



# Lodge Bulletin

April 2025



[www.AW22.org](http://www.AW22.org)

# Master's Message

Brethren,

Longer days, shorter sleeves and colorful arrivals of new life adorning the grounds of our beautiful home at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial leave no doubt: spring is upon us. In addition to the blooms and blossoms that mark this season, for a few short weeks the days themselves celebrate transformation. Heading to lodge for Saturday morning catechism and ritual practice, you might notice the fleeting remnants of winter in the air, only to be replaced by a warm and sunny embrace when you step outside just a few hours later. It is a season of growth and the promise of more light on the horizon.

So, too, is it an encouraging season in our lodge. This month we celebrate the Masonic birthday of 30 of our brethren, including three who have dedicated more than 50 years of service to our Craft. Two of our brothers are advancing rapidly through the degrees and will soon be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Our officers have been working in earnest to learn the roles and responsibilities of the chairs they may occupy in future years. As those who have attended recent dinners, social and charitable events can attest, many more fine men are preparing to knock at the door. Later this month we will again be out in the community serving our neighbors in need.

Indeed, it is an exciting time to be a member of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, and I am grateful to each of you for sharing your time, treasure and spirit of service that makes it all possible.

Read on for what's in store, including the William Hiram Woods ritual school - which Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons are eligible and encouraged to attend - and keep an eye out for the announcement of upcoming degrees and events.

If it is within the length of your cable tow, I look forward to seeing you at lodge in April and beyond.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Phillip Adam Smartt  
Worshipful Master  
Master@AW22.org





# April 2025

*April 10*

**6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner**

**7:30 PM | Stated Communication**

**GWMNM**

*April 12*

**8 AM | William Hiram Woods Ritual School**

**EA, FC, MM Welcome**

**GWMNM**

*April 26*

**7:30 AM | ALIVE! Food Distribution Event**

**William Ramsay Recreation Center**

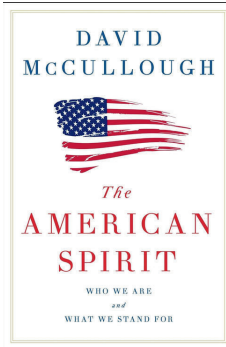
- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated or Called Communication nights) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.

# Ex Libris

## The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For

David McCullough

Review by Wor. Adam Smartt



“History, I like to think, is a larger way of looking at life. It is a source of strength, of inspiration.”

- David McCullough

In addition to being the prolific author of award-winning histories and authoritative biographies including *1776*, *John Adams*, *Truman* and *Mornings on Horseback*, the late

David McCullough’s speaking career spanned more than a half century and featured celebrated talks in all 50 states.

*The American Spirit* features selected remarks given to audiences ranging from a Joint Session of Congress to commencements at small liberal arts universities. His words commemorate moments of joyous achievement and immense national tragedy. In each, the author invokes the enduring spirit woven deep into our national fiber that transcends the divisive erosions of time, politics, trials and terrors.

A small volume of individual writings each crafted to hold the attention of a live audience, *The American Spirit* is a compelling and consumable reminder of the driving force behind our great, enduring experiment in social science.

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# Perspectives of the Craft

## **A Young Man's Perspective on Masonry**

*(adapted from an upcoming blog post)*

Bro. Thomas H. Lynch

Chaplain, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

What is purpose? What does purpose mean to you? What is our purpose?

The Grand Architect of the Universe has endowed in us a responsibility to see His divine plan realized and recently I have been contemplating my purpose, both in life and in lodge.

I was 19 years old when I first caught a glimpse of what Masonry could be for me. I was entranced by not only our beautiful building, but the mission of Masonry “to make good men better.”

Growing up I was always inclined to talk with the adults in my life. The friends of my parents, my teachers, and coaches all became guides to me, and many have become my friends. I believe that wisdom comes with lived experience, and therefore there is a lot to learn from the generations that come before us. Because I understood this, I saw the value of Freemasonry and I made the leap of faith and knocked at the door. Since then, three more brethren my age have been raised but we still represent a very small minority of Masonry.

This is going to present challenges and opportunities for both the progression of our fraternity and the betterment of our communities.

My generation is broken. Conditions like anxiety and depression have a chokehold on our minds. We've been raised with cellphones in our hands and we don't know how to interact with people. Suicide has become a leading cause of death for young men who are lost in the darkness, looking for an answer; who need outlets like Masonry but do not know the door is there.

As a social institution that takes upon itself the responsibility to bring together good men, we must continue to strive toward our full potential.

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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I am grateful to be a Freemason. I benefit from the wisdom of my brethren, and from the values Freemasonry has emphasized in my life, making me reflect on my thoughts and behaviors, and helping to subdue my passions and circumscribe my desires. It emphasizes the importance of our God in my life, encouraging me to contemplate the glorious works of our Creator.

Masonry gives me an amazing network of men across all ages and backgrounds to confide in and learn from. Masonry provides a lot of benefit to my life. Taking home food after the stated is also a great bonus.

While I do what my cable tow allows to help our lodge and community, I can't help but to think that I am not doing enough to bring it to those in my generation who desperately need it - and are ready for it.

If you're my age, consider your peers. For those slightly older, I invite you to think of your children and grandchildren. If they are anything like their Gen Z peers, then there is a 61% chance they have been medically diagnosed with anxiety, and around 42% report battling with depression and feelings of hopelessness. What is making them feel this way?

Today, there is very little that keeps us grounded. Society teaches us to isolate rather than connect; to indulge rather than abstain and to hate rather than to love. Lacking a set of values we are encouraged to live by, we embrace our selfish human nature and each man does what is right in his own eyes.

Is Masonry not what this world needs right now? Do we not put forth a set of values that teaches us to subdue our passions, trust in God, make good men better, and ultimately make the world better?

If you believe this to be the case, and you want your friends, children and grandchildren to live in a world where our institution is a cornerstone in society, then you understand there is a lot of work ahead of us to make this happen.

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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How do we get more good men?

When I'm not writing about how I want to change the world, I am crafting social media marketing campaigns for my professional clients. These companies are marketing to specific people - a skin cream developed by dermatologists wants to attract people with Eczema or Psoriasis - and it's my job to create videos that resonate with and attract their target market. I do this by making informative and entertaining content that educates this group of people long before they decide to buy.

To do this, I'm careful not to target the wrong audience or rely on the wrong channels. It's a careful balance, we want more people to hear what we have to say, but more especially we want the right people to hear it.

Of course the opportunity we face today is a little bit more complex than selling a skin cream on TikTok Shop.

Before I was born, many lodges regularly had dozens of good men who would go on to be great Masons and active members of their communities, but since Masonry has retreated from the public's eye, we have left the minds of many of these potential candidates.

Bringing about change in an institution like Freemasonry is a daunting task. Its system of traditions is important for protecting and preserving our values, however it can sometimes prevent us from keeping up with the ever-changing landscape of our time. Exploring new opportunities to grow our fraternity can seem like a behemoth task but let us not forget that there are millions of men who need Freemasonry.

My peers are lost. Just like many of the young people in your own lives who may lack direction, they often have sparse hope for a better tomorrow. So much is trying to pull us apart, but we are called to find a way to stick together. What pains me the most is that so many of these good men have been prepared in their heart and they just don't know it.

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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If you believe, as I do, that Freemasonry has helped you in your life, then you understand what it could do for my peers.

And that is why I need the aid of my brethren. I know I am not alone in this task. I know my brothers can and will help me. What I seek is simple, but invaluable.

Give me your input. Whisper wise counsel. Share with me the knowledge that you have.

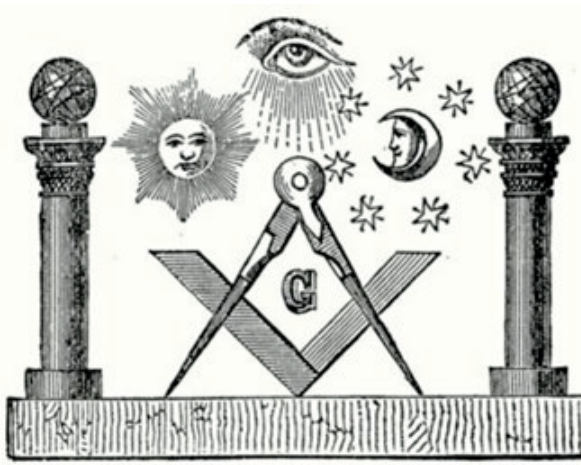
What does it take to make things happen? What do I need to know?

By working together, we as an institution are greater than the sum of our parts.

The only thing that stands between us and a world far better than the one we know is simply action that we need to take, and I urge you to take that action with me.

*(adapted from a longer piece and edited for length)*





# Bill of Fare

April 10

## Entrée

Chicken Parmigiana  
Eggplant Parmigiana  
Beef Lasagna

## Sides

Caesar Salad  
House Salad

## Dessert

Tiramisu  
Cannoli

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

Please RSVP to [reservations@AW22.org](mailto:reservations@AW22.org)

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. John Charles Rasmus, April 12, 54 Years

Bro. Angus Slater Lamond, Jr., April 26, 52 Years

Bro. Thomas Edward Maultsby, April 8, 50 Years

Bro. Robert Allen Duncan, April 20, 34 Years

Bro. Henley Kirk Jones, April 20, 34 Years

Bro. Andrew Vincent Murphy, April 20, 34 Years

Wor. Thomas Gayle Little, April 7, 31 Years

Bro. Matthew Richard Grizzard, April 4, 20 Years

Bro. Eric Eugene Plantrich, April 14, 20 Years

Bro. Anthony William Kitzmiller, April 8, 19 Years

Wor. Joshua David Adler, April 23, 18 Years

Bro. Joseph Choplin Jacobson, April 30, 18 Years

Bro. Helmut Karl Hentschel, April 12, 17 Years

Bro. Adam Seton Legrand, April 17, 15 Years

Bro. Jacob Adam Schroeder, April 22, 15 Years

Wor. William VanHardin Gilbert, April 5, 14 Years

Wor. Nikola Nikolov Nikolov, April 11, 12 Years

Wor. Michael Taldo, April 8, 10 Years

Bro. Jason Ross Goldstein, April 6, 8 Years

Bro. Vincent Joseph Lopez, April 3, 7 Years

Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev, April 25, 6 Years

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon, April 20, 2 Years

Bro. Michael Joseph Quigley, April 20, 2 Years

Bro. Marko Bojovic, April 29, 2 Years

Bro. Charles Alexander Bradburn, April 29, 2 Years

Bro. Douglas Michael Bradburn, April 29, 2 Years

Bro. Garrett Creigh Greensmith, April 29, 2 Years

Bro. Naaren Juloori, April 29, 2 Years

Bro. John Paul Mignone, April 29, 2 Years

Bro. Arash H. Zarrabi, April 29, 2 Years



# 2025 Lodge Officers

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Wor. Phillip Adam Smartt - Worshipful Master

*Mobile: 423-505-7704 Email: Master@AW22.org*

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Senior Warden

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr. - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, PM - Secretary

*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. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Senior Deacon

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - Junior Deacon

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Chaplain

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Senior Steward

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Junior Steward

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler - Marshal

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

## Board of Trustees

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Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

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

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Konschak - 2029

## Living Past Masters on the Rolls

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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 S. 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

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.