

# Lodge Bulletin

February 2026



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

# Master's Message

Brethren,

February honors George Washington and his themes of Leadership and Integrity. For Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, this month holds special weight. Washington served as our Charter Master and every February we gather to celebrate his birthday and remember what he stood for. This year, in America's 250th, that weight feels heavier.

In 1776, as the largest British fleet ever assembled in North America landed on Staten Island, Washington issued orders to his army: "The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die."

A week later, he had the Declaration of Independence read aloud to his troops and that night, they marched to Bowling Green and tore down the gilded lead statue of King George III. The lead was melted and cast into musket balls for the war effort.

Seven years of war followed. When it was over, the officers who had fought beside Washington chartered our lodge and asked him to serve as its first Master. He would go on to write the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1793:

"To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."

The Declaration promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The war secured the first two. Through Masonry was where they secured the third, and that is why we are still here today.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jonathan J. Siudmak  
Worshipful Master  
Master@AW22.org





# February 2026

*February 7*

9:00 AM | Division Education & Leadership Conference  
GWMNM

*February 12*

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner

7:30 PM | Stated Communication

Open Program:

Documents Signed by George Washington presented by Gary Eyer  
GWMNM

*February 14*

2:00 PM | George Washington Birthday Parade  
Old Town Alexandria

*February 19*

7:30 PM | Fellowcraft Degree & Catechism Return  
GWMNM

*February 21*

5:00 PM | George Washington Birthday Gala (Tickets Required)

[Ticket Link](#)

GWMNM

*February 22*

8:00 AM | Wreath Laying at Washington's Tomb

George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate

10:00 AM | Beehive Trip to Army Museum with Presentation by Wor. David Bella  
National Museum of the United States Army

*February 23*

6:30 PM | George Washington Birthday Stated Communication (Tickets Required)

[Ticket Link](#)

Cedar Knoll

- 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.

# Quarry Gems



# Ex Verbis

## **George Washington's *Rules for Civility*: Rules Applicable to both Revolutionary and Masonic Settings**

Before George Washington commanded armies, led a nation, or sat as Charter Master, he was a Virginia schoolboy copying out a list of 110 rules in careful penmanship. The "*Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation*" originated with French Jesuits in the 1590s and was translated into English by Francis Hawkins around 1640. At some point before the age of sixteen, the young Washington copied every rule into a book of personal notes and carried their lessons with him into Masonic Lodges, onto battlefields, and finally into the presidency of a new nation.

The rules range from the practical, addressing basic conduct:

- 1st: Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present.
- 12th: Shake not the head, feet, or legs; roll not the eyes; lift not one eyebrow higher than the other, wry not the mouth, and bedew no man's face with your spittle by approaching too near him when you speak.

While others reveal deeper moral instruction that would echo throughout his life:

- 22nd: Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy.
- 56th: Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.
- 82nd: Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise.
- 89th: Speak not evil of the absent, for it is unjust.
- 110th: Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.

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# Ex Verbis

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Not too long after copying these rules, Washington sought light in Masonry. He was initiated at the Lodge at Fredericksburg on November 4, 1752, and raised to Master Mason on August 4, 1753. The principles he had copied as a boy found their mature actualization in Masonic teachings: that little spark of celestial fire became the Great Light upon the altar; the admonition to associate with men of good quality became the fellowship of the Craft; the command to keep one's promise became the solemn obligations of each degree.

When revolution came, Washington drew upon these same sources. Rule 56 taught: Associate yourself with men of good quality... for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company. He chose his company carefully, Brothers like Lafayette, Revere, Warren, and Franklin. Rule 82 taught: Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise. When Washington resigned his commission at Annapolis on December 23, 1783, he kept a promise which reverberated around the world, that an American general would not become an American king.

After the war, Alexandria Lodge asked Washington to serve as their founding Master. On April 28, 1788, he was named Charter Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, and took his presidential oath the following year while still holding that office. We became Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 in 1804, forever linking our identity to the Brother who showed the world what these principles look like when truly lived.

*Study by Wor. Jonathan J. Siudmak*



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# Perspectives of the Craft

## **George Washington and the Continuity of the Craft: Unity, Leadership, and the Living Chain**

**By: Brother Brian M. Williams**

There is a quiet moment every Mason eventually experiences. It comes when the Lodge room is still before opening or after closing when the light falls across the checkerboard carpet and the symbols rest in silence. In that moment, we understand something deeply: we are part of an unbroken chain. That realization of belonging to something older and greater than ourselves—is the continuity of the Craft.

Few Masons embody this continuity more fully than our Illustrious Worshipful Master, George Washington. In times of crisis—during the Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, and the nation's earliest years—he served as a stabilizing force. Like a Master preserving harmony in the lodge, Washington understood that unity must be intentionally guarded and placed above personal ambition.

Our past is more than history; it is responsibility. William Preston reminded us that Freemasonry endures through “a succession of worthy men” who preserve its teachings (Preston, 1772/1861). Mackey later affirmed that the Craft survives because its principles are transmitted “from heart to heart” (Mackey, 1873). Washington demonstrated this stewardship by resisting factionalism and relinquishing power willingly proving that leadership rooted in virtue outlasts authority rooted in force. Washington expressed this plainly when he observed, “The unity of government which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you.” (Washington, 1796/1999). That conviction reflects a central Masonic truth: harmony is not optional, it is foundational. Without unity, neither a lodge nor a nation can endure.

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Washington’s example teaches that unity requires character. His steady leadership during moments of division reminds us that compromise, humility, and restraint are strengths, not weaknesses. Likewise, the strength of our lodges depends not on uniformity, but on shared commitment to brotherly love and mutual respect. The future of Freemasonry will be shaped by how we lead today—by how intentionally we cultivate unity and live our obligations. As Hodapp (2005) and Nagy (2017) observe, the Craft thrives when tradition is honored and leadership is purposeful.

Continuity in the Craft is a choice. We honor the past by remembering those who came before us. We strengthen the present by leading with integrity. And we secure the future by leaving behind a brotherhood stronger than we found it. In the same way, these principles are foundational to the success of our wonderful country.

Thank you, Brother Washington for your example and showing us a formula to see the dream of America become a reality.

This is the formula: Past. Present. Future. A living chain. Bound by unity. Sustained by leadership.

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## References

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- Davis, R. G. (2013). *The Mason's words: The history and evolution of the American Masonic ritual*. Brother of the Third Degree Publishing.
- Hodapp, C. (2005). *Freemasons for Dummies*. Wiley.
- Jacob, M. C. (2015). *The origins of Freemasonry: Facts and fictions*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Mackey, A. G. (1873). *An encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and its kindred sciences*. Moss & Company.
- Nagy, J. S. (2017). *Building Hiram: Uncommon catechism for uncommon Masonic education*. Building Hiram Publishing.
- Preston, W. (1861). *Illustrations of Masonry* (Original work published 1772). Simpkin, Marshall & Company.
- Washington, G. (1999). *Farewell address* (Original work published 1796). In J. D. Richardson (Ed.), *A compilation of the messages and papers of the presidents* (Vol. 1). Bureau of National Literature and Art.



## ALEXANDRIA WASHINGTON LODGE NO.22 FOUNDATION HAPPENINGS

First and foremost a big thanks to those who supported the Foundation in 2025. It was a successful year we had net proceeds of approximately **fifty-three thousand dollars**.

The foundation hosted a Wine and History Event on December 13, 2025 that was a great success. The vibe from the event was outstanding and the support from the members of Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 was great. A big thanks to all who attended and supported the event. A special thanks to the following individuals and organizations:

- Worshipful Brother Tom McMahan
- Worshipful Brother David Bella
- Worshipful Brother Allen Hamilton
- Worshipful Brother Adam Smartt
- Right Worshipful Dan Clark
- Worshipful Brother Nik Nikkola
- Brother Ron Craft
- Brother Jakob Zilinski
- Brother Gene Giordano
- Right Worshipful Mike Bible
- Brother Brian Williams
- Worshipful Brother Fred Baerenz
- Brother Brad Watts
- Karen Shrum
- Sheila Baerenz
- DuCard Vineyards
- Right Worshipful Rob Mertz
- Brother Tyler Vanice
- Fay Winkle Archives Collections Manager
- Brother Chris Ruli
- Brother Greg Melencio
- Brother Sam Moon

All in attendance really enjoyed the items displayed and learned quite a bit about the history of the items. We were fortunate that a guest by the name of Gary Eyler was at the Wine and History Event. He is a very prominent collector of George Washington items and has done significant work for the United States Supreme Court, the White House, and most recently appraised the William Williams portrait in the Replica Room. The Foundation and the Worshipful Master have worked together to have Mr. Eyler speak at the February 12, 2026 stated meeting. It is a unique privilege to have Mr. Eyler as a speaker; he has an incredible knowledge of our Brother George Washington.

Here are some other things that have happened in 2025 or will happen in 2026 with the Foundation:

- 1) The Foundation has, and continues to work with the Archives Committee to display items from our collection at designated Stated Meetings to give Alexandria Washington Lodge members a view into our extended collection. Please note that for the March 2026 Stated Meeting, between Dinner and the Stated Meeting various items from our collection will be displayed. We all get to learn more about our collection which has many items that have not been displayed.
- 2) The Foundation has helped the Archives Committee with a Request For Proposal (RFP) to restore the William Willams Painting of Brother George Washington in the Replica Room. The Foundation stands ready to support the Archives Committee effort to restore the William Williams painting once quotes are received from the RFP Solicitation.
- 3) The Foundation will make recommendations to fill the unexpired terms of two directors at the February Stated meeting.
- 4) The Foundation has established a monthly meeting cadence.
- 5) The Foundation is planning for an event in October 2026 to celebrate donor contributions and continue to share our collection with members of the public. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding the Foundation.

6) The Foundation has published a QR Code for donations. It is displayed on the Secretaries Desk in the Lodge Room for all who wish to contribute. Also, please note that ideas on how to increase giving to the Foundation are welcome. Feel free to send ideas to me at [ts61416@yahoo.com](mailto:ts61416@yahoo.com)

7) The Foundation is also working on other ways to increase giving to the Foundation which will result in the conservation, restoration and maintenance of items in our collection.

8) The Foundation provided funding for the new Alexandria Washington Lodge Collections Manager and supplies to be used in the management of our collection.

9) The Foundation, in cooperation with the Archives Committee, is working on discerning and producing items that help with marketing how the public and or members of the Lodge can support the Foundation with donations.

The above list are examples of the kind items that the Foundation is working on. Here are a couple of things that are interesting about our Replica Room, our collection, and the foundation:

1) Did you know that our Alexandria Washington Lodge Replica Room was the First Museum in the City of Alexandria?

2) Did you know that the Replica Room is a centerpiece of the Memorial tours? YES our Replica Lodge Room is key to the displays and history in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

3) Did you know that the Foundation is charged with not only conserving, restoring, maintaining but also educating folks on Washington which includes discussing our collection with the public?

4) Did you know that we have had or do have items from our collection at the following institutions?

- a.Fort Belvoir Army Museum
- b.Smithsonian Institute
- c.Mount Vernon

In summary, we as a Lodge, and Foundation are fortunate to have such a strong, rich and frankly incredible history.

The foundation is always grateful for donations which can be made either by clicking the QR Code below (or on Page 5) or making out a check payable to Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 Foundation and sending it to the Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 Foundation 101 Callahan Drive Alexandria Virginia. Also, the Lodge website offers a donation capability at the following website <https://aw22.org/aw-22-foundation> (donation area called cornerstone campaign). Donations of all amounts are appreciated.

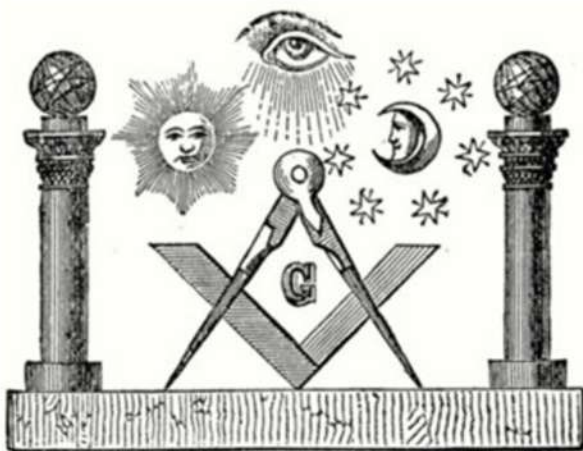
The foundation also welcomes you to participate in your foundation by volunteering to help the foundation. Please feel free to contact me on my mobile at (703) 618 – 8085 or email me at [ts61416@yahoo.com](mailto:ts61416@yahoo.com).

Please note that the Alexandria Washington Lodge No.22 is your Lodge and so is the Foundation. Please help by supporting both in any way you can.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as a member and Chairman of the Alexandria Washington Lodge Foundation.

S&F,  
Tim Shrum





# Bill of Fare

February 12

## Entrée

Chicken Parmigiana

*crispy chicken breast, san marzano marinara, mozzarella*

Eggplant Parmigiana

*breaded eggplant, layered with mozzarella and san marzano marinara*

Baked Rigatoni Alla Bolognese

*slow braised beef bolognese, san marzano tomatoes, ricotta, mozzarella*

## Sides

Caesar Salad

Grilled Garlic Broccolini

## Dessert

Assorted Dessert Bites

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

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

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Edward Kenneth Arndt, February 19, 75 Years

RW Sheldon Barnett Richman, February 15, 58 Years

Bro. Carlus Wayne Breland, February 2, 55 Years

Bro. Chadwick Rene Gore, February 25, 41 Years

Wor. Walter Leverne Margeson, II, February 3, 34 Years

Bro. Robert Frank Feldman, III, February 14, 26 Years

Bro. Michael Franklin Salva, February 13, 25 Years

Bro. Peter George Lincoln Cutler, February 19, 24 Years

Bro. Brendan Malcolm Burns, February 3, 23 Years

Bro. Thomas Walter Meissgeier, February 3, 23 Years

Bro. Oliver Olrog Harris, February 24, 22 Years

Wor. Stephen Joseph Pezzetti, February 13, 14 Years

Bro. Chris Besmir Ruli, February 1, 10 Years

Bro. Patrick Arthur Watson, II, February 19, 6 Years

Bro. Richard William Wilson, February 18, 3 Years

# 2026 Lodge Officers

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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. Naaren 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

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

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Kenschak - 2029

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - 2030

## 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

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.

2025 - Phillip A. Smartt