



Lodge Bulletin

December 2024

www.AW22.org

Master's Message

My Dear Brothers,

As my term as Worshipful Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the past year with a sense of gratitude and pride. It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of men in service of our Lodge. Each one committed to the principles of Freemasonry and the betterment of our Lodge and community.

The year has been marked by numerous successes and these achievements are certainly not mine, but rather the collective effort of every Brother who has contributed so much of their time, energy, and talents to our Lodge.

I am particularly proud of the way you come together in support of one another. Seeing firsthand how the Brethren of AW22 so willingly and unconditionally offer support and encouragement should be an inspiration for any organization.

As we close out this year, I urge you to carry this momentum forward into the next. Continue to build upon the strong foundation we have laid and strive for excellence in all that we do. Remain committed to our Masonic obligations, ever mindful of the importance of our conduct. And never lose sight of our responsibility to spread the light of Freemasonry with our minds firmly set on the future.

Saint Francis of Assisi once wrote, "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows." As we embark on a new year which I am sure will come with its own challenges, I leave you with a final charge: never let the light of this Lodge and your spirit dim despite those challenges. Continue to seek knowledge and understanding, practice virtue and empathy, and live a life worthy of the title "Brother." With that in mind, we can make a positive impact on the world and leave a lasting legacy of grace for generations to come.

I extend my heartfelt wishes and support to my successors. These are incredible men. Men for which I thank the Supreme Architect of the Universe every day that I am so blessed to call friends and Brothers. Men whose passion and determination will take our Lodge to new heights

Finally, I would like to end my final message with one of the closing lines of the cornerstone ceremony: *May the Lord Bless us and keep us. May the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up His Countenance upon us, and give us peace both now and evermore. Amen.*

Fraternally yours,

Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr.
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org
202-856-4686





December 2024

December 8

3:00 PM | Board of Trustees Meeting
GWMNM

December 9

2:30 PM | GWMN Staff Holiday Party
GWMNM

December 12

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner
7:30 PM | Stated Communication
Elections
GWMNM

December 14

7:30 AM | Wreath Laying
Mount Vernon

December 21

10:00 AM | Called Communication
FC Degree
GWMNM

December 27

7:30 PM | Installation of Officers
GWMNM

- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.

Operative Masonry & Speculative Masonry

By Bro. Rob Swanson, Lodge Education Officer, Alexandria - Washington Lodge No. 22

At the Grand Lodge of England's formation in 1717 the Lodges of Masons were already a mixture of Operation vs Speculative Mason's. Operative being those men who were in fact Stone Masons by trade. Per the records of Scottish Lodges, they indicate that as early as the 1600s there began to be a shift in the makeup of a Lodge from purely Operative to a mixture of both.

As Coil states regarding the two, Operative Freemasonry is "The type of Masonry primarily devoted to construction and architecture. It virtually ended for the Freemasons about the middle of the 16th century, when Gothic architecture began to wane, though some Freemasons continued operative practices and trade regulations up to the formation of the first symbolic Grand Lodge in 1717."^[i]

In times pre-speculative Masonry, you had to be a Stone Mason by trade, there began to be an increasing number of men whose vocation was not Stone Masonry. As I discovered in "The History of Royal Arch Masonry" they had discovered in the minutes of Lodges in Scotland, some men were being allowed into the Craft as patrons, men from High Society, men who held a title. However, by 1670 one Lodge recorded that of the 49 members present only 10 of them were true Stone Masons.^[ii]

I am inclined to believe it a stretch therefore to claim that 39 of those men were just wealthy landowners allowed in to provide funds or patronage. Already by the 1600s there were many different rituals practiced. As Speculative Freemasonry grew it embraces several different legends to teach their lessons, today we have the Hiram Legend, but before such legends were codified in Freemasonry there were others, such as the Noachite and others legends all used to communicate allegorical lessons in morality and mysticism. These esoteric rituals were not just practiced in Freemasonry alone.

^[iii] The origins of Freemasonry, David Stevenson, page 23

Operative Masonry & Speculative Masonry

Continued

In almost all vocationally focused guilds they practiced their own rituals with their own unique stories. So varied were these that just like in Freemasonry, a Craft guild's ritual in one town would be unrecognizable to a Craft guild in another town functioning under the same vocation. David Stevenson in his work "The Origins of Freemasonry" states "but in spite of this, the charges do not mean that the Masons can be regarded as qualitatively different from other crafts; there is little in the old charges that cannot be paralleled in the legendary histories, proudly maintained by many trades (those static crafts had no need of the sort of assemblies that Mason's claim to have held for past ages). All Craft sought to uphold their own supremacy on grounds of utility or antiquity, and recitation of law, supporting such claims, combined with sworn obedience to rules was commonplace... thus, in making grandiose claims, the Masons were doing no more than other trades. Yet it is nonetheless the case that the Masons claims to high status were unusually impressive." [iii]

While many of these guilds maintained their own rituals and legends it is a ponderous question to ask why Freemasonry continues even to this day when the others have seemed to fade into antiquity.

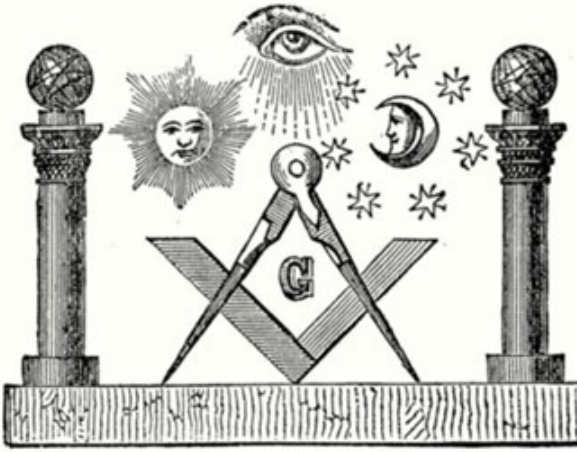
[i] Coil's Masonic encyclopedia page 457

[ii] Turnbull & Denslow's History of Royal Arch Masonry Vol 1 Page 10



Learn how you can make a tax deductible donation today:





Bill of Fare

December 12

Salad

Wild Fields Greens with a Balsamic and Citrus Vinaigrette

Entrée

Maple Glazed Roast Turkey Breast

Sides

Traditional Stuffing
Mashed Potato's
Mac and Cheese
Roasted Garlic Green Beans

Dessert

Bread Pudding
Peach Cobbler

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

Happy Masonic Birthday



Wor. Mark Arbeen, December 4, 35 years

Bro. Samuel Ayers, December 9, 36 years

Bro. George Brandner, December 14, 41 years

Mt. Wor. Michael Brumback, December 7, 46 years

Bro. David Buffaloe, December 20, 20 years

Wor. Brent Campbell, December 8, 27 years

Bro. Jesse Geriak, December 17, 2 year

Bro. William Grupe, December 1, 64 years

Bro. Carl Hallstead, December 20, 51 years

Bro. Timothy Look, December 1, 6 years

Bro. Vaughan Mason, December 13, 6 years

Bro. Thomas Phillips, December 12, 65 years

Wor. Timmy Shrum, December 9, 39 years

Bro. Dennis Smith, December 18, 26 years

Bro. Arthur Wallace, December 3, 12 years

Bro. Jakob Zilinski, December 17, 2 year

2024 Lodge Officers

Wor. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr - Worshipful Master

Mobile : 202-856-4686 Email: Master@AW22.org

Bro. Phillip Adam Smartt - Senior Warden

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, PM - Secretary Pro Tempore

Phone: 757-656-1838 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301

Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr, PDDGM - Secretary Emeritus

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr - Senior Deacon

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Junior Deacon

Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev, PM - Chaplain

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - Senior Steward

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Junior Steward

Bro. James Henry Ferguson - Marshal

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Musician

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

Board of Trustees

Bro. Jeffery W. C. Conn (Chair) - 2024

Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM - 2026

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Wor. David G. Bella, PM - 2028

Living Past Masters on the Rolls

1976 - James B. Stone

1991 - Earl C. Million

1992 - Granville C. Canard, Jr. PDDGM

1995 - George D. Seghers, PDDGM

1996,18 - Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM

1997 - Walter L. Margeson, II

1998 - Philip J. Hays

1999,17 - Michael P. Bible, PDDGM

2000 - Terry L. Gigure

2001 - Brent N. Campbell

2002 - Daniel M. Clark, PDDGM

2003 - James M. Stevenson

2004 - Frank Skwirut

2005 - Jesse T. McMahan, V

2006 - Thomas G. Little

2009 - Heber C. Willis, III

2011 - John P. Olson

2012 - Michael L. Bailey

2013 - Joshua D. Adler

2014 - Robert T. Weston

2016 - Stephen J. Pezzetti

2019 - Nikola N. Nikolov

2020 - Daniel E. Froggett

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella