

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

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

Address Service Requested

OCTOBER 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

October 12, 2023

Brethren,

We had a great meeting in September with Brother Jared Richardson presiding in the east, and I thank him for the fine job he did in the "hot seat". I will be back in the east for our October meeting, and we have many of our past masters fighting for the opportunity to sit in the east once again for our November meeting, which will be Past Master's night.

Brethren, are you regularly wearing your Masonic gear when you are out and about in the world? Whether it is your ring, a hat, perhaps a lodge shirt, or anything else that identifies you as a Mason? I know we are out there doing our best to represent the Craft, but do our fellow citizens know we are Masons? I have been approached by both fellow Masons as well as curious non-Masons, and have had some interesting discussions while displaying the square and compasses. Proudly wear your Masonic gear when appropriate, and display to others your membership in the greatest fraternity in the world!

I look forward to seeing you all for our October stated meeting on Thursday the 19th, dress for this meeting is coat and tie for officers and brethren.

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
Bro. Ashley Thomas
Worshipful Master

FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Brethren,

There are several who have not paid their 2023 dues. Please take care of this so that you don't run into the danger of being suspended for non-payment of dues.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Brother Hank Payne, Secretary

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, October 19, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

OFFICERS, MEMBERS & GUESTS: 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:

Conclude Business

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, October 14, 2023 – Community Breakfast at Varina Masonic Temple, 8:30 AM

Saturday, October 21, 2023 – Masters and Wardens Association, Tuckahoe Masonic Temple
5500 Bethlehem Road - Breakfast at 08:00 AM Meeting at 08:45 AM
Senior Wardens will Exemplify the 2nd Section
of the Master Mason Degree

Thursday, October 19, 2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Rainbow Assembly #10 meeting at Varina Masonic Temple at 7:30 PM

Friday - Saturday, November 10th and 11th – Grand Annual Communication at Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa
Short Pump, VA

Saturday, November 4, 2023 – Rainbow Girls Grand Visitation, Newport News Transportation Lodge, 12pm - 3pm

Thursday, November 16, 2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Past Masters' Night

Friday, December 15, 2023 – Metropolitan 11 hosts the MAHOVA Christmas party

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – SEPTEMBER 2023 STATED

Heath W. Mayes, Keith G. Lafemina, Donnie R. Carter, V. Stuart Cook (PGM), J. Thomas Wadkins III
Christopher E. Loftus, W. Martin Myers, John W. Edelin III, Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III
Lambros G. Deligan, Albert A. Dranoff, Daulton L. Carter, Lothar A. Bernhard, Steven W. Sanford

ATTENDANCE – SEPTEMBER 2023 STATED

Past Masters – 15 Members – 11 Visitors – 4 Total – 30

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 two of our Brothers from our Midst:

VICTOR CHARLES ANDERSON WALTER LINWOOD OLPHIN, III

Born:	September 15, 1927	April 10, 1951
Initiated and Entered Apprentice:	April 2, 1957	December 17, 1975
Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft:	May 8, 1957	February 18, 1976
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason:	June 7, 1957	April 10, 1976
Worshipful Master:		1984
60 Year Masonic Veteran:	June 7, 2017	
Died:	September 15, 2023	October 5, 2023

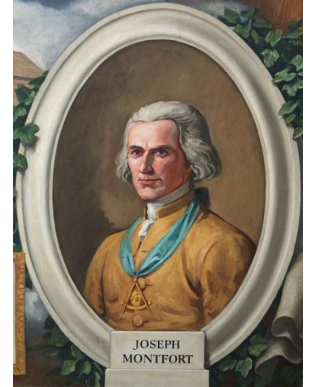
To their families we offer our deepest sympathies.

Metropolitan's
Masonic Birthdays
For
October 2023

Member Name	Masonic Birthday	Years
Bass, Claude Ashley, Jr	10/11/1966	57
Bryant, Michael Leroy	10/20/2001	22
Clark, Gary James	10/24/1989	34
Clouse, Randall Leigh	10/12/1996	27
Deligan, Lambros George	10/26/1989	34
Dewell, Bryan David	10/20/2001	22
Gardner, Joseph Payne, Jr	10/20/2001	22
Hatoum, Khattar Chakib	10/20/2001	22
Loftus, Christopher Everett	10/20/2001	22
Mantlo, Charles Melvin	10/17/1984	39
Landis, Robert Reed	10/1/1969	54
Meadows, John Joseph	10/20/2001	22
Murphy, Clarence Childer	10/12/1996	27
Phelps, Glenn Stewart	10/9/1992	31
Pike, Anthony Steven	10/21/2010	13
Reid, John Joseph, II	10/3/2020	3
Robertson, Howard Randolph, Jr	10/20/1983	40
Sanfilippo, Michael McConnel	10/27/2016	7
Soulios, Dmitrios Basilios	10/22/1959	64
Trunick, Edward James	10/13/1995	28
Watson, Francis Milton, Jr	10/16/1986	37
	Masonic Years	627

‘Provincial Grand Master of and for America’

He settled in North Carolina in 1752 having migrated from Virginia in his early to mid-twenties, and married Priscilla, a daughter of Colonel Benjamin Hill, a planter and trader. He became a successful merchant and planter and like others of his Rank was active in civic affairs, served as a colonel in the militia, and represented Halifax in the colonial assembly from 1766 to 1774 and eventually serving as a treasurer of the northern part of the colony.



Eventually becoming one of the wealthiest North Carolinians of the period, Joseph Montfort owned more than 30,000 acres scattered in tracts across the province.

He was active in freemasonry from the 1760's and was instrumental in forming the Royal White Hart lodge in Halifax, NC. On November 1, 1764, Cornelius Harnett of St. John's Lodge, Wilmington, issued a warrant of constitution for Royal White Hart Lodge, Halifax, which he signed as grand master. (The assumption is that Harnett held a deputation from Benjamin Smith of Charles Town, who had been inducted as grand master of North Carolina and South Carolina early in 1762.)

Br. Montfort obtained a second warrant for the lodge from the Grand Lodge of England under the hand of Henry Somerset, 5th Duke of Beaufort, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England 1767-72, which Montfort presented to the lodge on his return to Halifax in May 1768.

Montfort visited England in the winter of 1767 with a fellow North Carolinian planter, Alexander McCulloh, and it is during this time in London that he would have sat for Nathaniel Dance-Holland to have his portrait executed.



The Masonic lodge in Halifax, known as the Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2, is significant to the history of Freemasonry and to the history of North Carolina, largely owing to its association with M.: W.: Br. Montfort.

The founders of the lodge began meeting in homes and rooms rented from innkeepers in April 1765. The first meeting was held at the home of Daniel Lovel, Deputy Master of the lodge that year. Among the early meeting sites was a tavern operated by Mason William Martin known as the “Sign of the Thistle.”

Within North Carolina, the lodge at Halifax was the second oldest, after St. John's in Wilmington.

Br. Montfort was known for his extravagance in matters masonic and for purchasing expensive lodge furniture, glassware and porcelain, as well as for acquiring paintings, sculptures and other furnishings for himself to send back to North Carolina.

Following the death of Benjamin Smith (1770), Provincial Grand Master for North and South Carolina, Beaufort issued a deputation to Br. Montfort appointing him 'Provincial Grand Master of and for America', although the relevant Grand Lodge Minutes are phrased Provincial G. M. for North Carolina'. On January 14, 1771, Br. Montfort was appointed Grand Master of the Freemasons of America by the Duke of Beaufort, Grand Master of England.

In 1774, Br. Joseph Montfort was a delegate to the Second North Carolina Provincial Congress from the town of Halifax, North Carolina.

From 1764 to 1772 and again from 1783 to the present time there is an unbroken record of these lodge meetings. Unfortunately, all records are missing from 1772 to 1783. It is believed that these records were carried home (to the UK) for safekeeping during the Revolutionary period by one of the members and then lost.

Br. Montfort died from pulmonary problems on March 25, 1776.

He is buried is 500 yards East of Royal White Hart Lodge No. 2, located at 130 St. David Street, Halifax, NC.

Br. Montfort's gravestone at the Royal White Hart Lodge in Halifax reads "The highest masonic official ever reigning on this continent ... the first, the last, the only Grand Master of America".



Postscript:

Fifteen years after Br. Montfort's death a dispute over precedence erupted among St. John's Lodge in Wilmington, St. John's Lodge in New Bern, and the Royal White Hart Lodge. In 1791 the Grand Lodge of North Carolina restored St. John's Lodge, Wilmington, to its premier position and assigned second place to Montfort's Royal White Hart Lodge on the basis of Harnett's 1764 warrant to the lodge. St. John's Lodge, New Bern, could produce no warrant of constitution earlier than Montfort's warrant of 1772 and thus was ranked third. Two years later the quarrel broke out anew between St. John's Lodge, New Bern, and the Royal White Hart Lodge. The former claimed precedence after Wilmington (to which, in all fairness, it was entitled by age). New Bern, however, abandoned its claim in 1795, when it became obvious that the lodge could not provide documentary evidence of its antiquity and that the other lodges in the state were prepared to close ranks against it.

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

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
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	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				