

METROPOLITAN LODGE NO. 11, A.F.&A.M.

Henry C. Payne, Secretary
4013 Old Creek Rd
Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Address Service Requested

AUGUST 2023 BULLETIN

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!



Metropolitan
Lodge No. 11
A. F. & A. M.
Chartered December 11, 1860



Meets in the Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia 23231
on the Third Thursday of each month

ANNUAL DUES: 2023 – \$165.00

MAIL REMITTANCES TO SECRETARY

Brother Henry C. Payne, 4013 Old Creek Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Any case of Illness or Distress of any member that may come to your attention should be promptly reported to the Junior Warden, Secretary or other Officer of the Lodge.

Number Eleven Class – Meets with Varina Lodge No. 272 class on each Monday at 7:00 PM
at the Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia 23231

R. Lewis Gibbs Masonic Class – **(Dark in December)** Saturday Mornings – Tuckahoe Masonic Temple
5500 Bethlehem Road, Richmond, Virginia 23230

FROM THE EAST

August 5, 2023

Brethren,

Thank you to all who attended our Joint Communication with Ashland #168 for our July stated meeting. The lodge room was full, and we had some great fellowship. I would also like to thank all who participated in the Rainbow Girls bake sale, as they raised over \$230 for their Assembly!

I will be out of town for our August stated meeting, but it will be Junior Warden's night, and Worshipful Keith Lafemina will preside in the east. Worshipful Chris Loftus will start the evening by presenting scholarships before our tiled meeting begins. During our tiled meeting, RW Whit Hanscom, the District Masonic Home Ambassador for District 15-A, and Rocky Robison, the Regional Masonic Home Ambassador, will bring us news on the Masonic Home. Our program for the evening will be on President James Monroe, and will be presented by Brother Gregory Burkett of Westmoreland Lodge No. 212.

We have some busy months in front of us - Senior Warden's night and Past Master's night are approaching quickly, and it looks like we will be able to have a Christmas Party at MAHOVA in December. Keep on wearing your Masonic gear when you get a chance, that we may spread the Light of Masonry in our daily lives. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Until then, as they say on one of my favorite podcasts, "take care of yourself, and if you can, someone else too".

Sincerely and Fraternally

Bro. Ashley Thomas

Worshipful Master

FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

Our August stated meeting is Junior Warden's Night. I look forward to presiding in the east and hope to see many of my brothers in attendance.

Fraternally,

Keith "Huggy" LaFemina, PM

Junior Warden

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, August 17, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

Junior Warden's Night

OFFICERS, MEMBERS & GUESTS: Lodge Polo Shirts

ASSEMBLE: Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia at 5:45 PM

DINNER: 6:00 PM

Scholarship Presentations: Worshipful Chris Loftus

OPEN LODGE – 7:00 PM

Regular Business

PROGRAMS:

Right Worshipful Whit Hanscom, District Masonic Home Ambassador for District 15-A, and Right Worshipful Rocky Robison, Regional Masonic Home Ambassador, will bring us news on the Masonic Home

President James Monroe by Brother Gregory Burkett of Westmoreland #212

Conclude Business

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Saturday, August 19, 2023 | – | Masters and Wardens Association
Tuckahoe Masonic Temple, 5500 Bethlehem Road
Breakfast at 08:00 AM Meeting at 08:45 AM |
| Thursday, August 17 2023 | – | Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication
Joint Communication with Ashland Lodge No. 168 in Ashland |
| Tuesday, August 22, 2023 | – | Rainbow Assembly #10 meeting at Varina Masonic Temple at 7:30 PM |

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – JULY 2023 STATED

Keith G. LaFemina, Donnie R. Carter, Robert E. Pagani, Christopher E. Loftus, John W. Edelin III
Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III, Lambros G. Deligan, Albert A. Dranoff
Lothar A. Bernhard, Sr., Steven W. Sanford

ATTENDANCE – JULY 2023 STATED

Past Masters – 11 Members – 14 Visitors – 1 Total – 26

Yearly Averages:

2005 – 76, 2006 – 77, 2007 – 74, 2008 – 72, 2009 – 69, 2010 – 60, 2011 – 61, 2012 – 49
2013 – 48, 2014 – 47, 2015 – 53, 2016 – 49, 2017 – 46, 2018 – 47, 2019 – 38, 2020 – 37
2021 – 33, 2022 – 34, 2023 – 32

LODGE OF SORROW

Brethren,

Since our last State Communication, The Supreme Architect of the Universe has seen fit to take two of our Brothers from our Midst:

RALPH EDWARD SPRING, III WALTER JUNIOR GAMMON

Born:	January 2, 1944	November 10, 1924
Initiated and Entered Apprentice:	October 18, 1983	March 28, 1990
Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft:	November 22, 1983	September 19, 1990
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason:	January 3, 1984	October 17, 1990
Died:	January 6, 2023	July 10, 2023

To their families we offer our deepest sympathies.

Enlightenment Hero of Liberty and Equality

Born François-Marie Arouet in 1694, in Poitou, France, son of a notary, he grew up well-educated with an upper class background. Attended a Jesuit college, where he developed a knack for writing and a passion for social life and theater. After college, against his father's wishes, he focused his career on writing and literature.

Growing up, he witnessed the intolerance of the French monarchy, ruled by the Catholic Church, which made him skeptical of religious institutions as a whole. As a response, he developed a politically satirical and witty style of writing, which made him quite popular amongst the elites.

He established his early writing career in Paris, during the colorful and progressive Regency era (1715-1723), which took place between the reigns of Louis XIV and XV.

At the age of 24, he produced his first literary success, *Oedipe*, a tragedy, in 1718, in which he coined the pen name "Voltaire."

Voltaire's anti-establishment ways would get him into trouble with authorities. Following an argument with an aristocrat, he was forced into exile in England in 1726 at the age of 32.

Voltaire was heavily influenced by England's more liberal government. In England he studied the works of John Locke and Isaac Newton, the led him to a philosophy that was deeply linked to science, facts, and reason.

Voltaire (35) returned to France from exile in 1729 and published a brief summary inspired by what he learned in England that, in turn, criticized the French government. He introduced a modern way of thinking that deemphasized organized religion and focused on the progress of arts and sciences to fulfill man's destiny.

The publication led to a warrant for Voltaire's arrest, causing him to go into hiding. While in hiding he started an affair with *Émilie du Châtelet*. She was as studious as Voltaire, and inspired his increased focus on the sciences and metaphysics. Together, they published a number of works, before she died during childbirth in 1749.

Voltaire was a master at simplifying difficult material, and is responsible for the anecdotal tale of how Newton discovered gravity by an apple falling on his head. Many popular phrases today can be attributed to Voltaire, including "we must cultivate our own garden" which came from his bestselling novel *Candide* (1759).

As a successful writer, Voltaire used his "celebrity" status to speak out and vouch for citizens who were wrongfully prosecuted. Over the course of his life and through his works, Voltaire emphasized the use of humanitarianism over brute force. He realized change could be brought about by pressure from public opinion, stating "Opinion rules the world, but in the long run, it is the philosophers who shape this opinion."

Voltaire was known in his social circles as a Deist, and saw religion as a vital means for people to connect with one another. Voltaire's wit and wisdom allowed him to meet many notable people in his day, among them Br. Ben Franklin, whom Voltaire met at the Academy of the Sciences in 1778, while Br. Franklin was minister to France.



Br. Franklin had been a practicing Freemason for 40 years, and was hoping to join the Lodge of the Nine Sisters, in France, to form connections and bring aid to America during the American Revolution. Br. Franklin joined the Lodge of Nine Sisters in 1778 and, in April 1778, convinced Voltaire to join as an EA. Voltaire's membership was representative of the free thinking ideals of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters. Later, Br. Franklin would be raised to Venerable Master of the lodge, serving from 1779 to 1781. Sadly, Br. Voltaire became ill and passed away in Paris on May 30, 1778, at the age of 83. In his last writing he stated "I die adoring God, loving my friends, not hating my enemies, and detesting superstition."



FreemasonCollection.com

Br. Voltaire left behind a rich life and legacy of seeking justice and standing firm in one's beliefs and is regarded as one of the leading minds of the Enlightenment era.

This article was compiled edited and written, by Wor. Br. Martin Myers, drawing upon numerous source materials, a list of source is available upon request.

OFFICERS FOR 2023

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James F. Hardee, PM	(C) 640-8953	(E) varinajim53@gmail.com	Tiler

LIVING PAST MASTERS

Brown, Platon A.	1968	Carter, Donnie R., PDDGM	1996	Jason D. Clemmer	2019
Hines, Elbert Richard	1968	Bass, Jr., Claude A. PDDGM	1999	Linwood G. Bennett, Jr.	2020-2021
Olphin, Jr., Walter L.	1970	Pagani, Robert E.	2000		
Kontopanos, John A., Jr.	1971	Fitchett, Wayne E.	2002	AFFILIATE PAST MASTERS	
Plotkin, Leonard	1972	Sheppard, John Q. PDDGM	2003		
McLaughlin, Billy B. PDDGM	1975	Absher, Barrye L. PDDGM	2005	Bernhard, Lothar Arthur	(#19)
Hiner, Henry L.	1978	Jones, Douglas V., PGM	2007	Carter, Daulton L.	(#317)
Whitlock, K. Wayne	1981	Sykes, C. Thomas, PDDGM	2008	Dranoff, Albert Abe PDDGM	(#53)
Olphin, III, Walter L.	1984	Cook, V. Stuart, PGM	2009	Hart, John H. PDDGM	(#302)
Sarbaugh, Charles S. PDDGM	1985	Wadkins, III, J. Thomas, PDDGM	2010-2011	Holmes, Ray W.	(#317)
Dixon, Johnnie L. PDDGM	1986 & 1996	Loftus, Christopher E.	2012	Kidd, Richard C., PDDGM	(#9)
Mayes, Heath W.	1986	W. Martin Myers	2013	LaRochelle, Omer E. Jr., PDDGM	(#244)
Bennett, Jr., George L.	1991	John W. Edelin, III	2014	Martin, Frederick Garrison III, PGM	(#344)
Childrey, William E.	1992	Wade V. Evans, III	2015-2016	Rose, Daniel Lee PDDGM	(#161)
Deligan, Lambros G. PDDGM	1992	Robert E. Cook	2017 & 2022	Sanford, Steven Weldon PDDGM	(#4)
Cooke, III, George H.	1993 & 2021	Rick C. Kidd, PDDGM	2018	Taylor, Robert Wright	(#317)
LaFemina, Keith G.	1995				