
- Freemasonry supports religion. Freemasonry is far from indifferent to religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith.”

Loyd Davis

PGM, Senior Warden

Right in the South

My Brothers

All work and no refreshments can make Masons grumpy. Most Masons leave work and rush to Lodge to attend a Stated, degree, or practice without time to get a bite to eat.

The Stewards and I are working hard to ensure a meal is ready before each Stated and most degrees. At the January Stated, we had three crock pots of Chili each with a different flavor. The Chili meal allowed us to meet and share with Brethren, visiting Brothers, and candidates prior to the Lodge meeting. Thank you to our Stewards, Mark Shapiro and Brad Westerman, for some good Chili.

During February, Freedom 118 hosted a Valentine Brunch at Tuscarora Mill in Leesburg. The Valentine's Brunch was a great success with representation from all District 2 Lodges, several Freedom Lodge 118 widows, and several Freedom 118 Brethren. We will plan a few more dinners outside the lodge to invite District 2 Brethren, widows, family members, and guests.

The Stewards and I have a special meal planned for the March Stated. We will be celebrating two March holidays, Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. The menu will definitely include spuds and a traditional New Orleans dessert.

Suggestions and ideas from the Brethren for dinners or events are most welcome. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings, degrees, and practices.

By the Plumb,
J. David King
Junior Warden

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					1
2	3 Olive Branch 114 Stated - 8p	4	5	6 Blood Drive Leesburg Rescue Squad 1-4p	7 Freedom 118 Stated - 8p 	8 Ken Shelton School of Instruction - 8:30a @ Ashburn Sterling Lodge
9	10	11 Ashburn Sterling 288 Stated - 7:30p	12	13	14	15
16	17 St Patrick's Day	18	19 Meet Up & Freedom School 	20 Hamilton Thompson 37 Stated - 7:30p	21	22
23	24 Potomac 88 RAC Stated 7:30p	25	26 D2 School @ Freedom 7:30p SLOT	27	28	29

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