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Lodge Bulletin

APRIL 2020

2020 LODGE OFFICERS

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 Bro. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr. Senior Steward
 Bro. Phillip Adam Smartt Junior Steward
 Bro. Jonathan Russell Lynch Marshal
 Bro. Dimitar Gueorguiev "Dimitry" Mavrov Musician
 Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak Assistant Musician
 Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM Tiler



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Wor. Heber C. Willis III, PM 2020
 Bro. Craig Bogle 2021
 Wor. Daniel M. Clark, PM 2022
 Rt. Wor. Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM 2023
 Bro. Jeffrey W. C. Conn 2024



LIVING PAST MASTERS ON THE ROLLS

1975	Donald M. Robey, PGM	2002	Daniel M. Clark
1976	James B. Stone	2003	James M. Stevenson
1980	James R. Freeman	2004	Frank S. Skwirut
1988	William A. Jones	2005	J. Thomas McMahan
1991	Earl C. Million	2006	Thomas G. Little
1992	Granville C. Canard, JR, PDDGM	2007	Robert G. Watkins, PDDGM
1995	George D. Seghers, PDDGM	2009	Heber C. Willis, III
1996,18	Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM	2011	John P. Olson
1997	Walter L. Margeson, II	2012	Michael L. Bailey
1998	Philip J. Hays	2013	Joshua D. Adler
1999,17	Michael P. Bible, PDDGM	2014	Robert T. Weston
2000	Terry L. Gigure	2016	Stephen J. Pezzetti
2001	Brent N. Campbell	2019	Nikola N. Nikolov

Master's Message

Brethren—

I hope this message finds you well and well distanced from the rest of the world. Amazing the difference one month can make in how we live our lives! The officers and I have called, emailed, or wrote to each of our members and widows 60 and over to ensure they have everything they need and are properly socially distanced. If you are wondering where your call/email/letter is, perhaps we need you to update your contact information. We had a lot of bad numbers, a couple of bad emails, and a few bad mailing addresses. Please contact RW Canard to update your information (secretary@AW22.org).

The Trustees met via Zoom on Thursday, March 26. Thank you to Wor. Heber Willis for getting us connected. The meeting went well and while our investments have taken a hit during this economic downturn, we are still on good financial footing. One discussion that I would like the Lodge to consider is the financial cost of aiding a brother in need. Rents in our area today are in excess of \$2000 and mortgages are nearly the same. If a brother needs financial assistance, we may have to turn to each other for initial support rather than our endowment. I challenge each of you to ponder your obligations during this trying time.

On Saturday, March 28, we were able to see a little of each other. Thanks to everyone who was able to join in the online beehive discussion and thanks especially to Bro. David Bella for his fantastic presentation. Bro. Bella and Bro. Allen Hamilton are assisting me into moving into at least the 20th Century, and maybe the 21st, by being more technologically savvy. While it is our wish that this pandemic find its end soon, we are exploring other ways to share light via the wealth of online platforms that exist today. Stay tuned for more online meetings!

Amidst the closures and postponements, the Scholarship Committee reviewed the submissions to this year's George Washington Essay Contest. This contest would not be possible without the support and advice of Mrs. Melanie Schoonmaker. We thank her for her efforts. The committee selected one winner from Rainbow, Jobs Daughters, and DeMolay. I have included the winning essays in this month's bulletin since we will not be able to invite the students to Lodge to read their work.

I hope relief comes soon and pray that a vaccine is discovered.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Daniel E. Froggett
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org
703.283.5401



APRIL 2020

While all Lodge activities are suspended, ponder how you can stay connected to the Craft. Call a brother. Review your catechisms. Seek further light.

Watch your email for possible online sessions where we can meet and discuss.

STATED COMMUNICATIONS: The stated communications shall be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (GWMNM), Alexandria, Virginia on the second Thursday of each month with the additional stated communications for the observance of George Washington's birthday on February 22, Saint John the Baptist Day on June 24, and the Installation of Officers on December 27.

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS: As announced herein with the trestleboard.

LODGE RITUAL SCHOOL: Conducted every Thursday at 7:30 PM, excluding our stated communication. All members are encouraged to attend.

CATECHISM & EDUCATION SCHOOL: Every Thursday at 7:30 PM and every Saturday at 10 AM unless otherwise noted in the trestleboard.



MASONIC
YOUTH
ESSAY

The Lodge invited all Virginia DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls to write an essay explaining how the life and leadership of George Washington reflected the tenets of Freemasonry. This year's prompt focused on Washington's lack of formal education. The following three submissions will receive a \$500 cash prize each.



Essay Contest Winners

Printed as Received

The Inspiring Growth of George Washington

Lauren Ann Toney, Hampton Assembly No.2 Rainbow for Girls

The death of George Washington's father, Augustine Washington, in 1743 left him without access to a formal education. This disadvantage was devastating to the Father of our Country, who unswervingly advocated the importance of education his entire life. However, it did not stop him from overcoming his circumstances and creating a legacy that would live on for centuries. By becoming self-educated, developing a trade, and joining the military, Washington was able to lead the example that through hard work, anyone can grow where they are planted.

Aside from the stories of Washington's wooden teeth or cherry trees, one of the lesser known details of his life is that he was a tremendous advocate for the importance of education, especially in one's youth. He believed education was humanity's salvation, saying to Mr. George Chapman in December of 1784, "The best means of forming a manly, virtuous, and happy people will be found in the right education of youth. Without this foundation, every other means, in my opinion, must fail." This idea was forged from his experiences and desire for no person to go without a formal education. Far before this, he grew up in a house with his father and two half-brothers who had each attended the Appleby Grammar School in England. He was influenced by the men in his life who strived for knowledge and aspired to study there as well, until the death of his father made that feat seem impossible. He was self-aware of his disadvantage to other young men, which upset him, but did not sway his pursuit to become better. Without access to a formal learning institution, he turned to literature that he could obtain in the colonies to self-educate his growing mind. For years, he studied from whatever old books and manuals he could get his hands

on. His autograph can be seen on works of literature like the *Rules of Civility* etiquette manual in the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation Gallery where he copied and edited the work, while practicing his writing. He also watched the elite and mimicked their gestures and movements to become better versed in proper formal interaction for that time period. In addition to the endeavors he went through to self-educate, he also looked to his half-brother, Lawrence, to help instruct him in more skilled activities, such as surveying, dancing, and horseback riding. It is no doubt that his passion was strong, which encouraged him to study in any way possible, despite his limited access to the proper materials or institutions. Washington shows us that even without access to the best possible resources, finding or in some cases creating access to the next best thing is a make or break solution to success.

The effort he put into his education as a child and teenager eventually led him to the development of a trade. At his home in Mount Vernon, he perfected his surveying skills, eventually obtaining his surveyor's license from the College of William and Mary in 1749 at the age of seventeen. In the eighteenth century, surveying was a respectable field of work in high demand. Many land owners needed the expertise of a great surveyor such as Washington to map out the layout and property boundaries of their estates. He labored zealously over his work, serving as the official surveyor of Culpeper County for a year. The Library of Congress still has some of the almost two hundred surveys he created, spanning over fifty-five thousand acres of land. This also gave him a chance to move up socially as he mingled with large, wealthy landowners, as well as providing substantial pay for the work he did. His work in surveying shows us that not everyone needs a college degree to be successful. For many, the development of a skill can set one apart from the masses. Working hard, being passionate about what you do, and making connections through the work you create can open a world of opportunity to anyone.

After working as a surveyor, he joined the British militia in 1752 and was later appointed Major by Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, Robert Dinwiddie. He fought tirelessly for his country, serving in the French and Indian War where he eventually became a Lieutenant Colonel in 1754. His quick progression up the chain of command was a direct result of his tenacity and leadership on the battlefield. He lacked in formal military experience, the same as he lacked in formal education, but his persistence and dedication to his duties encouraged him to keep pushing. During the same war, he ranked up to Colonel and in 1755 the Second Continental Congress unanimously elected Washington as Commander-in-Chief. He fought against the British to free the colonies that would eventually become our United States of America. Finally, Washington had found a job that encompassed the hard work and perseverance he knew so well. His passion led him to a career that required not a skill or formal education needed. He worked diligently to become the best he could and was elected by his people to serve as the first leader of our nation. Washington was not born knowing how to be a great general or win a war, but he adapted to the challenges thrown at him and reemerged with grace and unswerving loyalty. He exemplified the idea that most anything can be achieved with enough spirit and the willingness to learn and grow. By the time he retired, he had become one of the wealthiest and most decorated men in America. Still supporting higher education in 1796, only a few years from his death, he gifted the Liberty Hall Academy financial shares of the Kanawha Canal Company and the James

River, valued at about \$20,000. The gift, which at the time was the largest contribution to higher education in American history, went on to save the school, which is now Washington and Lee University, from shutting down. This act alone spoke mountains to his devotion to give youth the chance at a formal education even after he had found success without one.

Despite his setbacks, Washington overcame the disadvantage of lacking a formal education. His life's setbacks and triumphs taught the world that although a formal education is tremendously valuable, success can come to anyone despite their circumstances. He is a leading example of one of Disney's most famous quotes, "The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all." His legacy teaches us that through hard work, determination, and a passion to be the best version of yourself, anyone can prosper against the challenges and hardships that life may throw at them.

Citations

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Pape, T. "Appleby Grammar School and Its Washington Pupils." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 20, no. 4, 1940, p. 498., doi:10.2307/1919932.

The Hallmarks of Leadership: The Tenets of a True Leader

Caitlyn Joseph, Bethel No. 55 Job's Daughters International

George Washington, like many individuals, lived a life of tribulations and triumphs. Despite his childhood challenges and academic deficits, he embodied the character and spirit of American altruism throughout the entirety of his leadership career and personal life. As a result of his father's passing, Washington lost the ability to finish his academic career. The lack of formal education weighed heavily on him throughout his life, impacting his confidence and self-esteem. On the other hand, it nurtured his determination to pursue a lifelong search for knowledge, influenced his practices of servant leadership, and enhanced his ability of self-awareness to harness the power of others to transform issues into learning opportunities and action plans. It was by the practice of these qualities, that allowed George Washington to rise humbly to the heights of leadership, wielding both personal and positional power, despite his perceived early shortcomings.

Pursuit of Knowledge

Surrounded by formally educated counterparts such as Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, Washington's quest for self-education and betterment continued his entire life and served as a foundation of his character. Washington was a voracious reader, not necessarily for pleasure due to his duties and obligations, but using it as a means to an end to solve the challenges he faced; managing a successful estate and farm, etiquette rules for civil social discourse, Generalship and Military tactics, governing a Nation and becoming a more well-rounded Man and Leader. As Adrienne Harrison states in her book, *A Powerful Mind*, "Washington was a practical reader. He clearly valued useful knowledge that made many of his tasks easier. He was and still is the quintessential American success story, because he applied his mind to achieving success. He was relentless in pursuing his goals, and his reading is

an applied demonstration of that cause." He himself stated that "Light reading (by this I mean books of little importance) may amuse for the moment, but leave nothing solid behind." He seized every opportunity to gain knowledge not just from books, but from many sources and people from all ages and walks of life. Any interaction with fellow farmers, Diplomats, merchants and other leaders afforded him the ability to add to his depth of knowledge and turn it to his advantage. Washington wrote that "having no opportunity to improve from example, let us read." Washington knew that the key to success was acquiring practical knowledge, gaining mastery of the information, and applying those lessons to the matter at hand. George Washington was able to learn from the breadth of his experiences, use self-reflection on both his successes and failures and turn his findings into new plans of action for the future. By following his example of dedication to lifelong self-education and betterment, we learn that knowledge is power and it's just application, never fails to move us forward in life, and makes us better men and women for the greater good.

Servant Leadership

Washington, as a man and leader, possessed a great sense of personal responsibility, which influenced his personal standards and virtues and leadership style. He was aware of his lack of formal knowledge, but never let that deter him from his goals. Instead, he honed in on creating personal goals of conduct and moral codes for himself that he upheld each day and led by example. By living by these personal standards reinforced by his masonic teachings, he created a culture around him and a reputation for himself that others immensely admired. In his early days of command, he would give no order that he did not follow himself to the letter. No job was beneath him, and the hard work he expected from his men, was reflected in his own duties and responsibilities. Using a modern term, the buck stopped with him and he took his responsibility for that very seriously. He led with humility and respect, as a servant leader, and always kept others interests and welfare in mind. His faith was a guiding light by which he was able to achieve his successes. In addition to his own standards, he held others to high expectations, because he wanted all individuals to know they were capable of great accomplishments and strong character. His soldiers were expected to not only hold themselves accountable but also one another, ensuring there was a constant atmosphere of trust, closeness, and responsibility.

Throughout the harsh weather, battles, and emotional and mental stresses of war, he never let himself or his men stray from their shared virtues, which firmly established his dedication to their health and wellbeing. In addition, his high expectations also served as a unifying factor for the army to constantly and consistently work towards being better soldiers and men in general. His devotion to bettering himself and his men, allowed for others to be more trusting of his leadership and authority, because they could see into his genuine and true character. This esteem led others to follow him out of admiration and trust, rather than by virtue of his command or title. Later on in his life, while he commanded the Continental army, served as head of the Continental Congress and finally President, he always led based on the trust placed in him by his fellow citizens for whom he was responsible for. Ron Chernow states it best in his book, *Washington: A Life* "History records few examples of a leader who so earnestly wanted to do the right thing, not just for himself but for his country and fellow man. Avoiding moral shortcuts, he consistently upheld such high ethical standards that he seemed larger than any other figure in a political

sense.” Much like Queen Esther in the Bible, both were aware of their power, and used their power justly for the betterment of those under their charge. In our own lives, when we choose or are thrust into leadership positions, we should model the lessons of George Washington, and serve with humility and respect and lead with their trust and welfare in mind. Authority can be bestowed to any person, but true leadership and power are achieved when common goals for the greater good and unified future are met.

Resourcefulness and Strategy

While Washington couldn't compete with his contemporaries in terms of education or eloquence, his self-reflection and awareness of his shortcomings allowed him to be resourceful, and foster and harness the best from all those great minds engaged around him. His unique brand of non-partisanship afforded him the ability to solicit a wide-ranging array of advice from many circles from citizens, scholars and the other Founding Fathers to create a unified vision for our fledgling country. During his tenure as President, he travelled to every state, at a time when travel was inconvenient and met with citizens and landowners, seeking their thoughts on their vision for their new country. During his travels, he heard many opinions, but warned against the “spirit of Party” so we could move forward into a solid future as a nation of equals with a matching vision. During his time as President of the Constitutional Convention, he did not participate much in the debates that raged, instead allowing the Intellectuals to discuss and argue, but later used his talents of negotiation and calm disposition to moderate and keep the finest minds of the day working on their greatest task: creating our new form of Government. George Washington knew that compared to his fellow Founding Fathers, that his intellect and education were not necessarily his strongest suits, but his ability to take charge, to marshal and inspire others, was the quality that was most required at this fragile time for our country. The other Founding Fathers understood, despite all their brilliance and views, that none of them could command the respect and trust George Washington did among the people. Washington became the first and only president to be unanimously elected by the constituents. Thomas Jefferson knew that he was the one to unify our country when he said "We cannot, Sir, do without you." George Washington possessed the unique instincts of knowing what is needed, at exactly the right time, and how to best use what you have to its best advantage. By following George Washington's example, we find that leadership isn't necessarily about being the smartest person in the room, but it is the ability to channel and use the resources you have gathered, to build the best and brightest team to achieve the vision you have.

Modern Implications

George Washington deeply understood that his Authority was made possible by the people's consent, and took the responsibilities that were thrust on him, from age 11 forward, very seriously. Authority is the permission given to wield Power. Instead of using that power to rule as a king, he led our country to a shared vision of freedom from tyranny for every citizen. He used his personal and positional power, not to enrich himself, but to the betterment of us all. In all ages, Rulers have been given positional power of their title by elections or by divine right, but true leaders know that their personal power comes from their inborn abilities to engage their citizenry, inspire others and lead with humility and dignity. Much like King Solomon, Job and Queen Esther, George Washington chose to serve and lead his people with humility and gov-

ern with justice, and with the unselfish loyalty to the welfare of others. It was by the lifelong devotion to learning and knowledge, humility and service in leadership and the unique abilities to be resourceful, foster trust and loyalty from the masses, that made him a true leader and the First Father of our country.

George Washington's Secret to Success

Jack Butler, Roanoke Valley DeMolay-Melrose Lodge

George Washington is one of the most well-known Americans in the history of our nation, and when we hear his name, a lot of attributes come to mind including selflessness, accountability, bravery, adventurous, and many others. These all stem from his life and career by serving as the leader of the Continental Army that gained our country's independence from England, surveying a large portion of the country, helping frame and promote the United States Constitution, and becoming our country's first president. We even celebrate his contributions to our country every year and his likeness is even on our dollar bill. What most people don't know is, that Mr. Washington did not come from a wealthy family and that he did not receive the advanced education that a lot of his colleagues, better known as the founding fathers, received growing up. In fact, some of the founding fathers even scorned him for this potential inadequacy. Since Mr. Washington was raised like many other average Americans at that time, some people wonder how he become so successful and such a great leader of our country. George Washington was able to become a great leader and overcome the disadvantage of lacking a formal education by living a life of filled with moral character while continuously serving his fellow countrymen. These are the qualities which societies still look for in their current leaders and qualities we are striving to learn as members of DeMolay. George Washington's outstanding leadership began with a moral character that included integrity, respect and faith. Throughout his career as a general of the Continental Army, Washington tried to live by his own words and principles at all times while acknowledging that he wasn't perfect and always learning. He treated every soldier the same no matter what rank they had in the army; this inspired his men to give their all for him. An example of this quality was at the battle of Trenton, after crossing the Delaware River. Many of his soldiers' enlistments had expired, however Washington appealed to them to stay with the worthy cause. This action saved the army and possibly changed the outcome of the Revolutionary War. He also believed deeply in God and prayed before every major battle in the Revolutionary War. What I found interesting is that his form during prayer is still used today in DeMolay.

George Washington's leadership skills were also developed by having a character filled with courage and determination. He showed his determination to make a living by learning how to become a surveyor and he made wealth through land speculation activities. He also learned how to be a soldier and leader by originally serving with the Virginia Militia. During his time with the Continental Army, Washington was able to rally his troops at Valley Forge in 1777-78, even though his army was in the middle of a blisteringly harsh cold winter with low rations. This showed that Washington was courageous and determined and a leader of high moral character who believed in his troops, against all odds.

In addition, George Washington's great leadership developed through con-

tinuously serving his fellow countrymen. This includes being the overall commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, organizing the Constitutional Convention, helping develop the United States Constitution, and becoming the first leader of our country. Washington spent the better part of his adult life serving the people of this great country and putting the needs of his fellow man in front of his own.

Although George Washington was surrounded by well-educated men like Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, who sometimes questioned his lack of education, they trusted him to lead their country through the beginnings of the United States. This was all due to his moral character and leadership skills. What is interesting about the development of his leadership skills is the fact that George Washington was also a Freemason. He had joined the Freemason Lodge in Fredericksburg, VA at age 20 and received the first degree of Entered Apprentice on November 4, 1752. It did not take him long to be raised to the third degree of a Master Mason. He continued to be an active participant in Masonic ceremonies throughout his life and I found it interesting that many of George Washington's militia men were also Freemasons. From what I have researched and our country's history, it is apparent that George Washington was able to overcome his lack of education by living a life of moral character that created trust of those surrounding him and constantly serving his fellow countrymen. He understood that he did not have a formal education and he was always learning. I believe that George Washington's membership in the Freemasons greatly helped him learn values, faith, and success.

Thank You!

Mrs. Melanie Schoonmaker

For developing the original scoring rubric, advising the Worshipful Master, and communicating with the Youth Organizations.

The AW 22 Scholarship Committee

For reading and scoring all essays entered and advising the Worshipful Master on the winner.

Right Worshipful Philip Niemann Rhodes

Brother Craig Bogle

Brother Jonathan Joseph Siudmak

Happy Birthday

Happy Masonic Birthday to the following brethren!

Brother Jerry Roy Varnon - April 10, 1961 - 59 years
Worshipful Daniel Wallace Hall - April 14, 1969 - 51 years
Brother William Fay Newell - April 18, 1969 - 51 years
Brother John Charles Rasmus - April 12, 1971 - 49 years
Brother Angus Slater Lamond, Jr. - April 26, 1973 - 47 years
Brother Thomas Edward Maultsby - April 8, 1975 - 45 years
Brother Glenn Edward McDonald - April 18, 1980 - 40 years
Brother Robert Allen Duncan - April 20, 1991 - 29 years
Brother Andrew Vincent Murphy - April 20, 1991 - 29 years
Brother Henley Kirk Jones - April 20, 1991 - 29 years
Brother Michael Darren Burt - April 20, 1991 - 29 years
Worshipful Thomas Gayle Little - April 7, 1994 - 26 years
Brother William Hoover Swan - April 19, 1999 - 21 years
Brother Matthew Richard Grizzard - April 4, 2005 - 15 years
Brother Eric Eugene Plantrich - April 14, 2005 - 15 years
Brother Anthony William Kitzmiller - April 8, 2006 - 14 years
Worshipful Joshua David Adler - April 23, 2007 - 13 years
Brother Joseph Choplin Jacobson - April 30, 2007 - 13 years
Brother Helmut Karl Hentschel - April 12, 2008 - 12 years
Brother Pablo Castellano Lara - April 12, 2008 - 12 years
Brother Jacob Adam Schroeder - April 22, 2010 - 10 years
Worshipful William Vanhardin Gilbert - April 5, 2011 - 9 years
Brother William Merle Jones - April 19, 2011 - 9 years
Worshipful Michael Ervin Williams - April 23, 2011 - 9 years
Brother Nicholas David Kron - April 2, 2012 - 8 years
Worshipful Nikola Nikolov Nikolov - April 11, 2013 - 7 years
Brother Vincent Joseph Lopez - April 3, 2018 - 2 years
Brother Denislav Valeriev Dantev - April 25, 2019 - 1 years