

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

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

Address Service Requested

DECEMBER 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

December 1, 2023

Those of you that joined us for our November meeting, Past Master's night, had the pleasure of seeing Worshipful Bob Pagani in the east, and what a fine job he did. He was ably assisted by Worshipful George Cooke in the west, Right Worshipful Buddy Bass in the South as Junior Warden, Right Worshipful Steve Sanford in the West as Senior Warden and Worshipful John Edelin as Junior Deacon. We also had the pleasure of having our own Right Worshipful Barry Absher serve as Chaplain, and fine work was done by all!

We have some important dates in December, not the least of which is our party at the Masonic Home of Virginia on Friday, December 15th, starting at 6:30pm. I hope many of you will be able to join us that evening, or bake/buy some tasty treats for the party. No sooner than the dust from the party settles, we will have our election of officers for 2024, which will occur on Thursday, December 21st. **Please Note the Time Change!** We will be having dinner at 5:00 PM and Opening Lodge at 5:50 PM for Election and Installation of Officers for 2024. And on Wednesday, December 27th, we will be making a visit to Manchester 14 for Possum Night. I hope we will have enough Metropolitan 11 members to make it an official visit, so put this event on your calendar.

I also attended a meeting of the Rainbow Girls this past Tuesday night, and they are having a food drive starting in December and extending into January, in which they were hoping to collect 25 pounds of food. I told them Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 would participate, and they should move the number to 50 pounds. So please plan on bringing some food items to our December Stated.

While it is important all year long to check in on brothers, friends, and neighbors, it is even more important during the holiday season, as nobody should spend a holiday alone unless they choose to do so. Please keep your family, your brothers, and your neighbors in your thoughts, and reach out to at least say hello to those who may be appreciative of the company.

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

Sincerely and Fraternaly
Bro. Ashley Thomas
Worshipful Master

FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Brethren,

The dues notices will be out before long, if not already, so please get them paid as soon as possible. Unfortunately, some have let this slide so you will be in arrears starting January and will be considered not in good standing with the Lodge. Also, this next year will be the **LAST YEAR** I will be able to fill the Office of Secretary so someone will have to take the position in January of 2025.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Brother Hank Payne, Secretary

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, December 21, 2023 – 5:50 P.M. << NOTE TIME CHANGE

Election and Installation of Officers

OFFICERS, MEMBERS & GUESTS: Coat and Tie

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

DINNER: 5:00 PM <<<< NOTE TIME CHANGE

OPEN LODGE – 5:50 PM <<<< NOTE TIME CHANGE

Regular Business

Election and Installation of Officers

Conclude Business

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Friday , December 15, 2023 – Christmas Party at the Masonic Home of Virginia - 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 21,2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Election and Installation of Officers

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 – Possum Night at Manchester Lodge No. 14

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – NOVEMBER 2023 STATED

Heath W. Mayes, Keith G. LaFemina, Claude A. “Buddy” Bass, Jr., Robert E. Pagani, John Q. Sheppard, Barrye L. Absher, V. Stuart Cook (PGM), J. Thomas Wadkins III, Christopher E. Loftus
John W. Edelin III, Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III, Robert E. Cook, Lambros G. Deligan
Albert A. Dranoff, Daulton L. Carter, Lothar A. Bernhard, Steven W. Sanford, John H. Hart

ATTENDANCE – NOVEMBER 2023 STATED

Past Masters – 19 Members – 11 Visitors – 4 Total – 34

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 one of our Brothers from our Midst:

THOMAS ALLEN JONES

Born: December 18, 1961

Initiated and Entered Apprentice: August 17, 1988

Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft: October 26, 1988

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason: November 29, 1988

Died: October 30, 2023

To his family we offer our deepest sympathies.

Metropolitan's
Masonic Birthdays
For
December 2023

Member Name	Masonic Birthday	Years
Alford, Mark Eugen	12/11/1992	31
Hunnel, Phillip Charles	12/9/1987	36
Rollison, Paul Lee	12/12/1969	54
Smith, Thomas Fugate	12/16/1970	53
Waggoner, Dylan James	12/2/2008	15
Ziolkowski, Paul Andrew	12/2/2008	15
	Masonic Years	204

Liberté Chérie Lodge

A sculpture commemorating seven Freemasons who created a Masonic lodge while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp.

The lodge was named Liberté chérie, which means cherished liberty. The lodge was founded on November 15, 1943, and was one of the few lodges of Freemasons founded within a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War. It was located in Esterwegen, Lower Saxony, Germany. The seven Freemasons who created the lodge are: Paul Hanson, Luc Somerhausen, Jean Sugg, Franz Rochat, Guy Hannecart, Amédée Miclote, and Degueldre.

These Freemasons were Belgian Resistance fighters and political prisoners. They established the Lodge inside Hut 6 of Emslandlager VII (Esterwegen) concentration camp. The name of the lodge was derived from La Marseillaise ("The Woman from Marseille", the national anthem of France).

Hut 6 was used for foreign Nacht und Nebel (German: Night and Fog) prisoners.

The Emslandlager camps were a group of camps whose history is represented by a permanent exhibition in the Documentation and Information Centre in Papenburg, Germany. Altogether 15 camps were established on the Netherlands border, with central administration in Papenburg.

Luc Somerhausen described Erauw's initiation, etc., as just simple ceremonies. These ceremonies (in the maintenance of the secrecy of which, they asked the community of Catholic priests for assistance, "with their prayers") "took place at one of the tables ... after a very highly simplified ritual—whose individual components were however explained to the initiate; that from now on he could participate in the work of the Lodge".





More than a hundred prisoners were in Hut 6, and locked up nearly around the clock — allowed to leave only for a half-hour walk per day, under supervision. During the day, half of the camp had to sort cartridges and radio parts. The prisoners of the other half of the camp were forced to work under dreadful conditions in the surrounding peat bogs. The nutrition was so miserable that the prisoners lost on average 4 kilograms (8.8 lb) of body weight each month.

After the first ritual meeting, with the admission of the new brother, further meetings were thematically prepared. One was dedicated to the symbol of the Great Architect of the Universe, another to "the future of Belgium", and a further one to "the position of women in Freemasonry". Only Somerhausen and Erauw survived detention, and the lodge stopped meeting at the beginning of 1944.

Lodge Master Paul Hanson was moved, and died in the rubble of his prison, during an Allied air bombardment on Essen, on March 26, 1944. Jean Sugg and Franz Rochat, belonged to the Philanthropic Friends Lodge (Les Amis Philanthropes, Lodge No. 5 of the Grand Orient of Belgium).

Franz Rochat, a professor, pharmacist, and director of an important pharmaceutical laboratory, was born on 10 March 1908 in Saint-Gilles. He was a worker in the underground press, and the resistance publication Voice of the Belgians. He was arrested on 28 February 1942, arrived at Untermaßfeld in April 1944, and died there on April 6, 1945.

Jean Sugg was born September 8, 1897 in Ghent and was of Swiss German origin. He co-operated with Franz Rochat in the underground press, translated German and Swiss texts, and contributed to clandestine publications, including, La Libre Belgique, La Légion Noire, Le Petit Belge, and L'Anti Boche. He died in a concentration camp on February 8, 1945.

Amédée Miclotte was a high school teacher. He was born December 20, 1902 in Lahamaide, Belgium and belonged to the lodge Union et Progrès. He was last seen in detention, on February 8, 1945.

Jean De Schrijver, was a colonel in the Belgian Army. He was born August 23, 1893 in Aalst, and was a brother of the lodge La Liberté in Ghent. On September 2, 1943 he was arrested on charges of espionage and possession of arms, and died in February 1945. Henri Story was born on November 27, 1897 in Ghent. He was a member of the lodge Le Septentrion in Ghent. He died on December 5, 1944.

Luc Somerhausen, a journalist, was born on August 26, 1903, in Hoeilaart. He was arrested on May 28, 1943 in Brussels. He belonged to the lodge ACSO III and was deputy secretary of the Grand Orient of Belgium (Grand Orient de Belgique).

Fernand Erauw, an assessor at the Audit Office, and reserve officer with the Infantry, was born on January 29, 1914, in Wemmel. He was arrested on August 4, 1942, as a member of the "Secret Army". He escaped and was finally arrested in 1943.

Guy Hannecart (1903–1945) a lawyer and leader of La Voix des Belges (the voice of the Belgians). La Voix des Belges was a bi-monthly clandestine newspaper published by the Belgian National Movement (MNB) during the German occupation in World War II. In total, 41 issues were published. He was also member of the lodge les Amis Philanthropes N°3.

Survivors Erauw and Somerhausen met again 1944 in the Oranienburg Sachsenhausen concentration camp, and remained inseparable from then on. In the spring of 1945 they were involved in the death marches, and although Erauw was 1.84 m (6 feet) tall, he weighed only 32 kg (71 pounds) on May 21, 1945 — in the Saint Pierre Hospital in Brussels.

In August 1945 Luc Somerhausen sent a detailed report to the grand master of the Grand Orient of Belgium, in which he delineated the history of the loge Liberté chérie. Luc Somerhausen died in 1982 at the age of 79. The last witness, Fernand Erauw, died at the age of 83, in 1997.

A memorial, created by architect Jean de Salle, was unveiled by Belgian and German Freemasons on November 13, 2004. It is now part of the memorial site of the Esterwegen Cemetery. Wim Rutten, the grand master of the Belgian Federation of the Le Droit Humain said during an address:

“We are gathered here today on this Cemetery in Esterwegen, not to mourn, but to express free thoughts in public. ... In memory of our brothers; human rights should never be forgotten.”

This article was compiled, edited, and written, by Worshipful Brother Martin Myers, Past Master of Metropolitan Lodge No. 11, drawing upon numerous source materials.



OFFICERS FOR 2023

C. Ashley Thomas	(C) 380-0621	(E) ashtomasjr@gmail.com	Worshipful Master
		5958 Dugout Ter, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4570	
W. S. Jared Richardson	(C) 840-9523	(E) wsjr1@hotmail.com	Senior Warden
		9030 Brigadier Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116	
Keith G. Femina, PM	(C) 559-1719	(E) keith.lafemina@arc3gases.com	Junior Warden
		8540 Meadowsweet Dr, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-2828	
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		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, PDDGM (H)	276-9677	(E) cssarbaugh@cs.com	Secretary Emeritus
		1330 Traway Dr, North Chesterfield, VA 23835-5559	
Randal L. Clouse	(C) 370-6527	(E) RClouse1216@gmail.com	Senior Deacon
		2758 Maple Grove Ln, East Powhatan, VA 23139-5043	
John J. Reid, II	(C) (703) 472-9794	(E) JohnReidOnline@gmail.com	Junior Deacon
		2742 Spinnaker Ct, Henrico, VA 23233-349	
Robert E. Pagani, PM	(C) 512-2808	(E) 1fisherbob@gmail.com	Chaplain
Dieter T. Henss	(C) 502-1918	(E) dhenss@email.com	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	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				