

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

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

Address Service Requested

**FEBRUARY 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: 2022 – \$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

February 4, 2023

Brethren,

At our January stated meeting we had a good turnout for our District Deputy Grand Master, as Right Worshipful Barry C. Faison made his official visit to Metropolitan Lodge No. 11. In addition to the excellent meal prepared by Worshipful Robert Cook and the Kitchen Crew we enjoyed a "possum" cake presented by visitors from Manchester Lodge No. 14. Thank you to all who attended, it was a good start to 2023.

For those that missed it, Right Worshipful Barry told us of Grand Master Strehle's focus for 2023 on Membership Today, Charity Always, and Youth for Tomorrow. Keep in mind that while we cannot recruit, there are approved ways we can approach good men and speak of the benefits of Freemasonry. Regarding charity, this link ([100 Acts of Public Service](#)) allows you to download a list of ideas for community service from the Grand Master. As a lodge, we need to perform and document at least 5 charitable acts this year. And for the youth, I plan on visiting the Richmond Assembly No. 10 of Rainbow for Girls this month, and will be scheduling them to present a program for us in the near future.

We will be pleased to welcome our speaker, Archer Ticer, for the February stated on the 16<sup>th</sup>. She is a Physical Therapist with Lawrence Rehabilitation and James River Home Health and has particular expertise over 47 years with amputees as well as Parkinson's and stroke patients. I know we will have a good meal, so please come out and enjoy some camaraderie with your brothers and an interesting program.

Coming in March - I signed up our lodge to volunteer for a blood drive at Regency Mall. We volunteered for 3 days, but 2 were cancelled due to lack of donors, so we are only responsible for Wednesday, March 22 from 11 am to 5pm. If you are interested in helping out with the blood drive, please let me know.

Until then, be ye all of one mind, and may the God of peace and love delight to dwell with and bless you.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Ashley Thomas  
Worshipful Master

**STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, February 16, 2023– 7:00 P.M.**

**“Physical Therapy and You”**

***OFFICERS DRESS: Tuxedos with Black Accessories***

***MEMBERS & GUESTS: Business Attire (Coat and Tie)***

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

**DINNER: 6:00 PM**

**OPEN LODGE – 7:00 PM**

Regular Business

**PROGRAM: “Physical Therapy and You” presented by Archer Ticer, PT**

Conclude Business

**CLOSE LODGE**

**CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:**

None Scheduled at this time

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Thursday, February 16, 2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

Saturday, February 18, 2023 – Masters and Wardens Association

Tuckahoe Masonic Temple, 5500 Bethlehem Road

Breakfast at 08:00 AM Meeting at 08:45 AM

**PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – JANUARY 2023 STATED**

Heath W. Mayes, Keith G. LaFemina, Donnie R. Carter, Robert E. Pagani

Wayne E. Fitchett, 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

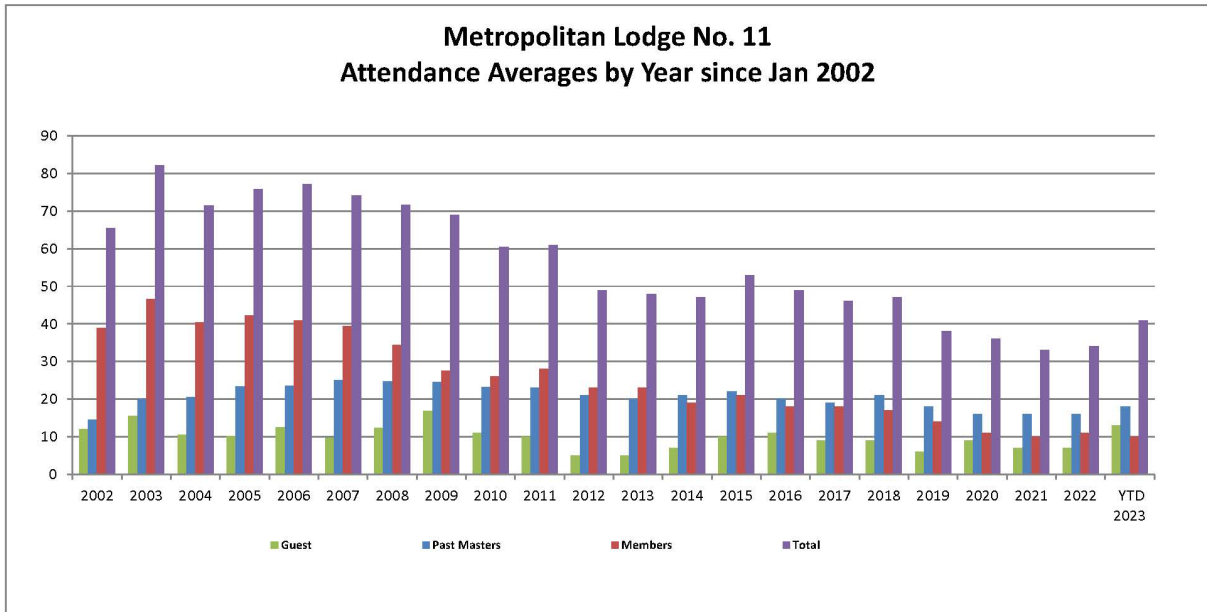
**ATTENDANCE – JANUARY 2023 STATED**

Past Masters – 18 Members – 10 Visitors – 13 Total – 41

**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 – 41

## Attendance Chart



### “Charles Sherwood Stratton”

Born in Bridgeport to parents who were of medium height, Charles was a relatively large baby, weighing 9 pounds 8 ounces at birth. He developed and grew normally for the first six months of his life, at which point he was 25 inches tall and weighed 15 pounds. Then he suddenly stopped growing. His parents became concerned when, after his first birthday, they noticed he had not grown at all in the previous six months.

They showed him to their doctor, who said there was little chance Charles would ever reach normal height. By late 1842 (at almost five years old), Stratton had grown only one inch from when he was six months old and had not gained any weight. Apart from this, he was a completely normal, healthy child, with several siblings who were of average size. His body was proportionate and functional.

Phineas T. Barnum heard about Stratton, and after contacting his parents, taught the boy how to sing, dance, mime, and impersonate famous people. Barnum also went into business with Stratton's father, who died in 1855. Stratton made his first tour of America at the age of five, with routines that included impersonating characters such as Cupid and Napoleon Bonaparte, as well as singing, dancing, and comical banter with another performer who acted as a straight man. To market the act, Barnum gave Stratton the name General Tom Thumb, naming him after the popular English fairy tale. The tour was a huge success and soon expanded.

A year later, Barnum took young Stratton on a tour of Europe, making him an international celebrity. Stratton appeared twice before Queen Victoria. The tour was a huge success, after his three-year tour in Europe, Stratton began his rise to stardom in the US. Stratton's fame grew at an astonishing rate, and his popularity and celebrity surpassed that of any actor within his lifetime.

Stratton's first performances in New York marked a turning point in the history of entertainment. Before Stratton's debut, the presentation of "human curiosities" for entertainment was deemed dishonorable and seen as an unpleasing carnival attraction. However, after viewers were introduced to Stratton and performances, he was able to change the perception people held. Stratton's lively and entertaining performances made these types of carnival shows one of the most favored forms of theatrical entertainment in the US.

While Barnum sought to capitalize on Stratton's small stature, he also aimed to highlight and showcase his many true gifts as a performer. For example, Stratton was noted to be clever in his acts. In addition, he was a talented actor, singer, dancer, and comedian. As a result, certain dramatic critics did not compare his skills to those of the curiosity show community of which he was a member but preferred to judge him on his merits as a professional entertainer.

On his 13th birthday Stratton stood exactly 2 feet 5 inches tall. On his 18th birthday, he was measured at 2 feet 8.5 inches tall. On his 21st birthday, he was 2 feet 10 inches tall.

Stratton became a Freemason on October 3, 1862. Stratton, by now 2 feet 11 inches tall, was initiated to be a Freemason alongside a man who was 6 feet 3 inches.



His marriage in 1863, to Lavinia Warren, also a little person, became frontpage news. The wedding took place at Grace Episcopal Church, and the wedding reception was held at New York City's Metropolitan Hotel. The couple stood atop a grand piano at the reception to greet some 10,000 guests. The best man at the wedding was George Washington Morrison ("Commodore") Nutt, another dwarf performer in Barnum's employ. The maid of honor was Minnie Warren, Lavinia's sister. Following the wedding, the couple was received by President Lincoln at the White House. Br. Stratton and his wife toured together in Europe as well as British India, in particular the area that would later become Bangladesh.

Under Barnum's management, Br. Stratton became a wealthy man. He owned a house in the fashionable part of New York and a steam yacht, and he had a wardrobe of fine clothes. He also owned a specially adapted home on one of Connecticut's Thimble Islands.

When Barnum got into financial difficulty, Br. Stratton bailed him out. Later, they became business partners.

In January 1883, Br. Stratton was staying at the Newhall House Hotel in Milwaukee when a fire broke out. More than 71 people died, but Tom and Lavinia were saved by their manager, Sylvester Bleeker.

Six months after surviving the Newhall House fire, Br. Stratton died unexpectedly of a stroke. He was 45 years old. Over 20,000 people attended the funeral. P. T. Barnum purchased a life-sized statue of Tom Thumb and placed it as a gravestone at Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport, Connecticut. When she died, more than 35 years later, Lavinia Warren was interred next to him.

In 1959, vandals smashed the statue of Tom Thumb. It was restored by the Barnum Festival Society and Mountain Grove Cemetery Association with funds raised by public subscription.

The cause of Br. Stratton's extreme shortness, then unknown, is referred to today as pituitary dwarfism. X-rays were not discovered until 1895, 12 years after Stratton's death, and the medical techniques of the day were unable to ascertain the pathology (if any) underlying his diminutive size at the time.

He was buried with Masonic honors by Saint John's Lodge. He became Master Mason in St. John's Lodge No. 3 at Bridgeport, Connecticut on October 8, 1862. He received the Commandery degrees (Masonic Knight Templar) in Hamilton Commandery No. 5 (Bridgeport, Connecticut), in 1863.

Like many other celebrated circus personalities (giants Robert Wadlow and Johnny Aasen, clowns Emmet Kelly Sr. & Jr., lion tamer Clyde Beatty, showmen Buffalo Bill Cody and Pawnee Bill along with all seven Ringling Brothers), Tom Thumb was a devoted Freemason.



His wife Lavinia Warren was also very active in the Order of the Eastern Star. In the photo Tom Thumb is wearing his elaborate Knights Templar uniform.

-----  
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.

Formatted for printing, emailing and the website by Right Worshipful Tom Wadkins

**OFFICERS FOR 2023**

C. Ashley Thomas	(C) 380-0621	(E) ashthomasjr@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	
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, 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	<b>AFFILIATE PAST MASTERS</b>	
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				