

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

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

Address Service Requested

NOVEMBER 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 7, 2021

Greetings Brethren,

Our last Stated Meeting was in honor of Founders Day, and we enjoyed an interesting program presented by Right Worshipful Wilber Matthews, PDDGM, of Varina Lodge #272. The attendance was a bit light, but all present enjoyed the program.

All Past Masters are requested to meet in the Lodge Room at 5:30 PM, just prior to our November Stated on November 18, 2021, with our Senior Warden, Worshipful Robert Cook. He will discuss his plans and programs for 2022.

Our next Stated Communication will be "Past Master's Night" and Past Masters will occupy the chairs. Worshipful Heath W. Mayes has agreed to preside in the East, and has been brushing up on his skills to make for a fun and entertaining evening. I am sure it will be a most enjoyable evening. Please come out and support "The Backbone" of our Lodge.

Also, please notice the top right hand corner of this bulletin. It is the lapel pin of our newly installed Grand Master, Most Worshipful James Winfield Golladay, Jr., who was installed yesterday (November 6, 2021) at the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia as the 176th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

Finally Brethren, due to Covid 19 and our move to our new location in the Varina Lodge Building, our attendance has not been up to par. You know the old saying "Use it or Loose it." Please do not let that happen to Number 11, as has happened to way too many other lodges.

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

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

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, November 18, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

“Past Masters Night”

DRESS FOR OFFICERS, MEMBERS & GUESTS: Coat and Tie
Past Masters are reminder to wear the Apron of their Year in the East

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

DINNER: 6:00 PM

OPEN LODGE – 7:00 PM

Regular Business

PROGRAM: Past Masters Night

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Thursday, November 18, 2021 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

LODGE OF SORROW

The Supreme Architect of the Universe has seen fit to call two of our Brothers from our midst:

TIMOTHY GERALD ATKINSON

Born: November 4, 1959

Initiated an Entered Apprentice: May 18, 1995

**Passed to the Degree
of Fellowcraft:** August 16, 1995

**Raised to the Sublime Degree
of Master Mason:** September 27, 1995

Died: October 26, 2021

To his family, we extend our most sincere sympathies and condolences.

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – OCTOBER 2021 STATED

Heath W. Mayes, George H. Cooke III, Donnie R. Carter, Claude A. Bass Jr.
Wayne E. Fitchett, John Q. Sheppard, Christopher E. Loftus, Robert E. Cook
Linwood G. Bennett Jr., Lambros G. Deligan, Albert A. Dranoff, Lothar A. Bernhard Sr.
John H. Hart

ATTENDANCE – OCTOBER 2021 STATED

Past Masters – 13 Members – 8 Visitors – 5 Total – 26

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 time rolls around again to when we start thinking about paying our dues for the upcoming year. According to my records, there are a few who need to pay this year's dues so that when the dues notices are mailed out, you'll get next years dues cards instead of having to wait until you catch up this year as well as the next. Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Brother Henry "Hank" C. Payne, Secretary

“Excise Taxes, Labor Day and Pullman Cars ”

Labor Day began over 100 years. To appreciate it, one needs to know the history preceding it. At the time the United States was founded, most jobs were agricultural or in trades, such as blacksmiths, cobblers, bakers, upholsterers, etc.

Then Industrial Revolution of the early 19th century harnessed water and steam power, leading to the creation of factories which could mass produce items inexpensively. Most factories were located in the Northern States.

In early United States history, there was no Income Tax. The Federal Government was funded primarily from: Excise Taxes on items like salt, tobacco, liquor; and Tariff Taxes on imports making them more expensive, so people would buy goods produced in American factories.

The problem was that the Tariff Taxes that helped the North, hurt the South, as the South had no factories to protect. At one point, nearly 90% of the Federal Budget was from Tariff Taxes collected at Southern Ports, fueling the animosity which led up to the Civil War.

After the Civil War, the North passed more Tariff Taxes which allowed factories to grow enormous.

Inventions and advances in manufacturing made more and more goods available to the masses of people at cheaper and cheaper prices, resulting in the fastest increase in the standard of living and per capita income for common men and women in world history.

Textile manufacturing produced items like clothes, glass, dishes, and farm tools for a fraction of the previous costs. New ways of making stronger steel led to the building of bridges, buildings, steamboats, and mining machinery. Railroads now could take people safely and inexpensively across the entire nation opening up unprecedented mobility and opportunity. Immigrants arriving in America could get jobs working in factories.

Br. George M. Pullman (Renovation Lodge #97, Albion, NY) was a cabinet maker who saw a need for a more comfortable way to travel by train. With his cabinet making skills he came up with the idea for a sleeper car. In 1867, **Br. Pullman** established the Pullman Palace Car Company which was contracted to make sleeper cars. He also developed an industrial town of Pullman, now part of Chicago, to build his cars.

He saw that workers needed a place to live, so he took the rent from their paychecks.

Workers were paid in company 'script' which was accepted at the company-owned grocery stores. It was thought to be a utopian workers' community and worked well for over a decade.

Then something happened.

In 1893, there was a nationwide economic depression and orders for railroad sleeping cars declined.



Br. Pullman had to make cuts in wages and lay off hundreds of employees, though rent and groceries stayed the same price.

Employees walked out, demanding lower rents and higher pay.

Growing discontent provided a seedbed for Karl Marx's theory of class-struggle and Communist redistribution of wealth.

A young worker named Eugene V. Debs (Democratic representative in the Indiana General Assembly and five-time American Socialist Party candidate for president) led a strike of workers, and railroad workers across the nation boycotted trains carrying Pullman cars.

There was rioting, pillaging, and burning of railroad cars. It became a national issue when mail trains were interrupted.

President Grover Cleveland declared the strike a federal crime and deployed 12,000 troops to break the strike.

More violence erupted, and two men were killed.

Since it was an election year, Grover Cleveland thought it would improve his chances of getting re-elected if he appeased workers with a 'National Labor Day.' (Note: President Cleveland was not a Freemason, his Vice-President, **Br. Adlai E Stevenson** was)

He chose the first Monday in September, rather than May 1st, as he did not want it to be in coordination with the Communists' "International Workers Day," and Chicago's Haymarket Riot of May 1, 1886.

Railroad strike-organizer Eugene Debs went to prison and Grover Cleveland lost the election, but Labor Day remained a national holiday.

After World War II, America helped rebuild Germany and Japan, and a global economy emerged. With other countries having newer factories and cheaper labor, they could produce items for less, whereas in America costs increased with:

- Higher wages; Increased taxes; Expensive lawsuits; Burdensome regulations; Environmental restrictions; and
- Crony capitalism, where government officials favored some companies which supported their reelections and political agenda, leaving other companies at a financial disadvantage.

Cost increases resulted in American-made products being comparatively more expensive in the global competition with foreign made products. As people bought fewer American made products, American factories shut down and jobs went overseas.

Beginning in 1950, union membership among American workers shrank from 50 percent to less than 12 percent. Bringing jobs back to America is as simple as making it more profitable for factories to be located here than there. Instead, politically powerful unions focused efforts to increase membership by recruiting from other occupations, such as government, education, service, and retail.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who spent 11 years in Communist prisons and labor camps, warned on June 30, 1975, in Washington, D.C.:

"I would like to call upon America to be more careful with its trust ... and prevent those ... because of short-sightedness and still others out of self-interest, from falsely using the struggle for peace and for social justice to lead you down a false road. Because they are trying to weaken you; they are trying to disarm your strong and magnificent country in the face of this fearful threat ... I call upon you: ordinary working men of America ... do not let yourselves become weak."

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.

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

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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)