



TRESTLE BOARD

Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19, AF&AM

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Est. Anno Lucis 5787 Oct 29th
January A.L. 6021

Events This Month

Stated Meeting

Saturday, Jan 9 at 9:00 AM
Breakfast at 8:00 AM
Designated Officers Only

Ritual Practice

Every Wednesday Night
6:30 PM at Masons' Hall

Masters & Wardens

Saturday, Jan 16 at 8:30 AM
Virtual (Zoom)

Virtual First Friday

Friday, Jan 1 at 6:30 PM
Zoom Address: Check
Website Calendar

Masons' Hall Address
1807 E. Franklin St.
Richmond, VA



FROM THE EAST

by Worshipful Jake Crocker

Brethren,

I am extremely humbled and honored to have been installed as Worshipful Master of Richmond Randolph No.19 for 2021. This office and our lodge has continued uninterrupted through wars, economic turmoil and natural disasters since 1787. Yes it has and yes it will also continue through the current pandemic into the brighter days ahead.

It is for that reason I have chosen the theme of next year to be "RISE" as indicated in the modified lodge logo included in this trestleboard. This simple, yet meaningful, theme was chosen for several reasons. The primary one being that in 2021 it's not just ME rising in the east as Worshipful Master, but rather it will be WE rising as a team!

Our lodge is also on the RISE as we've made tremendous strides over the past several years as a result of our terrific recent leadership and outstanding contributions by our officers, past masters, trustees and members. *Continued...*

Our beloved home Masons' Hall is rising as well! With the new paint job completed as we finish off this year, our grand old hall is once again a bright light and source of pride for our lodge, Virginia freemasonry and our neighborhood. In addition to the exterior improvements, our interior additions and improvements have already enhanced the Masons' Hall experience for our members, guests and visitors.

I am humbled that you all have put your trust in me to lead this incredible lodge and I am tremendously grateful to Worshipful Donald F. Moro for putting us in a position to continue to succeed after an incredibly challenging year. I am also incredibly grateful to the recent past masters who have set the tone for the continued renaissance of our beloved lodge. This coming year I will simply be a guide and hopefully motivator as we'll truly carry out the work of No.19 together as a team and as brothers.

Fraternally,

Jacob A. Crocker
Worshipful Master

by Worshipful Donald Moro

Richmond Randolph #19 closed out 2020 successfully with a new line of officers lead by Worshipful Jake Crocker. Our line was fortunate in being one of the few in Richmond to advance. Installation was conducted by Worshipful Dubby Isgett on December 12, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, not all members could be present, but those who attended are shown here. Congratulations to all!



Mailing Address P.O. Box 23160
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Website richmondrandolph19.com

2021 Lodge Officers

Wor. Jake Crocker	Worshipful Master
Bro. Chandos Carrow	Senior Warden
Bro. Kyle Bourne	Junior Warden
Bro. Lawrence Pearson	Treasurer
Wor. Donald Moro	Secretary
Bro. Shane Flansburg	Senior Deacon
Bro. Matthew Maggy	Junior Deacon
Rt. Wor. Bill Heltzel	Chaplain
Bro. John Sibley	Senior Steward
Bro. Sami Dodhy	Junior Steward
Bro. Zachary James	Marshall
Bro. Donald Cunningham	Tiler

January Masonic Birthdays

M.W. William Hershey
Wor. Donald Cunningham, Jr.
Bro. Harold Hamner, III
Bro. Earl Sale (December)
Bro. Stuart Litvin (December)

50 Year Members

Bro. Bedros Bandazian
Wor. Robert Bedell
Bro. Ralph Braun
Wor. George "Skip" Brooks
MW Stuart Cook
Bro. Horace Dowdy
Bro. Walter Henry Jr.
Wor. Charles Hundley
Wor. Waverly Marshall
MW Fred Martin
Bro. William Perkins
Bro. John Stenstrom

60 Year Members

Bro. Bedros Bandazian

RR #19 Living Past Masters

Robert Bedell, 1971
Lothar Bernhard, 1988
Larry Dixon, 1995
Anthony Pearce, 1997
Marc Graham, 1999
Gordon Sprigg, Jr., 2000
Barrye Absher, 2005
Thomas Breeden, 2006
Wade Evans, Jr., 2007
Edward Winder, 2008
Charles Sykes, 2009
William Heltzel, 2010
James Duke, 2011
Paul Dierickx, 2012, 2013
Lee Oppenheim, 2014
Michael Joyner, 2015, 2016
Charles Hundley, 2017
Chad Vanderpool, 2018
Donald Cunningham, 2019
Donald Moro, 2020

Life Members in Perpetuity

Rt. Wor. Barry Absher
Bro. Douglas Mack
Bro. Ronnie Childs
Bro. Anthony Pearce
Wor. Paul Dierickx
Rt. Wor. Charles Sarbaugh
Rt. Wor. James Duke Jr.
Bro. Christopher Shuman
Bro. Peter Francisco
Wor. C. Thomas Sykes
Rt. Wor. William Heltzel
Bro. Curtis Thompson
Bro. Francis Romero
Bro. Ian Nelson
Bro. Benjamin Barrett
Bro. Jacob Allen



FROM THE TREASURER

by Brother Lane Pearson

To receive your 2021 Dues Card, please send your dues payment of \$275 to the Lodge using the Paypal link on our web page, by check mailed to P.O. Box 23160, Richmond, VA 23223 or you can pay the Secretary at the next meeting. Please support your Lodge and pay your dues as early as possible.

THE ESOTERIC CORNER

Presented by Bro. David Allen

From Walter L. Wilmshurst's *Masonic Initiation*, published 1924.

Masonry, then, -as a "system of morality" as thus defined-is neither a Religion nor a Philosophy, but at once a Science and an Art, a Theory and a Practice; and this was ever the way in which the Schools of the Ancient Wisdom and Mysteries proceeded. They first exhibited to the intending disciple a picture of the Life-process; they taught him the story of the soul's genesis and descent into this world; they showed him its present imperfect, restricted state and its unfortunate position; they indicated that there was a scientific method by which it might be perfected and regain its original condition.

This was the Science-half of their systems, the programme or theory placed before disciples, that they might have a thorough intellectual grasp of the purpose of the Mysteries and what admission to them involved . Then followed the other half; the practical work to be done by the disciple upon himself, in purifying himself; controlling his sense-nature; correcting natural undisciplined tendencies; mastering his thought, his mental processes and will, by a rigorous rule of life and art of living .

When he showed proficiency in both the theory and the practice, and could withstand certain tests, then but not before he was allowed the privilege of Initiation-a secret process, conferred by already initiated Masters or experts, the details of which were never disclosed outside the process itself.

by Brother David Allen

Richmond Randolph #19 will be participating in a Masonic Blood Drive on Thursday, January 7th at Regency Square Mall. Please contact Bro. David Allen <david.allen@oldhat.org> to get involved; we will be looking for volunteers to staff the collection point, interact with donors, and help the American Red Cross conduct safety protocols.

BEHOLD!

by Brother Mac Adams

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Do we all recognize this verse? It's the first verse from Psalms 133! It's also the first verse from the Holy Bible that the Entered Apprentice hears in Lodge. I believe Masons forget how good it actually is to sit in Lodge with each other, despite our differences in background, ethnicity, station in life et cetera and everyone be on the level. We, as Masons of all ages, get hung up on the way the Lodge conducts the ritual and business of the Lodge but we forget why we are actually there in the first place. Let's take a look at this sentence, shall we?

Behold simply means "to observe; look at; see" but what are we seeing? We are seeing "how good..." wherein good means "morally excellent; virtuous; righteous" and is describing "brethren to dwell together in unity". So we take from this that it is morally excellent for brethren to dwell together in unity and I couldn't agree more. As Masons we all strive to be moral men as we start out that way otherwise we would have never gotten into Lodge. Virtuous, in this case, can be used to mean "upright" and where do we hear about "an upright Mason"? As the youngest Entered Apprentice is placed in the Northeast corner of the Lodge and is later told by the Master that "you there stand a just and upright Mason" but I will expand upon this at another time as I can devote a whole article to this sentence. Thus far we see that it is morally excellent and virtuous and upright to dwell together in unity but let's keep going.

The word pleasant means "agreeable or enjoyable; socially acceptable" and isn't it agreeable to meet others in Lodge or is it enjoyable to meet others in Lodge. I submit that agreeable in this case means "pleasing and suitable" and I think it is both to meet and dwell with my Brothers in Lodge. But do we always have to agree or should we always be agreeable? Since this is my article, I get to tell you what I think and I think that we should always strive to be agreeable while it is not necessary for us to always agree. Isn't pleasant and agreeable something we teach our children to be? I know I taught mine to be pleasant person so they are accepted in society. Wow! Here is the Ritual teaching Entered Apprentices to be pleasant so they can be accepted just like I taught my kids and can't Entered Apprentices be viewed as the children of the Masonic Lodge because they are in their youth? The Ritual even says "...as the youngest Entered Apprentice..." which serves to prove my point. All of that to say this, we should all strive, everyday, to be agreeable, socially acceptable people even though we may disagree. *Continued...*

The word brethren is probably the easiest word to define in this situation because it is us, the members on the Lodge. It is all of us, from the Grand Master to the youngest Entered Apprentice.

Dwell, in this instance, means “to linger over or ponder in thought, speech or writing” and that, my dear Brothers, is what Richmond Randolph is doing today! We dwell over ideas, thoughts and speech. We have a Philosophic Society that meets regularly to discuss, or dwell, topics of Masonic interest. Richmond Randolph spends a few minutes at the beginning of Lodge to prepare our minds, with quiet reflection, allowing the members to transform their thoughts from the profane to the sublime. This is what Lodge should be! If I want to conduct business and leave, I’ll join the Rotarians! I want to enrich my mind with the thoughts of others and the equal exchange of ideas and thoughts. I want to ponder what someone has just said and I want them to think about what I have said. I like leaving Lodge wanting more.

Unity is a short word that has many meanings but I’m going to talk about one meaning in particular that I feel describes Lodge more particularly Richmond Randolph: “harmony”. Harmony that I speak of is the oneness of mind that exists, or should exist, in all Lodges. Remember, harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, more especially, this of ours. Harmony actually means “agreement” (among other things) and is what we talked about in a previous paragraph and that is what we strive for in a Lodge: to be harmonious in thoughts, deeds and words.

Now that we have defined the words in the verse, let’s put them together to see what the 133rd Psalms, Masonically, means:

Look

how virtuous and suitable it is for us to linger over or ponder in thought together!

That is a powerful sentence! Isn’t that what we should do every time we’re in Lodge? Shouldn’t we use that time to enrich our minds with conversation with other Brethren about all matters Masonic? I say yes!

My final question to you is: Shouldn’t all Masons, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the Grand Master have a chance to participate in these exchanges of ideas?

