

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

March 1979

FROM THE EAST

Brethren.

March is another historical month in our lodge's history, but not as profound as February. On March 8, 1783 John Lawson of "Glasgow Montrose" was the first from a foreign Lodge to affiliate. The first election of officers was on March 11, 1783, under the Pennsylvania Warrant. The first withdrawal of a petition for the degrees was on March 19, 1784. The first case of discipline for excessive absences from "Stated Lodge Nights" was on March 25, 1785. The offending Brother submitted an acceptable explanation and was excused at the next meeting in April. The first order for publication of a Lodge Notice "in the Alexandria paper" was March 20, 1785 and it was on March 23, 1787 that the first Lodge seal was authorized.

This year the first lodge scheduled to visit us is Wampatuck Lodge from Hanson, Massachusetts on March 17. They will be conferring the Master Mason's Degree and would be delighted to have our members witness their work, particularly those from Massachusetts.

On March 31, at 1:30 P.M., Hiram Lodge No. 25, A.F.&A.M. of Newark, Delaware, will confer the Master Mason's Degree in our lodge room. They too, would be delighted to welcome you and any Delaware Masons living in this area.

We thank you for helping us find three of the five brethren listed in the January Trestleboard that we could not locate. We still do not know the address of Brothers Frank W. Johns and Lt. Col. Wesley Graydon Nichols. Unless these Brothers are located within the next couple of months we will have to proceed to drop them from our roll. This reflects the importance of keeping the Secretary informed of our current address. The way we find out that your mail is not being delivered is when we send out dues cards or first class mail. Bulk mail is not returned, but destroyed when not delivered.

Speaking of dues, if you desire a 1979 dues card, send \$22.00 to our Secretary requesting same. We have over 100 brethren who have received 1979 cards. By the way Brother Earle W. Griffith is our new secretary and is doing an outstanding job. All lodge mail should be addressed to the Secretary (See his address as listed with officers), as we are in the process of closing our temporary P.O. Box at the Park Fairfax Station.

We thank everyone who had a part in making February another outstanding month in the history of our lodge. Our thanks are also extended to those both near and far who were with us in spirit and who were in contact with the Supreme Architect of the Universe on our behalf.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Jason W. Stryder
 Worshipful Master

THE "INACTIVE" MASON -NOT SO:

The Committee on Advancement and Masonic Education of the Grand Lodge of the State of Tennessee in 1973, published a pamphlet entitled the "Inactive Mason-NOT SO!" It is, hereby, inserted in the March 1979 Trestleboard as an educational lesson for all the brethren instead of being presented in a closed lodge for only a few.

Frequently we hear someone apologetically refer to himself as an "inactive" Mason, meaning that he doesn't attend Lodge meetings or participate in any of its activities. In other words a man usually believes that he must be a participant in some kind of Lodge endeavor in order to be an "active" Mason.

This is, of course, a commendable attitude, and to a degree it is correct. It is important for a Mason to attend Lodge. He should go there at least four times a year ... three times to witness the conferring of each of the Degrees, so that he will refresh his mind concerning the teachings and responsibilities of Freemasonry ... and at least once to attend a Stated Meeting so that he can have some participation in the business affairs of the Lodge.

It is true that a Mason who is regular in attendance at Lodge meetings is taking an active interest in his Fraternity. If he takes part in the ritualistic ceremonies, he renders an additional service to the Craft. If he accepts the responsibility of office and does his job well, he is an important builder in the greatest fraternity on earth.

However, it is not essential, even though most desirable, that a Mason fulfill some of the services listed in order to be an "active" Mason. Many men have responsibilities and duties which do not permit them to attend Lodge or hold office, but they are still "active" Masons.

PAY YOUR DUES

A man is an active Mason if all he does is pay his annual dues to the Lodge. At first thought this statement may suggest bold commercialism ... that Masonry is nothing but a "degree mill" and a money-making business. However, when one stops to consider that our Institution is dedicated to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, how could it operate without the financial support of all of its members? The officers, ritualists and regularly attending members, are too few in number to even provide a meeting place. Through their financial support men who might consider themselves "inactive" Masons make it possible for the work to be done and Masonry carried on from one generation to another.

What would happen to our program of assistance to destitute Brethren, their wives, their widows, and their orphans, if it were not for the dues-paying "inactive" Masons? There would be none!

The Charities and Benevolences of the Grand Lodge are only a beginning of the great programs of Masonic Charity. All of the Masonic Institutions which predicate membership upon being a Master Mason would disintegrate overnight if it were not for the "inactive" Masons ... but more importantly, their charities and benevolences would cease also at once. We need to remind ourselves constantly that Freemasonry is the greatest charitable institution on earth. It is impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the amount of money being spent each day for the relief of destitute and suffering humanity; also works of charity without regard to Masonic affiliation, race, creed, or national origin. The Shrine alone has a budget (in 1973) of 28 million dollars for the operation of its hospitals for burned and crippled children. Then consider the Scottish Rite program of Education, the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, and the many other like programs. Lastly compare, for example, the budget of the Shrine (by itself) with any other benevolent institution on earth and realize that no other group can approach the Masonic virtue of Relief ... and remember that every member of the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, and all other allied Masonic Bodies is first, and last, a Master Mason. How can a man pay his dues and be called an "inactive" Mason?

LIVE AN UPRIGHT LIFE

A man is an active Mason if all he does is live according to the principles of Freemasonry. There are few things in life which do more good for the world than living an upright and moral life. When a Master Mason goes to sleep at night and is able to say to himself that he has that day fulfilled as best he could, the obligations of a Mason, he has accomplished something for himself ... but more than that, he has done something for his fellowman. If he has worn and displayed a Masonic emblem of upright living, he has served as a living testimony to all that is good, kind and charitable ... and proudly proclaimed to the world that this is Masonry. The Mason should always remember that the Masonic emblem on his finger, or in his lapel, represents the Badge of a Mason, the Apron.

SERVICE TO THE WORLD

A man is an active Mason if he engages in great works of service to the world and quietly, modestly, lets everyone know that he is a Master Mason. Two of the great Masons of our time were General Douglas MacArthur of the U. S. Armed Forces and J. Edgar Hoover of the F.B.I. Their Masonic accomplishments were achieved in sacrificial services to their Country rather than within the tiled Lodge; but the whole world knew that they were Masons and were proud of that fact. This category of "active" Masons includes men from all walks of life. It includes the Brother who works with the DeMolay for boys and the one who works with the Rainbow for Girls. It includes the Brethren who choose to work in the York Rite, the Scottish Rite or the Shrine, rather than devote their activities to the Blue Lodge.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

A man is an "active" Mason if he encourages worthy men to become Master Masons. This may be through example, precept, or suggestion. It is contrary to Masonic practice to consider a man for Masonry, elect him and then invite him to become a member. A man must seek to become a member because of honest desire. There is, however, no rule which forbids a Master Mason to encourage non-Masons to seek membership. A father can tell his son that he hopes some day he will desire to become a Mason ... and when he does, he merely has to ask for a petition. A Mason may have a good friend whom he considers to have all of the attributes to be a good Freemason. He cannot invite that friend to join, but he can tell him that if he ever wishes to become a Mason, he must make application. Many good men are lost to Masonry because they are waiting an invitation to join.

SCARED MASONS

Lastly, there are countless Masons who pay their dues and never attend Lodge because they have remained away so long that they are afraid that they can't get in ... or, because they fear they will be embarrassed by loss of memory concerning the Ritual. They should never let themselves become this kind of "inactive" Mason. In the first place, no examination will be required of a man attending his own Blue Lodge ... the Secretary can vouch for him. In the second place, he will not be required to participate in any of the Ritual ... and he will soon find that all of those things he once learned are still buried in his "memory bank".

DEFINITION - "INACTIVE"

We will admit that there is such a thing as an "inactive" Mason but he usually falls within three categories. First; he is the Mason who has forfeited his membership through non-payment of dues and surrendered one of the great and priceless honors of the world, that of being a Freemason. Second; he is the man who fails to live according to the principles of Masonry and brings disgrace upon himself and the Craft. Third; he is the man who zealously hides the fact that he is a Freemason, lest the world learn of his association with an institution which inculcates the highest principles of Morality and Eternal Truth.

WHAT KIND OF A MASON ARE YOU? You alone can answer that question. Search yourself, my brother!

ALEXANDRIA-WASHINGTON LODGE No. 22
 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
 The George Washington Masonic National Memorial
 Post Office Box 4330
 Alexandria, Virginia 22303-0330
 Memorial Phone: (703) 683-2007 - - Lodge Phone: (703) 299-6122

MARCH 1979 - TRESTLEBOARD

Day	Time	Activity
Thu 03/08/1979	7:30 pm	STATED MEETING - Grand Lodge Reports - Business
Mon 03/12/1979	7:00 pm	CALLED MEETING - E.A. Degree and Exam
Thu 03/15/1979	7:00 pm	CALLED MEETING - F.C. Degree and Exam
Thu 03/22/1979	7:30 pm	STATED MEETING - Past Master's Night - Business - Birthdays
Mon 03/26/1979	7:00 pm	CALLED MEETING - M.M. Degree

STATED COMMUNICATIONS: Second and Fourth Thursdays of each month except Thanksgiving, Observance of George Washington's Birthday and December 27th

We meet at 7:30 unless otherwise stated.
 GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTION: Every Tuesday and Wednesday, 7:00 until 9:00 pm in Alexandria-Washington Lodge Room.
 THOSE DESIRING INSTRUCTIONS IN COACHING SHOULD CONTACT THE *WORSHIPFUL MASTER*. THOSE WILLING TO COACH CONTACT THE *JUNIOR DEACON*.

OTHER EVENTS IN THIS AREA

Day	Time	Activity
Wed 03/07/1979	7:30 pm	Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219-DDGM, Rt. Wor. William E. Poindexter
Fri 03/09/1979	8:00 pm	Kemper Lodge No. 64 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. Donald M. Robey
Mon 03/12/1979	7:30 pm	Occoquan Lodge No. 310 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. William E. Poindexter
Tue 03/13/1979	7:30 pm	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. Donald M. Robey
Sat 03/17/1979	8:30 pm	LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE at the Scottish Rite 1430 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria
Sat 03/17/1979	5:00 pm	Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 - Official Visit of the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia
Sat 03/17/1979	6:00 pm	Banquet in Dining Hall followed by a Program in the Auditorium - Tickets for the Banquet may be obtained for a donation of \$5.00 by calling the Secretary at 683-1467
Mon 03/19/1979	7:30 pm	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. William E. Poindexter
Tue 03/20/1979	7:30 pm	Concord Lodge No. 307 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. Bruce W. McNanee
Wed 03/21/1979	7:30 pm	John Blair Lodge No. 187 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. Donald M. Robey
Thu 03/22/1979	7:30 pm	Archer Bailey Gay Lodge - DDGM, Rt. Wor. William E. Poindexter
Thu 03/22/1979	8:00 pm	Sharon Lodge No. 327 - DDGM, Rt. Wor. Bruce W. McNanee
Tue 03/27/1979	8:00 pm	Martha Washington Chapter No. 42, O.E.S., Installation of Officers
Wed 03/28/1979	7:30 pm	District School - Kemper Lodge No. 64, 713 E. Broad Street, Falls Church

VISTING LODGES

Day	Time	Activity
Sat 03/17/1979	7:30 pm	WAMPATUCK LODGE, Hanson, Mass. - M.M. Degree (will have dinner with Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120)
Sat 03/31/1979	1:30 pm	HIRAM LODGE NO. 25, A.F.&A.M., Newark, Delaware - M.M. Degree

Alexandria-Washington Chapter, Order of DeMolay

John A. Elmore, Master Councilor
 Brother Jay A. Ranck, Chapter Dad
 Meets in the North Room, 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 7:30 PM
 All Master Masons are invited to Attend