

Lodge Bulletin

January 2026



www.AW22.org

Master's Message

Brethren,

Happy New Year! I hope the holiday season brought you rest and time well spent with friends and loved ones.

As we turn the page to 2026, we do so in a year unlike any other, America's 250th. It's an honor to serve as your Worshipful Master during this milestone, and I look forward with confidence to what we'll accomplish together.

January honors Benjamin Franklin and his themes of Enlightenment and Free Thought. Franklin lived by Masonic working tools before he ever took an obligation. His famous daily schedule, mapping every hour from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., is the 24-inch gauge in practice, dividing the day into three equal parts as we know and venerate. His pocket notebook, where he tracked thirteen virtues and focused on one at a time, is the common gavel at work: identifying the rough spots on his own rough ashlar and chipping away at them until something better emerged. He put it plainly in Poor Richard's Almanack:

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."

As we return to the quarries this month, consider Franklin's words and ask yourself: What's one habit worth building, or one worth leaving behind?

We have a full month ahead. Our first stated communication is Thursday, January 8, with dinner from Theismann's, our usual post-lodge destination, now coming to us. Please send your RSVP to reservations@aw22.org.

Thank you for the trust and support you have placed in your 2026 officers. I am excited as to what our brethren will accomplish together for the good of Masonry in general and our Lodge in particular.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jonathan J. Siudmak
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org





January 2026

January 8

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner

7:30 PM | Stated Communication

Open Program:

The Philosophy of *No Country for Old Men*

presented by Wor. David Bella

GWMNM

January 15

7:30 PM | Entered Apprentice Degree

GWMNM

January 17

9:30 AM | Family, Friends, & First

Responder Tour of the Memorial

GWMNM

January 29

7:30PM | Fellowcraft Degree

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 (except on Stated Communication 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.

Ex Verbis

Benjamin Franklin's *Thirteen Virtues*: A Revolutionary Introspection for Self-Improvement

In 1726, a twenty-year-old Benjamin Franklin embarked on what he called "the bold and arduous project of arriving at moral perfection." He had identified habits he wanted to break, talking too much, eating and drinking to excess, wasting time and money, and decided that good intentions alone weren't enough. He needed a system with which he could hold himself accountable to. So, Franklin compiled a list of thirteen virtues, each with a short precept:

1. Temperance: Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
2. Silence: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.
3. Order: Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.
4. Resolution: Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.
5. Frugality: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i.e., waste nothing.
6. Industry: Lose no time; be always employ'd [sic] in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.
7. Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
8. Justice: Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
9. Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
10. Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.
11. Tranquillity [sic]: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.
12. Chastity: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
13. Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

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Ex Verbis

(continued)

Franklin placed Temperance first because mastering it would produce "that coolness and clearness of head" necessary to tackle everything else. Silence came second because he wanted to listen more and talk less. Each virtue built on the one before it.

His method was practical. He made a small book with a page for each virtue, ruled into seven columns for the days of the week and thirteen rows for the virtues. Each night, he reviewed his day and marked a black dot for every fault committed. The goal was a clean page. He focused on one virtue per week, cycling through all thirteen in a quarter, completing four full rounds each year. Yet Franklin never achieved perfection, he was the first to say so. Order gave him particular trouble, and he never fully conquered his pride (The reason why "Humility" was added). But late in life, he reflected that "tho' I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, but fell far short of it, yet I was, by the endeavour, a better and a happier man than I otherwise should have been if I had not attempted it."

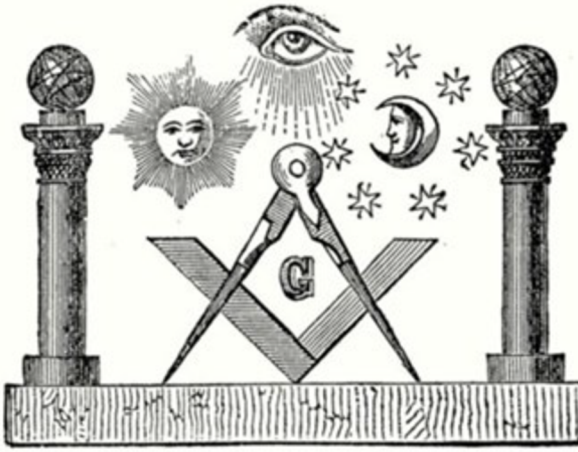
That's the lesson worth carrying forward: the value isn't in perfection, but in the honest effort to improve. Franklin gave us a blueprint for pursuing the concepts of a virtuous life one week, one fault, one second chance, at a time.

Study by Wor. Jonathan J. Siudmak



Learn how you can make a tax deductible donation today:





Bill of Fare

January 8

Entrée

Joe's Favorite Spirale & Chicken:

*pan fried chicken breast, house made pasta, baby spinach,
sun dried tomatoes, parmesan cream*

Sides

Garlic Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes
Sauteed Green Beans

Dessert

Apple Crumble

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to reservations@AW22.org

Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Billy Gene Blazer, January 6, 60 Years

Worshipful James Berkley Stone, January 30, 59 years

Bro. Jonathan Solomon Ruskin, January 3, 52 Years

Right Worshipful Michael Jean King, January 30, 50 Years

Right Worshipful Daniel Martin Clark, January 18, 46 Years

Right Worshipful Gregory H. Schwarz, January 21, 42 Years

Bro. John Stephen Ryan, January 15, 40 Years

Bro. Mete Yilmaz, January 27, 40 Years

Worshipful James McHenry Stevenson, January 12, 28 Years

Bro. John Arthur Bridegroom, January 13, 22 Years

Bro. Dimitar Plamenov Petrov, January 16, 16 Years

Bro. Matthew Dean Russell, January 16, 16 Years

Bro. Michael Sivy, January 21, 16 Years

Worshipful Michael Thomas Huff, January 24, 14 Years

Bro. Matthew Charles Ziegler, January 24, 14 Years

Bro. Konstantin Victorovich Boyko, January 4, 8 Years

Bro. Bernard Paul Kozosky, January 9, 8 Years



2026 Lodge Officers

Wor. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Worshipful Master

Email: Master@AW22.org

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft Jr. - Senior Warden

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - 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. Nareen Juloori - Senior Deacon

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Junior Deacon

Rt. Wor. Michael Jean King, PDDGM - Chaplain

Wor. John Joseph Grace, PM - Senior Steward

Bro. Thomas Lee Ammazalorso - Junior Steward

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler - Marshal

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

Board of Trustees

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

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Konschak - 2029

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - 2030

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 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

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.

2025 - Phillip A. Smartt

