



Freedom Lodge No. 118

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

Stated Communication – January 4, 2019
Dinner at 7p, Lodge at 8p

JANUARY 2019

VOLUME 2019, NUMBER 1

2018 Officers

Worshipful Master

Mark Shapiro
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517-418-2522
mark@markshapiro.info

Senior Warden

Mark Canter

Junior Warden

Geoffrey Hoyt

Treasurer

David Kirk

Secretary

George Shoemaker, Jr.

Senior Deacon

J. David King

Junior Deacon

Robert "Jay" Still

Senior Steward

Lee McPeak

Junior Steward

Matthew Duley

Chaplain

Ray Mauk

Marshal

Brad Westerman

Tiler

Dick Bond

LIW

R. Harris McGarrah Jr.

LEO

Loyd Davis

From the East

Happy New Year, Brethren! Now that the rush of the holiday season is over and we're making our way into the incoming 2019 year, it's customary to take some time and lay out where we hope to find ourselves in another 12 months. The Senior and Junior Wardens and I have been -- and continue to be -- in close coordination, and as the year progresses, I have full faith and confidence that the two of them will assist us in advancing the stature of the Lodge even further.

Two of the topics that have been raised as being of concern to members of the Lodge are renewed focus on both ritual proficiency and on Masonic education; both topics that the officers of the Lodge and I feel very strongly about. It is the intent of our officers to try to facilitate and enable the betterment of ritual performance in the Lodge, and if we ourselves cannot contribute, we can direct you to other resources at the Lodge who are also local, well-versed, and certainly willing to contribute their time to assist those who may want practice. This will be especially important given our DDGM's pending visit in February.

With respect to education, I'll be taking this coming stated to talk briefly on a special topic to me and to all of us: geometry, that most sacred of sciences. However, while I love to teach, I'm certain that a steady diet of me preaching from the East would likely bore you to tears, given enough time -- therefore, I'm asking those with an interest in speaking on a topic to approach me (physically or virtually) and let me know. There is a wealth of Masonic knowledge around our lodge, and we all likely have something to contribute for the benefit of our brethren.

Lastly, in a more mundane sense, the officers and I have reviewed the findings of last year's audit committee and are working on ways to facilitate the overall operational health of the Lodge. In coordination with the Secretary (to minimize any irregularity), I hope to establish a few edicts and points of order at this next stated to assist with the overall functioning of the Lodge for this year, including clarifications on social media posting, the disposition and payment of invoices to the Lodge, and other topics.

Here's hoping for a wonderful year moving forward. Ad astra!

Yours in Service,
Mark Shapiro, Worshipful Master

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From the West

Brethren,

As we begin the new Masonic year at Freedom Lodge, there is much work to be done around the Lodge from Masonic learning and education and to strengthening the finances. I encourage everyone within the length of their cabletow to assist in contributing their time.

As we continue throughout the year, I want all of us to expand on our Masonic education and ritual.

Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in the Lodge.

S&F,
Mark

From the South

Greetings from the South! I am honored to be serving as your Junior Warden this Masonic year and congratulations to all Brethren who were elected and installed. I look forward to working with each of you to make this a great year.

Reservations have been made for our traditional Valentine's Day Dinner at Market Table Bistro. The event has been set for 13 February 2019 at 6:30PM. Brethren, their spouses and Widows are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to me so that a head count can be provided to Market Table Bistro. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stated Meeting dinners are covered until April. We will be looking for volunteers come March to fill the next 4 months, but if you have a great idea for dinner, please let me know, as I am sure the Brethren would be willing to indulge in new meals. Thank you to those that have volunteered so far!

On a personal note, I would like to extend my thanks to my wife and Brother Stills wife, for cleaning our Lodge each month before our Stated Meetings. They have really made the Lodge sparkle not only for us, but our visiting Brethren.

It is my hope that we have more Brethren attend our meetings this year. If you know of a Brother that is unable to attend Stated meetings but wishes to join us, please reach out to him or another Brother to assist them.

During the Stated Meeting in December, I was presented 4 certificates for the Grand Lodge of Virginia Correspondence Course. This course is highly encouraged not only by the Grand Lodge, but also contributes to the Hillman Award. If you have questions on how to get started, how to navigate and what publications are needed to complete the course, please don't hesitate to ask me. Although it is not the most user friendly, it is very valuable in learning more about the laws governing Masonry in the state of Virginia. Follow the link to the Correspondence Course [here](#).

If you have any ideas for community events to support the Lodge, please let me know. I can be reached at gdhoyt@me.com.

S&F,

Brother Geoffrey Hoyt

<p><u>Living Past Masters</u></p> <p>Larry D. Frye 1983,2005-2007 Franklin C. Lamm 1985 Roy Harris McGarrah, Jr. 1992-1995, 2011 Clifford S. Free 1996-1999 Richard A. Phillips 2000-2003 Gary R. Ing 2004 George M. Shoemaker, Jr. 2008-2010 Philip Brooks 2012,2014 Thomas W. Brierton 2013 Loyd E. Davis 2015 J. David King 2016 Chuck Wyant 2017 Wes Hirschhorn 2018</p>	<p><u>Jan. Masonic Birthdays:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ray Mauk 	<p>Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey Grand Master Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M. https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org</p> 
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January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Freedom Stated	5
6	7 Olive Branch Stated	8	9 Lodge Officers' Meeting	10	11 Herndon Called EA Degree	12
13	14 Loudoun RAC Herndon	15 Ashburn-Sterling Stated	16 Freedom 118 Meet-up (Bonnies)	17 Hamilton-Thompson Stated	18	19
20	21 Herndon Stated	22	23 Masters & Wardens Meeting	24	25	26
27	28 Potomac RAC Ashburn	29	30	31		

More Info at <http://freedomlodge118.org/>

<u>Mark Your Calendar</u>	
February 1 – Freedom Stated – DDGM Official Visit February 4 – Olive Branch Stated February 12 – Ashburn-Sterling Stated February 13 – Valentine’s Day Dinner February 18 – Herndon Stated February 21 – Hamilton-Thompson Stated	March 1 – Freedom Stated March 15 – District Leadership Conference, Warrenton March 23 – Ken Shelton School, Ashburn April 5 – Freedom Stated July 19 – Grand Master’s Official Visit November 6-9 – Grand Annual Communication (Projected)

“The only thing that you can give and still keep is your word.”

