

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

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

Address Service Requested

DECEMBER 2021 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: 2021 – \$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

November 30, 2021

Greetings Brethren,

Our next Stated Communication is Thursday, December 16th, (Third Thursday) at 5:00 PM, at the Varina Lodge Building, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, VA. Please note the time change. A Dispensation was requested and has been granted.

The Attire for the evening for Officers and Officers Elect will be Tuxedo, and coat and tie for members and visitors. Officers and Officers Elect are requested to be at the lodge by **4:00 PM** to have photos made.

We will open Lodge at 5:00 PM, to conduct business and balloting, hear the Audit Trustees' Report, Close the Lodge of Sorrow and other items on the agenda. After The Memorial Service and Elections have been concluded, we will call off for dinner at approximately 5:45 PM, for a meal and fellowship in the adjoining dining room. After our meal, we will return to the lodge and resume labor, and hold the Installation of the New Officers.

Brethren as this is my last communication as your Worshipful Master, I would like thank you all for the honor to serve you once again, my first time in the East being in 1993. We have met many challenges during this year with the move to our new location and the issues caused by the covid 19 virus, but we have at least maintained the status quo. We had some good things planned with the other lodges that share the building, such as a joint picnic, but the virus ruined that. Most of my programs were the mandated ones in my short term, but I endeavored to pick outstanding presenters, and I think I accomplished that, as I did not hear or see anyone snoring. A lot of you know that one of my long time hobbies is being a Bass Guitar player and as such, I have played in many bands since the age of 16. As such I have always been a team player. You will rarely, if ever see a Bass Player doing a solo gig. So it is as Worshipful Master, you need a good team to run a well governed lodge, and it is my hope that others in our lodge will accept the challenge to get involved. I leave behind a strong line of dedicated Masons. I thank them all for stepping up to keep Metropolitan No. 11 moving in the right direction. I still have a few of my Thin Blue Line Masonic Lapel pins, so ask for one at dinner if you want one before it expires.

I look forward to meeting and greeting you at our next Stated!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
George H. Cooke, III
Worshipful Master

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, December 16, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.

“Election and Installation of Officers”

OFFICERS DRESS – Tuxedos w/Black Accessories

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Please wear Business Attire (Coat & Tie)

ASSEMBLE: Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Va at 4:45 PM

**INCOMING OFFICERS: Please arrive and assemble by 4:00 PM for pictures,
individual and group!**

OPEN LODGE – 5:00 PM

Regular Business
Annual Reports – Secretary, Audit, Trustees
Lodge Memorial Service
Close Lodge of Sorrow

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022

BREAK FOR DINNER AT APPROXIMATELY 5:45 PM

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022

Open Lodge of Sorrow
Appoint Grand Lodge proxies
Conclude Business

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Thursday, December 16, 2021 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – NOVEMBER 2021 STATED

Heath W. Mayes, George H. Cooke III, Keith C. LaFemina, Donnie R. Carter
Claude A. “Buddy” Bass Jr., Robert E. Pagani, Wayne E. Fitchett, John Q. Sheppard
Barrye L. Absher, V. Stuart Cook (PGM), J. Thomas Wadkins III, W. Martin Myers
John W. Edelin III, Robert E. Cook, Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., Albert A. Dranoff
Lothar A. Bernhard, Steven W. Sanford

ATTENDANCE – NOVEMBER 2021 STATED

Past Masters – 18 Members – 7 Visitors – 2 Total – 27

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 – 34

FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Brethren,

The dues notices for 2022 have been mailed. If you are current in your dues then your new dues card was mailed with your notice. If you are in arrears in your dues then the dues card for 2022 was NOT mailed with your dues notice.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Brother Henry “Hank” C. Payne, Secretary

"Freemasons and Thanksgiving"

After the victory of the Battle of Saratoga during the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving, November 1, 1777:

"The grateful feeling of their hearts ... join the penitent confession of their manifold sins ... that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance ... and ... under the providence of Almighty God ... secure for these United States the greatest of all human blessings, independence and peace."

After Br. John Paul Jones (St. Bernard's Lodge, Kilwinning No. 122, Kirkcudbright, Scotland), commanding the Bonhomme Richard, captured the British ship HMS Serapis, the Continental Congress declared a Day of Thanksgiving, which Governor Thomas Jefferson chose to proclaim for Virginia, November 11, 1779:

"Congress ... hath thought proper ... to recommend to the several States ... a day of public and solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his mercies, and of Prayer, for the continuance of his favour ... That He would go forth with our hosts and crown our arms with victory; That He would grant to His church, the plentiful effusions of Divine Grace, and pour out His Holy Spirit on all Ministers of the Gospel; That He would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth ... I do therefore ... issue this proclamation ... appointing ... a day of public and solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God ... Given under by hand ... this 11th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1779 ... Thomas Jefferson."

After traitor General & Br. Benedict Arnold's (Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven, Connecticut) plot to betray West Point was thwarted, the Continental Congress proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving, October 18, 1780:

"In the late remarkable interposition of His watchful providence, in the rescuing the person of our Commander-in-Chief and the army from imminent dangers, at the moment when treason was ripened for execution ... it is therefore recommended ... a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer ... to confess our unworthiness ... and to offer fervent supplications to the God of all grace ... to cause the knowledge of Christianity to spread over all the earth."

After British General & Br. Cornwallis (10,000 Famous Freemasons p. 251: "He performed the grand honors of Masonry at the funeral of Major General DeKalb ... ") surrendered at Yorktown, Congress proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving, October 11, 1782:

"It being the indispensable duty of all nations ... to offer up their supplications to Almighty God ... the United States in Congress assembled ... do hereby recommend it to the inhabitants of these states in general, to observe ... the last Thursday ... of November next, as a Day of Solemn Thanksgiving to God for all his mercies."

After the Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War, Br. John Hancock (Merchant's Lodge No. 277, in 1762, Quebec, later affiliated with St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston), the former President of the Continental Congress now Governor of Massachusetts, proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving, November 8, 1783:

"The Citizens of these United States have every Reason for Praise and Gratitude to the God of their salvation ... I do ... appoint ... the 11th day of December next (the day recommended by the Congress to all the States) to be religiously observed as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, that all the people may then assemble to celebrate ... that he hath been pleased to continue to us the Light of the Blessed Gospel ... That we also offer up fervent supplications ... to cause pure Religion and Virtue to flourish ... and to fill the world with his glory."

After the U.S. Congress passed the First Amendment, it requested President & W.: Br. George Washington (Fredericksburgh Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia) issue a National Day of Thanksgiving, which he did, October 3, 1789:

"Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the People of the United States a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness;' Now, therefore, I do recommend ... Thursday, the 26th day of November ... to be devoted by the People of these United States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be ... That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble Thanks ... for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government ... particularly the national one now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed ... to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue."

After the Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812, President & Br. James Madison (Hiram Lodge No. 59, Westmoreland Courthouse, Virginia) proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving, March 4, 1815:

"The Senate and House of Representatives ... signified their desire that a day may ... be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnity as a Day of Thanksgiving and of devout acknowledgments to Almighty God for His great goodness manifested in restoring to them the blessing of peace. No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of Events and of the Destiny of Nations than the people of the United States.

His kind Providence originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allotted for the great family of the human race. He protected ... them under all the difficulties and trials to which they were exposed in their early days ... In the arduous struggle ... they were distinguished by multiplied tokens of His benign interposition ... He ... enabled them to assert their national rights and to enhance their national character in another arduous conflict, which is now so happily terminated by a peace and reconciliation with those who have been our enemies.

And to the same Divine Author of Every Good and Perfect Gift we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land ... I now recommend ... a Day on which the people of every religious denomination may in their solemn assemblies unite their hearts and their voices in a freewill offering to their Heavenly Benefactor of their homage of Thanksgiving and of their songs of praise.

Given ... in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen ... James Madison."

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

OFFICERS FOR 2021

George H. Cooke, III, PM (H) 829-5426 (E) ghcooke3@aol.com Worshipful Master
5701 Monguy Rd, Charles City, VA 23030-2623

Robert E. Cook, PM, (C) 703-258-9135, (E) robertecook66@gmail.com Senior Warden
15107 Martin Glen Terr, Midlothian, VA 23112-6372

C. Ashley Thomas (C) 380-0621 (E) ashtomasjr@gmail.com Junior Warden
5958 Dugout Ter, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4570

John G. Koedel, III (C) 338-1158 (E) jgkoedel@yahoo.com Treasurer
2444 Gold Leaf Cir, Henrico, VA 23233

Henry C. Payne (C) 229-1967 (E) hcp.93@verizon.net Secretary
4013 Old Creek Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Charles S. Sarbaugh, P.D.D.G.M (H) 276-9677 (E) cssarbaugh@cs.com Secretary Emeritus
1330 Traway Dr, North Chesterfield, VA 23835-5559

W. S. Jared Richardson (C) 840-9523 (E) wsjr1@hotmail.com Senior Deacon
9030 Brigadier Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Robert Max McCulloch (C) 514-8877 (E) rmm158@verizon.net Junior Deacon
14746 Boyce's Cove Dr, Midlothian, VA 23112-2255

Robert E. Pagani, PM (C) 512-2808 (E) 1fisherbob@gmail.com Chaplain

Linwood G. Bennett (H) 839-6776 (E) lbennett93@comcast.net Marshal

Richard C. Wadkins (C) 540-335-1142 (E) rhwadkins@gmail.com Senior Steward

Michael L. Bryant (C) 370-7910 (E) campbryant@hotmail.com Junior Steward

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

LIVING PAST MASTERS

Brown, Platon A.	1968	LaFemina, Keith G.	1995
Hines, Elbert Richard	1968	Carter, Donnie R., PDDGM	1996
Olphin, Jr., Walter L.	1970	Bass, Jr., Claude A. PDDGM	1999
Kontopanos, John A., Jr.	1971	Pagani, Robert E.	2000
Plotkin, Leonard	1972	Fitchett, Wayne E.	2002
Graham, George Tiffany	1974	Sheppard, John Q. PDDGM	2003
McLaughlin, Billy B. PDDGM	1975	Absher, Barrye L. PDDGM	2005
Hiner, Henry L.	1978	Jones, Douglas V., GM	2007
Whitlock, K. Wayne	1981	Sykes, C. Thomas, PDDGM	2008
Olphin, III, Walter L.	1984	Cook, V. Stuart, PGM	2009
Sarbaugh, Charles S. PDDGM	1985	Wadkins, III, J. Thomas, PDDGM	2010-2011
Dixon, Johnnie L. PDDGM	1986 & 1996	Loftus, Christopher E.	2012
Mayes, Heath W.	1986	W. Martin Myers	2013
Evans, Jr., Wade V. PDDGM	1989	John W. Edelin, III	2014
Bennett, Jr., George L.	1991	Wade V. Evans, III	2015-2016
Childrey, William E.	1992	Robert E. Cook	2017
Deligan, Lambros G. PDDGM	1992	Rick C. Kidd, PDDGM	2018
Cooke, III, George H.	1993	Jason D. Clemmer	2019
		Linwood G. Bennett, Jr.	2020-2021

AFFILIATE PAST MASTERS

Bernhard, Lothar Arthur	(#19)
Carter, Daulton L.	(#317)
Dranoff, Albert Abe PDDGM	(#53)
Hart, John H. PDDGM	(#302)
Holmes, Ray W.	(#317)
Kidd, Richard C., PDDGM	(#9)
LaRochelle, Omer E. Jr., PDDGM	(#244)
Malbone, Theodore Irving	(#317)
Martin, Frederick Garrison III, PGM	(#344)
Rose, Daniel Lee PDDGM	(#161)
Sanford, Steven Weldon PDDGM	(#4)
Taylor, Robert Wright	(#317)