

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

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

Address Service Requested

**MARCH 2024 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: 2024 – \$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 23, 2024

Brethren,

Thank you to all who came out for our February stated meeting, where we received Right Worshipful Damon Riddell. Brother Randy Clouse did an excellent job cooking the pork barbecue, cookies, and brownies, and the cole slaw was a hit as well, so a big thank you to Brother Randy. I am also thankful for the work put in by Worshipful Robert Cook and crew, for our fresh made salads (did you notice the blueberries and craisins?), and for serving our meal and cleaning up.

Please join me in expressing gratitude to the brothers who volunteered for the Red Cross Blood drive at Regency Square on February 3rd and 4th. Brothers Paul Ziolkowski, Dieter Henss, Mike Dale, John Koedel, and Charlie Howe and Worshipful Chris Loftus were present to assist the Red Cross. Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 received credit for a total of 119 units collected!

More good news from the Rainbow Girls, who, with the generosity of the lodges in District 15, were able to donate 660 pounds of non-perishables on February 20th for the food drive! Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 (with some assistance from Varina Lodge No. 272) was well represented in this total with over 100 pounds, so thank you for your kindness in giving a helping hand to those in need. Keep your eyes open for more Rainbow news, as these young ladies are motivated and getting things done!

Brethren, take note of the GLOVA Education conference listed below under Special Events - it will cover "Etiquette, Protocol, Decorum, Correspondence Courses and Master Mason Fundamentals. This is a great way to learn more about masonry, and should be the start of an extended adult leadership training program.

Our next stated meeting will be on Thursday, March 21st, and a program will be provided by Worshipful Paul Rinko, who will be speaking on the Virginia Ritual and history thereof. Dress for officers and members will be coat and tie.

Be safe, my brothers, I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting.

Sincerely and Fraternaly

Bro. Ashley Thomas  
Worshipful Master

## FROM YOUR SECRETARY

We are approaching the 3rd month of the year and there are several who haven't paid their 2024 dues yet as well as some who still owe for 2023. Let this be a friendly reminder to take care of your obligations to the craft. Also, keep in mind this will be my **last year as Secretary** for Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 and someone will need to step up and assume the mantle.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,  
Brother Hank Payne, Secretary

**STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, March 21, 2024– 7:00 P.M.**

***OFFICERS, 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: Worshipful Paul Rinko - Virginia Ritual and its History**

Conclude Business

**CLOSE LODGE**

**CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:**

None Scheduled at this time

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Saturday, March 2, 2024 – GLOVA Masonic Education and Leadership Conference  
at Manchester Lodge No. 14.  
Donuts and coffee at 8:00 AM  
Conference from 9:00AM - 11:00 am.

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – Rainbow #10 meeting at Varina #272 starting at 7:30pm

Saturday, March 16, 2024 – Masters and Wardens Association  
Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347  
Breakfast at 8:00 AM  
Meeting Starts at 08:45 AM

Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 - Rainbow #10 meeting at Varina #272 starting at 7:30pm

Friday, April 12, 2024 – Grand Master's official visit to Districts 15A and 15B  
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 6:00 PM

**PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – February 2024 STATED**

Heath W. Mayes, Donnie R. Carter, Robert E. Pagani,  
 Christopher E. Loftus, W. Martin Meyers, John W. Edelin III,  
 Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III, Robert E. Cook,  
 C. Ashley Thomas, Jr., Albert A. Dranoff, Lothar A. Bernhard

**ATTENDANCE – February 2024 STATED**

Past Masters – 12    Members – 8    Visitors – 7    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 – 33, 2022 – 34, 2023 – 32, – 2024 – 32

**Metropolitan Lodge No. 11  
 Masonic Birthdays for March 2024**

Member Name	Masonic Birthday	Years
Bennett, Linwood Gordon, Jr	3/1/2000	24
Bradford, James Cannon, Jr	3/20/1975	49
Cardoza, Wilbur Kenmore	3/16/1961	63
Cook, V. Stuart	3/17/1966	58
Gibson, Robert Milton	3/12/1959	65
Harper, Kenneth Melvin, Sr	3/15/1989	35
Hiner, Henry Lee	3/10/1975	49
Maiden, David Lee	3/15/1978	46
Malcomb, Michael Paul, II	3/2/2005	19
McLaughlin, Billy Bernard	3/25/1965	59
Sanford, Steven Weldon	3/1/1982	42
Sasser, Frank Matthews, III	3/15/1994	30
Sheppard, John Quinton	3/11/1998	26
Spain, James A	3/30/1971	53
Taylor, Robert Wright	3/18/1982	42
Tsantos, Apostolos Dimitris	3/15/1973	51
Volk, Karl Robert	3/20/1974	50
Walter, Gavin Levi Joel	3/15/2012	12
Weakley, Thomas Rhys, Sr	3/29/1958	66
Whitlock, Kenneth Wayne	3/30/1979	45
Wiley, John Calvin	3/25/1992	32
	Masonic Years	916

## “Founder of Basketball”

It's basketball season - did you know the sport was invented by a Freemason? Dr. James Naismith, PM, Lawrence Lodge No. 6, Grand Lodge of Kansas, developed "basket ball" while working at the YMCA school in Springfield, Mass.

Br. Naismith was born in 1861, in Almonte, Canada West, Province of Canada (now part of Mississippi Mills, Ontario, Canada) to Scottish parents. Despite some sources to the contrary Br. Naismith never had a middle name and never signed his name with an "A" initial. The "A" was added by someone in administration at the University of Kansas.



He was gifted in farm labour, spent his days outside playing catch, hide-and-seek, or duck on a rock, a medieval game in which a person guards a large drake stone from opposing players, who try to knock it down by throwing smaller stones at it. To play duck on a rock most effectively, Naismith soon found that a soft lobbing shot was far more effective than a straight hard throw, a thought that later proved essential for the invention of basketball.

From 1887 to 1890, he attended The Presbyterian College, Montreal where he studied Theology and earned the Silver medal (1890), second highest award for regular and special honor work in Theology.

Naismith was an outstanding football player at McGill University in Montreal when he realized he needed to invent an indoor game for the winter due to the weather conditions. He later decided to become a physical education teacher at McGill University for his three postgraduate years and then went to Springfield, Massachusetts, to study at the YMCA International Training School in the 1890s.

After completing the YMCA physical director training program that had brought him to Springfield, Naismith was hired as a full-time faculty member in 1891. At the Springfield YMCA, Naismith struggled with a rowdy class that was confined to indoor games throughout the harsh New England winter, and thus was perpetually short-tempered. Under orders from Luther Gulick, head of physical education there, Naismith was given 14 days to create an indoor game that would provide an "athletic distraction"; Gulick demanded that it would not take up much room, could help its track athletes to keep in shape and explicitly emphasized to "make it fair for all players and not too rough".

In his attempt to think up a new game, Naismith was guided by three main thoughts. Firstly, he analyzed the most popular games of the times (rugby, lacrosse, soccer, football, hockey, and baseball); Naismith noticed the hazards of a ball and concluded that the big, soft soccer ball was safest. Secondly, he saw that most physical contact occurred while running with the ball, dribbling, or hitting it, so he decided that passing was the only legal option.

Finally, Naismith further reduced body contact by making the goal unguardable by placing it high above the player's heads with the plane of the goal's opening parallel to the floor. This placement forced the players to score goals by throwing a soft, lobbing shot like that which had proven effective in his old favorite game, duck on a rock. For this purpose, he asked a janitor to find a pair of boxes, but the janitor brought him peach baskets instead. Naismith christened this new game Basket Ball.

The first game of "Basket Ball" was played in December 1891. In contrast to modern basketball, the original rules did not include what is known today as the dribble. Since the ball could only be moved up the court by a pass early players tossed the ball over their heads as they ran up court. Also following each "goal", a jump ball was taken in the middle of the court. Both practices are obsolete in the rules of modern basketball.



By 1892, basketball had grown so popular on campus that Dennis Horckenbach (editor-in-chief of The Triangle, the Springfield college newspaper) featured it in an article called "A New Game", and there were calls to call this new game "Naismith Ball", but Naismith refused. By 1893, basketball was introduced internationally by the YMCA movement.

In 1894, while in Springfield, Naismith married his first wife, the couple had five children, and he was initiated into freemasonry at Roswell Lee Lodge. He also served as an Army Chaplain with the rank of Captain in the Kansas Army National Guard.

From Springfield, Br. Naismith went to Denver, where he acquired a medical degree, and in 1898, he joined the University of Kansas faculty at Lawrence.

The University of Kansas men's basketball program officially began following Br. Naismith's arrival in 1898, seven years after Naismith drafted the sport's first official rules. Br. Naismith was not initially hired to coach basketball, but rather as a chapel director and physical-education instructor. In those early days, the majority of the basketball games were played against nearby YMCA teams, with YMCAs across the nation having played an integral part in the birth of basketball.

After he moved to Kansas he affiliated with Lawrence Lodge No. 6 and served as Worshipful Master in 1927 to 1928.

His first wife died in 1937.

In a radio interview in January 1939, W:. Br. Naismith gave more details of the first game and the initial rules that were used:

I showed them two peach baskets I'd nailed up at each end of the gym, and I told them the idea was to throw the ball into the opposing team's peach basket. I blew a whistle, and the first game of basketball began. ... The boys began tackling, kicking, and punching in the clinches. They ended up in a free-for-all in the middle of the gym floor. [The injury toll: several black eyes, one separated shoulder, and one player knocked unconscious.] "It certainly was murder." [Naismith changed some of the rules as part of his quest to develop a clean sport.] The most important one was that there should be no running with the ball. That stopped tackling and slugging. We tried out the game with those [new] rules (fouls), and we didn't have one casualty.

On June 11, 1939, he married his second wife. On November 19 of that year, Br. Naismith suffered a major brain hemorrhage and died nine days later in his home in Lawrence. He was 78 years old.

Br. Naismith died eight months after the birth of the NCAA Basketball Championship, which today has evolved to one of the biggest sports events in North America. He lived to see basketball become an official Olympic sport and was posthumously inducted into several different basketball-related Halls of Fame. Naismith is buried with his first wife in Memorial Park Cemetery in Lawrence, Kansas.

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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 2024

C. Ashley Thomas	(C) 380-0621	(E) ashthomasjr@gmail.com	Worshipful Master
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		2742 Spinnaker Ct, Henrico, VA 23233-349	
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Dieter T. Henss	(C) 502-1918	(E) dhenss@email.com	Marshal
Richard C. Wadkins	(C) 540-335-1142	(E) rhwadkins@gmail.com	Senior Steward
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James F. Hardee, PM	(C) 640-8953	(E) varinajim53@gmail.com	Tiler

### **LIVING PAST MASTERS**

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