



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



Robert E. Simpson

Brethren of the Mystic Tie... Wow! Patrick Bond's presentation on Harry S. Truman was terrific. Please see page 4 for additional information.

As a youngster growing up, I remember accompanying my father to various events. He was mayor of our town, and everyone knew him, and me. There were many stories and events that helped to make me who I am today.

Sometimes, I will smile as I recall one of those special moments with my dad. On July 30th, the lodge held a Father and Son Night. I had a great time. It is my hope that this event can be expanded in the future as a district or regional event, supported and promoted by the district deputies and worshipful masters. This is a great opportunity for Fathers and Sons to share a great experience in a Masonic setting.

Earlier this year I appointed a committee to examine the dues structure and lodge finances. They have recommended an increase in the lodge dues. Brethren, this lodge cannot operate on a 1990 dues structure. It has been almost 20 years since the lodge dues have been increased. The lodge checking account balance is half what it was just five years ago. Many of our members have been absorbing much of the costs for items that we all take for granted. The proposed change to the lodge By-Laws can be found on page 3. This proposed change will be acted upon at the August 17th stated communication.

We are going to have a picnic! It is a family picnic. You and your family are invited to attend. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 20th. Please find the details on page 2. Make your reservations early and join the Masonic family for food and fellowship

I take very serious the charge to the worshipful master during the installation, "You cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head; nor of

your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties annexed to your appointment. The honor reputation, and usefulness of your Lodge will materially depend on the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns,..." As your worshipful master, I struggle every day with how to raise the level of commitment of our members. How can we develop officer leadership skills? I ask myself, where will the future officers come from? Am I doing all I can to set the Craft to work, and give the Craft proper instructions for their labor? Have I, and we, as a lodge of Freemasons lost our enthusiasm? Why do so many members find it more beneficial to stay home on the 3rd Monday of each month? Eighty-three percent have other plans. If Masonry is such a great organization, and everyone feels it is, why have they chosen to stay home? In my travels, I talk to many lodge members, and I have been unsuccessful in urging them to attend lodge. Some say, they are coming back, but never do. Why do so many Masons today have no interest in attending their Masonic Lodge? I would love to know the answer to that questions. So would every other worshipful master. So brethren, I struggle everyday seeking an answer.

I was saddened at the death of my friend and Brother Dave Cooke on July 21st. His funeral was well attended. It was emotional and funny, as his family and many from the University athletic community expressed their personal reflections. All true! When I visited him in the hospital and the nursing home, when he could, he always wanted to talk UVA basketball. For those that didn't know, Brother Cooke was captain of the UVA basketball team in 1953-54. Brother Dave and his wife Pat, and my wife Pam and I enjoyed many good times together. He was made a Master Mason in our lodge on June 1, 1987. He was a Life Member. He served Piedmont Shrine Club as President in 1992. I will miss him!

At the August 17th stated communication, the district officers, DEO, DIW, DMHA, DBC, and DMC will be recognized. I do hope that you will join me in thanking them for their service to the 18th Masonic District. Hopefully we will have a surprise or two.

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

August Masonic Birthdays!

Call a Brother and wish him
Happy Masonic Birthday

Michael L. Arnold, August 30, 2004	Jason E. Hodges, August 27, 2005
Alexander Banks, V, August 26, 1968	James E. Holler, August 27, 1984
James F. Beeman, August 10, 2005	Douglas D. Hudson, August 20, 1951
John B. Black, August 27, 1997	Frederick M. Kaspick, August 27, 2005
Dale R. Blosser, August 29, 1988	Joshua D. Katcher, August 16, 2008
Joseph F. Brown, III, August 12, 1992	Ian C. Kelly, August 27, 2005
Brian E. Campbell, August 28., 1990	Patrick M. Kelly, August 27., 2005
William W. Clark, Jr., August 27, 1951	Boyd L. Knott, August 24, 1970
James E. Craig, August 16, 2008	Daniel T. LaPlume, August 27, 2005
David S. Davidson, August 7, 1967	John C. Maddox, August 2, 1971
Harold W. Davis, August 4, 1975	Brady L. McLane, August 4, 2004
Lonnie B. Dickens, Jr., August 19, 1947	Timothy B. Parent, August 27, 2005
Steve E. Fetcho, August 27, 2005	William F. Reinhold, III, August 26, 1996
Irving Forrest, August 23, 1995	William E. Rose, August 26, 1972
George P. A. Forschler, August 3, 1967	Edward D. Ryan, August 25, 2007
Robert H. Garner, August 23, 1963	Larry B. Saunders, August 27, 2005
Carroll J. Good, August 27, 2005	Kent Schlusel, August 7, 1990
Charles M. Hale, Jr., August 9, 1977	Steven R. Thomas, August 28., 2008
Robert A. Harrison, Jr., August 19, 1953	William D. Vincent, August 27, 2005
Robert A. Harrison, III, August 27, 2005	M. Van Wilson, August 7, 1990
Jeffery E. Hodges, August 26, 1985	

Widow's Sons' Lodge Picnic

You and your family are invited to a Lodge Picnic on Sunday, September 20, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. The location will be the shelter at the Elks Lodge (across from Towe Park). The menu will include hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, beer and soda pop. You are requested to bring a dessert to share.

There will be a nominal charge of \$5.00 per person, and reservations can be made by contacting Brother Andy Keller at 434-293-9973. Checks should be made payable to Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60. Brother Keller's address is: 1412 Oxford Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903-1406. The dead line for reservations is September 14th.

You are requested to bring chairs.

Election For Treasurer

At the July 20th stated communication, the lodge accepted the resignation of the Lodge Treasurer. An election to fill the vacancy will be held at the August 17th stated communication in accordance with Section 2.36 of the Methodical Digest.

Just Say No To Dues Increases

Life Membership in Perpetuity! There is no reason why every member of Widow's Sons' Lodge should not be an LMIP (Life Member in Perpetuity.) No more lodge dues ever and this prevents all future Grand Lodge and Lodge dues and assessment increases.

Brethren, you still have time to become a Life Member based on the current dues structure. Please don't wait. Act before December 31, 2009, and you will not have to pay 2010 dues. The cost of LMIP in Widow's Sons' Lodge is \$1,088.00. Life Membership provides for the financial future of Widow's Sons' Lodge, even after your death.

Applications are available from the lodge secretary, Bro. Mark Chapman.

Proposed changes to the By-Laws

A Committee appointed by the Worshipful Master, Rt. Wor. Robert E. Simpson, to study the lodge finances, presented the following recommendations at the July 20, 2009 stated communication. Action on the proposed changes will take place at the August 17th stated communication.

Article II, which reads: Every member of this Lodge except the Treasurer, Secretary, Tiler and Chaplain shall be charged by the Secretary with the sum of Forty Dollars plus the Grand Lodge dues and assessments as annual dues.

Be amended to read as follows: Every member of this Lodge except the Treasurer, Secretary, Tiler and Chaplain shall be charged by the Secretary with the sum of Seventy-two Dollars plus the Grand Lodge dues and assessments as annual dues.

If approved, this amendment will become effective January 1, 2010 following the approval of the Grand Master.

Respectively submitted by: T. C. Dickerson, III, chairman; David T. Simpson; Harry L. Walker; Mark S. Chapman; and Carl E. Hollar, Jr.

Thank You For A Job Done Well!

Throughout the year, a number of Brothers of this lodge, working behind the scenes are fulfilling a duty to the deceased Brothers of this lodge. In December a poinsettia is delivered to those lovely ladies whose husbands have died. They also deliver flowers on the widow's birthday. Conversation is also available and joyfully shared. This is noble work and has been a tradition in Widow's Sons' Lodge for many, many years. I want to take this opportunity to thank the following for volunteering their time to this noble work.

Brother Philip Nelson is the overall coordinator and is doing a great job. He is assisted by Brothers John Healey, Carroll Good and Daniel LaPlume.

Those actually making the deliveries are Brothers All: Chuck Boyer, Bobby Cameron, Gene Carpenter, Jay Cotner, Jim Dickerson, T. C. Dickerson, Lee Easton, Steve Fetcho, David Goodwin, Mike Griffin, John Healey, Ed Hildebrand, Tom Hill, Mike Hollar, Andy Keller, Maury Kingman, Carlos McReddie, Jim Miller, Philip Nelson, Jim Nottingham, Bill Reinhold, Bob Romanac, Ray Sites, Oakley Straley, Eric Thompson, Donald Stoneburner, Bill Vincent, Harry Walker, Ed Wellman, and John Williamson.

My hat is off to this labor of love and to the 32 Brothers who make it all happen.



July Masonic Birthdays recognized. L-R: Bob Simpson, Walter Carpenter 25 years; Bob Clore 38 years; and Pete Thorsen 31 years.



Left, Bro. Matthew Stimart wins the Master's Hat Drawing. Right, Bro. Chris Kintner receives his Life Membership Certificate and Pin.

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
A.F.&A.M.
P. O. Box 6262
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Grand Sword Bearer, Bill Reinhold joins the WM in the east

Hiram's Journal



Harry S. Truman, a.k.a., Patrick Bond made a great presentation on Brother Truman's legacy on civil rights. Patrick won the regional and state History Award with his presentation, and came in third nationally.

Patrick is a very talented young man, also very busy. He is currently President of the Peter Jefferson Chapter, Children of the American Revolution. He is a Boy Scout and is working on his Eagle Scout Award. He also finds time to play in the High School Band.

Pictured L-R: Brother Graham Bond, Patrick's proud father; Patrick; and Bob Simpson. Notice the sign on the desk, "The Buck Stops Here".

Patrick received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his presentation. The worshipful master presented him with a monetary gift to use toward his Eagle Scout Project.