



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

HIRAM'S JOURNAL

Attendance, November 19, 2007

- Officers - 12
- Past Masters - 9
- Master Masons - 20
- Visitors - 4
- Total - 45

Status of Dues Payments

According to the Lodge records, we have ten (10) members who have not paid their 2007 dues, amounting to \$68.00. Dues Notices for 2008 have been mailed. The dues for 2008 will remain \$68.00.

Fellowship Report. Please keep the following Brothers in your thoughts and prayers: [Ivan Ferguson](#), [Hollis Proffitt](#), [Lee Easton](#), [Bill Bixler](#), [Harlan Phelps](#), and [Benton Patterson](#). Please notify the Worshipful Master or Secretary of any Brothers experiencing sickness or distress.

In Memoriam. The lodge was saddened by the death of [Brother Winfred Wayland Pannell](#) who died November 19th in the 75th year of his life.

December Dinner Plans. The Order of the Eastern Star is invited to be our dinner guests at the December Stated Dinner as they were last year. Our EA's and FC's are also invited as guests. The dinner menu will focus on oysters and beef tenderloin. Lodge Members will pay the regular dinner charge. Dinner reservations will be needed by December 6. Please call Brother Daniel LaPlume at 434-243-7871.

Master Mason Degrees. MM Degrees will be conferred at 6:30pm on the nights of December 4 and 12 (2 degrees each night). Please mark these dates on your calendar and support the lodge in this important work.

Grand Master's Visit... January 26th is the date of the G.M. visit to the lodges of the 18th district.

Message from the East... This is my last Message from the East. I thought that it might be appropriate to spend some time reflecting back over the Lodge's Work this past year. The members of the lodge have worked very hard and you can be proud of your accomplishments.

The lodge conferred 11 Entered Apprentice Degrees, 8 Fellowcraft Degrees and 2 Master Mason Degrees. Another 4 Master Mason Degrees are scheduled within the next two weeks. One brother was raised to Master Mason by a one day conferral, and 4 brothers joined the Lodge by affiliation.

Our lodge made 11 visits to other lodges with an average of 8 members, and presented educational programs on 2 of these visits. This included visits to the Prince Hall Lodges in Staunton and Charlottesville with 13 and 14 members respectively. The Prince Hall Lodges expressed their appreciation by attending our Table Lodge with about 18 members.

All, or part, of three ritual schools were attended by an average of 4 brothers. One brother completed the Masonic Education Correspondence Courses, and another brother learned and delivered a lecture for the first time. Fifteen brothers attended the Division Leadership Conference in Waynesboro in March, and 17 brothers attended Grand Lodge three weeks ago.

The Lodge had a "Bring-A-Friend" night to attract new members. For the first time in several years, we had a lodge family picnic for members, their families, and our widows. Those present seemed to really enjoy this event.

Our lodge was visited by the Grand Master to fulfill a commitment made by the late Rt. Wor. Stanley Johnson, which he had made more than two years ago. Our Founders Day program was presented by the 2001 Past Grand Master and current CEO of the Masonic Home, Most Wor. James Dean Cole. Brother (Brigadier General, USAF, Retired) George Forschler presented a very inspirational Memorial Day Program.

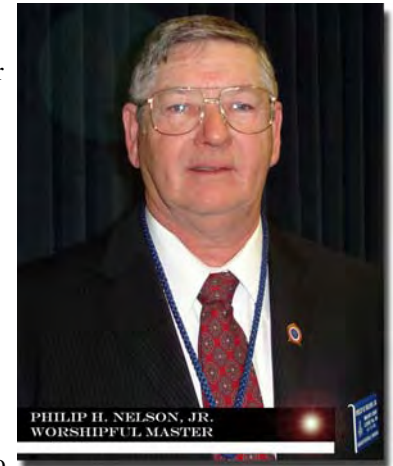
The lodge supported the blood drives held by Virginia Blood Services by making cash contributions and by serving refreshments at the blood drives. This effort supported the collection of 244 pints of blood during the year. We supported Little League Baseball again this year, and our Masonic Team won the Central League and Charlottesville City Championships. The contributions to the Masonic Home from the lodge and individual brothers totaled \$5665.00.

Rt. Wor. Jeffrey Eugene Hodges, a member of our lodge, was elected and installed Deputy Grand Master.

Congratulations to each of you for your hard work in the above accomplishments. The Grand Lodge recognized your efforts by awarding you the Hillman Award for the year. As President Ronald Reagan said when he left the White House, "All in all, not bad".

Fraternally

Philip H. Nelson, Jr.
Worshipful Master



Philip H. Nelson, Jr.

PHILIP H. NELSON, JR.
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

December Masonic Birthdays

Stephen R. Baird, December 6, 1993

William L. Bickley, December 6, 1955

W. Kirk Crady, December 14, 1994

T. C. Dickerson, III, December 6, 1966

Charles B. Goddin, December 6, 1960

Michael A. Hayden, December 5, 1972

David M. Kashmer, December 12, 2005

Jason P. Lynch, December 7, 2006

Walter D. Marshall, December 27, 1963

Virgil H. Marshall, December 1, 1952

Peter W. Martin, Jr., December 17, 1970

Douglas R. Mays, December 7, 1964

Robert A. Murray, December 10, 1999

William R. Nay, December 17, 1992

James W. North, Sr., December 5, 1963

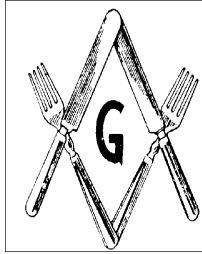
Steven E. Price, December 7, 2006

Joseph J. Saunders, III, December 1, 1980

Jonathan M. Shelton, December 7, 2006

Charles A. Via, December 6, 1966

Dinner Reservations for December 17, 2007



As always, reservations are required to ensure enough food will be available. The Lodge will be preparing this meal that will include Oysters and Beef Tenderloin. We need an accurate counts so that everyone gets enough to eat. Please contact the Senior Steward [Daniel LaPlume](#) by phone (434) 243-7871 or email daniellaplume@aol.com to make reservations prior to noon on Thursday December 6th. If you wish, you can request the Senior Steward to put your name on the Standing List, and then call "by exception" when you cannot attend.



Widow's Sons' Events 2008

January 21st, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

February 18th, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

March 5, 12, 20, C. A. Whitted Area Ritual School, Scottsville 7:30 p.m.

March 14th, Leadership Conference

March 17th, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

April 17th, WSL Bring A Friend Night

April 21st, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

May 19th, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

June 16th, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

June 24th, Table Lodge. Dinner 6:30 p.m.

July 19th, GM Visit to the 18th District

July 21, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.

July 27-30, Reid James Simmons Academy, Fork Union Military Academy

August 16, One Day Conferral

August 18, Lodge Stated 7:30 p.m.



The worshipful master recognized the brethren with Masonic Birthdays in November, the following were present and pictured to the left. [Wayne Ferguson](#) and [Jim Nottingham](#).



**The 'Un-Masonic' Meeting
Ill. John Wm. McNaughton,
Sovereign Grand Commander, NMJ**

Having attended many Masonic meetings in my 33 years as a Mason, I have come to the conclusion that too often presiding officers take advantage of their time in the spotlight. Because it is their moment to shine, they feel compelled to stretch out a meeting endlessly without realizing that the average member in attendance is either nodding a weary head or looking helplessly at his watch.

I was recently invited to attend a Scottish Rite awareness meeting sponsored by the Valley of Detroit. The Valley moved to nearby Dearborn a year ago and is still adjusting itself to a new location.

A large group of potential Scottish Rite members and their wives were invited to attend the dinner meeting that had been planned by Ill. Brothers Robert Conley, 33°, and David Bedwell, 33°. Valley representatives were strategically placed at each table to answer questions from the prospects.

I was prepared for the typical Masonic meeting with an endless array of speeches and plenty of hard-sell pitches. Following the dinner, there was a short pro-

motional video followed by a well-prepared and brief message. There were no introductions.

Before I realized it, the meeting was over. How un-Masonic! Where was the endless array of speeches and introductions? Where was the hard sell?

But then there was another unusual phenomenon. Nobody left. Everyone remained at the tables actively engaged in conversations, and many of these people had begun the evening as total strangers. The common bond, of course, was Freemasonry.

Eventually a woman got up from her seat to go over to Brother Conley and said to him, " I want my husband to belong to an organization like this. "

There is a message here. Time is a precious commodity. But time well spent is invaluable.

Too often we have attempted to wear down an audience with too much at one time. Yet in this instance the audience was electrified, and it was refreshing.

Perhaps we should look seriously at the way in which we conduct our Masonic meetings. Perhaps we should take a lesson from a Valley that has found a way to conduct an "un-Masonic" meeting.

Resolution 2008

As each New Year approaches, reflecting upon his past, man is inspired to reach for higher goals in the years to come. Resolutions easily made, are more difficult to execute. That which is planned with utmost resolve and intention to perform, often is forgotten amid the multitude of cares and sorrows encountered in the performance of our daily duties in the world.

Essential to the daily duties of every Mason is his indispensable duty of remembering the poor, and, to them, a share of our wealth should be given. But, there are those who may be rich in worldly goods, yet poor in spirit, who does not need help from our pockets, but help from our hearts. And, to them we must share a part of our time rather than a part of our wealth.

Masons are so engaged in the affairs of their business, the care of their families, as well as civic and other activities that consume so much of their time; often they find little time left to fulfill their Masonic obligations and assist distressed Brethren who may need a moment of their time.

There is no better time for each of us to reexamine our conscience and honestly appraise our conduct in the past as when we are considering our resolutions for the coming year. Let us place two resolutions in the highest priority for us to carry out:

1. Living up to our obligations
2. Giving of our time to others.

For Masons, there can be no greater commitment for the year to come than to fulfill our obligations to the craft, and give of ourselves to our needy Brethren for it is charity of the heart, not charity of the pocket that preserves among us the full and complete harmony of brotherly love.

Raymond E. Wilmarth, The Cabletow, Jan. 1979

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1799—2007
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**Season's
Greetings
From
Widow's Sons'
Lodge No. 60
Charlottesville
Virginia
U.S.A.**

RW Robert E. Simpson, Editor
Phone, 434-973-6494
Next Deadline: January 1, 2008

Hiram's Journal



Seven Candidates from Widow's Sons' Lodge received the Scottish Rite Degrees and became Master's of the Royal Secret. The 32nd degree was conferred at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC. This was an historical event as this had never been done before. The candidates names are italicized. Pictured L-R: *David Simpson*, Jeff Hodges, *Andy Keller*, Gene Carpenter, *Chuck Boyer*, *Russ Snodgrass*, *Bill Vincent*, *Bob Stark*, Bob Simpson, *Maury Kingman*, and Wallace Harding.