

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

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

Address Service Requested

**JUNE 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

June 1, 2023

Brethren,

Spring is moving right along and summer is right around the corner. Thank you to those who brought donations of food for our May stated meeting, I am happy to be making some progress on our acts of service.

June is traditionally the month to recognize the Saints John, and our program will be presented by Right Worshipful Donald Traser. I also want to take some time to discuss the future of Metropolitan 11, as we need to ensure we are maintaining and building our line of elected and appointed officers. Our lodge has long been known for the quality of our ritual, but various issues have lessened our ability to practice our craft with degree work. I want to be sure we are capable of maintaining our reputation when we have candidates receiving their degrees, so ideas on ritual practice will also be discussed.

July will bring another joint communication as we will travel to Ashland 168. Details will follow, but Worshipful Greg Six and I thought it would be a good chance to get our two lodges together and enjoy some fellowship. Mark that on your calendar for July 20th.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next stated meeting on Thursday, June 15th. 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

Ashley Thomas

**\*\*IF YOUR NEED A LODGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION, PLEASE CONTACT EITHER HANK PAYNE OR MYSELF AND ONE WILL BE SENT TO YOU.**

**STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, June 15, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

**OFFICERS, MEMBERS & GUESTS:** Lodge Polo Shirts

**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: St John - Right Worshipful Donald Traser**

Conclude Business

**CLOSE LODGE**

**CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:**

None Scheduled at this time

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- Thursday, June 15, 2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication
- Saturday, June 17, 2023 – Masters and Wardens Association  
Tuckahoe Masonic Temple, 5500 Bethlehem Road  
Breakfast at 08:00 AM Meeting at 08:45 AM  
Following the meeting the Senior Warden's class will exemplify the  
Second Section of the Master Mason's degree.
- Saturday, June 24, 2023 – St. John's service at Meridian #284, ice cream served afterwards
- Tuesday, June 27, 2023 – Rainbow No. 10 meeting at Varina Lodge – 7:30 pm
- Friday, July 21, 2023 – Grand Master's Official visit to Districts 15A and 15B  
6:00 pm social, 6:30 pm diner, \$20 per ticket

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

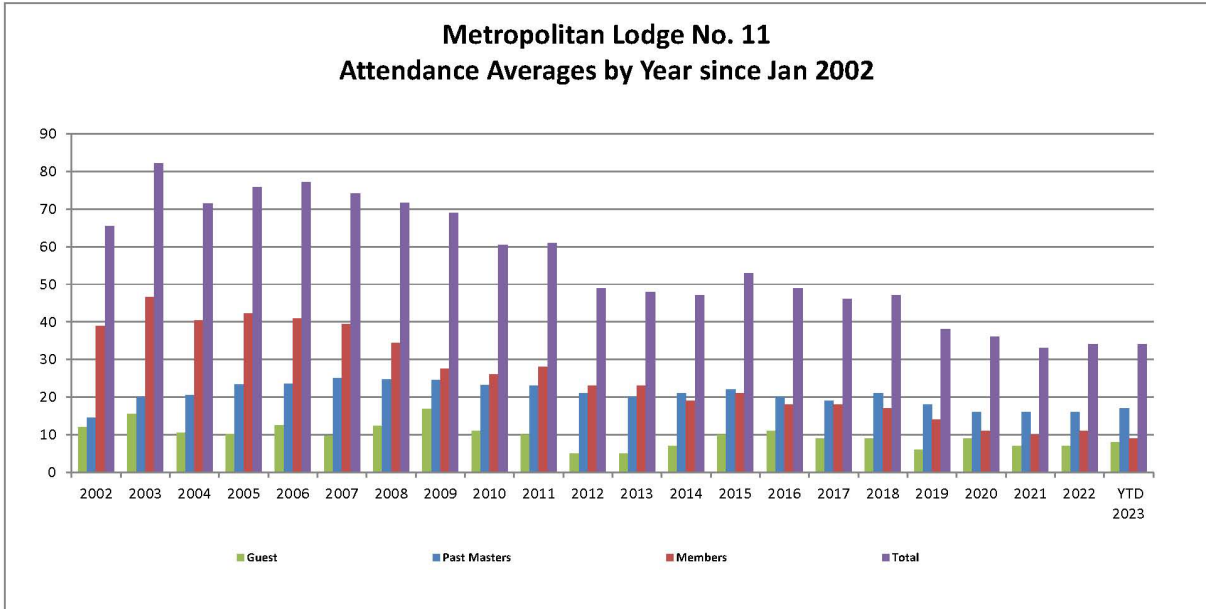
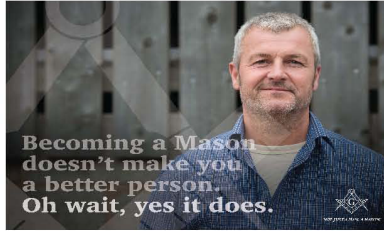
Charles S. Sarbaugh, Heath W. Mayes, Keith G. LaFemina, Donnie R. Carter  
Claude A "Buddy" Bass, Jr., Robert E. Pagani, John Q. Sheppard, V. Stuart Cook (PGM)  
Christopher E. Loftus, W. Martin Myers, John W. Edelin III, Linwood G. Bennett Jr.  
George H. Cooke III, Robert E. Cook, Lambros G. Deligan, Albert A. Dranoff, Daulton L. Carter  
Lothar A. Bernhard, John H. Hart

**ATTENDANCE – MAYL 2023 STATED**

Past Masters – 19 Members – 12 Visitors – 6 Total – 37

**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 – 33

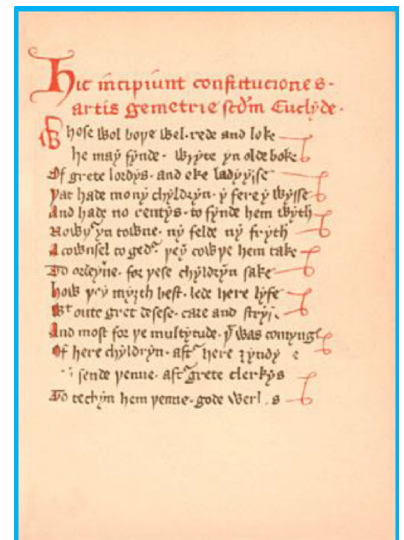


### Oldest Masonic Document (in the Bri..sh Museum)

The Regius Poem, also known as the Halliwell Manuscript, is the earliest of the Old Charges of Freemasonry (Old Charges or Constitutions are documents outlining a "history" of freemasonry, tracing its origins to a biblical or classical roots). The age of the manuscript has been estimated to have been written about 1390, or earlier. It is described in a 1734 Catalogue of the Old Royal Library as "A Poem of Moral Duties".

It consists of 64 vellum pages of Middle English written in rhyming couplets. In this, it differs from the prose of all the later charges. The poem begins by describing how Euclid "counterfeited geometry" and called it masonry, for the employment of the children of the nobility in Ancient Egypt. It then recounts the spread of the art of geometry in "divers lands."

The document relates how the craft of masonry was brought to England during the reign of King Athelstan (924–939). It tells how all the masons of the land came to the King for direction as to their own good governance, and how Athelstan, together with the nobility and landed gentry, forged the fifteen articles and fifteen points for their rule. This is followed by fifteen articles for the master concerning both moral behavior (do not harbor thieves, do not take bribes, attend church regularly, etc.) and the operation



of work on a building site (do not make your masons labor at night, teach apprentices properly, do not take on jobs that you cannot do, etc.). There are then fifteen points for craftsmen which follow a similar pattern. Warnings of punishment for those breaking the ordinances are followed by provision for annual assemblies. There follows the legend of the Four Crowned Martyrs, a series of moral aphorisms, and finally a blessing.

"Fyftene artyculus þey þer sow ton, and fyftene poyntys þer þey wro ton."  
(Fifteen articles they there sought and fifteen points there they wrought.)

### Regius Manuscript

The origins of the Regius are obscure. The manuscript was recorded in various personal inventories as it changed hands until it came into possession of the Royal Library, which was donated to the British Museum in 1757 by King George II to form the nucleus of the present British Library.

It came to the attention of Freemasonry much later, this oversight being mainly due to a librarian, who described it as "a Poem of Moral Duties" when catalogued in 1734.

It was in the 1838–39 session of the Royal Society that James Halliwell, who was not a Freemason, delivered a paper on "The early History of Freemasonry in England", based on the Regius, which was published in 1840.

### Brief Excerpts of the Regius Poem:

The Regius poem sets out the basic tenets of Freemasonry. It contains fifteen articles and fifteen points, that are instructions on proper behavior, conduct and manners in various places, including the workplace, the church, and with employees. Much of the fifteen articles and points deal with proper workplace conduct.

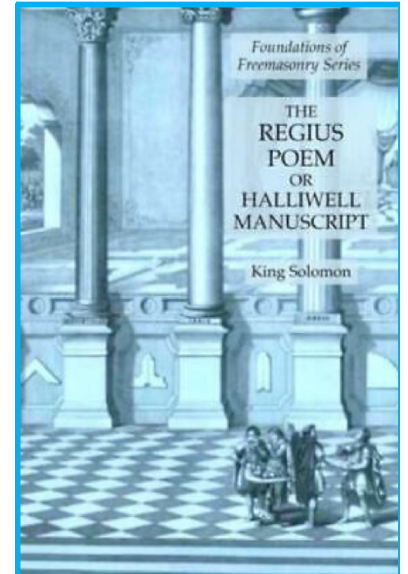
The following is a summary of the main points:

### Summary of the Fifteen Articles

1. The master mason must be worthy of the confidence of the lords ; he must pay the fellows a fair wage with the lord's money
2. Every master mason must attend a general assembly, unless he can give a good excuse
3. The master mason shall not take on an apprentice for less than seven years and must lodge him during his apprenticeship
4. The master mason must not take any serfs as apprentice
5. The master mason shall take on neither bastards nor cripples (today's civil rights groups would have a field day with this one)
6. The apprentice shall be paid less than the fellows, but his salary shall increase as he progresses
7. The master mason shall employ neither thieves nor murderers - a sensible precaution
8. The master mason may discharge an incompetent worker and replace him with another
9. The master mason must make sure that the foundation of the building is well-laid
10. The master mason must never take over, or meddle with, the work of another master mason, or be fined a penalty of ten pounds (that was a lot of money back then)
11. A mason shall not work at night, except to study
12. One shall not disparage the work of one's fellows
13. The master mason must give his apprentice a complete education
14. The master mason shall not take on an apprentice unless he has enough work for him
15. The master mason must not leave his fellows astray, because he must care about their souls

## Summary of the Fifteen Points

1. A man of the craft must love God and the holy church as well as his fellows
2. Masons must be paid for holidays
3. The apprentice must keep secret all that his master tells him and all that he hears or sees in chamber
4. The apprentice shall not be false to his craft, nor to his master or fellows, since the same law as theirs applies to him
5. Masons must receive their salary from their master humbly. The master must discharge a mason before noon if he has no more work for him
6. Quarrels between masons must be settled amicably, after the day's work is done or on a holiday
7. A mason shall not sleep with the wife of a master nor a fellow's wife or concubine
8. A master can allow a fellow to mediate between himself and other fellows
9. Fellows must take turns serving at table, buying the food and accounting for what they spent
10. A mason shall not support anyone who persists in wrongdoing; they shall be called before an assembly and excluded from the craft
11. A mason must teach another, whose work is imperfect, in a friendly manner
12. Masters, fellows, lords and local authorities shall agree in assembly to promulgate laws for the craft, and punish those who do not respect them
13. A mason shall swear never to steal, nor be accomplice to a thief
14. A mason must swear to be true to his master, his fellows and his king
15. He who disobeys the laws of the assembly shall be called before it to make amends. If he persists in his fault he shall be excluded from the craft and imprisoned, and his goods confiscated



Complete translations can be found easily on the internet and a printed translation on Amazon.

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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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		5958 Dugout Ter, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4570	
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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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		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				