



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



David T. Simpson

Brethren, I am both pleased and humbled to start this Masonic year as your Worshipful Master.

This past year has been a historical year for our lodge, having one of our own as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful Jeffery Eugene Hodges. It also has been a privilege to follow in my father's footsteps in serving this great

Craft.

I have great expectations as we move into a new Masonic year. This year we will be concentrating on some basic fundamentals. The first fundamental we will concentrate on will be taking good men and make them better. We will accomplish this by having four Bring a Friend/Open House events. By doing this we will see our ranks grow with new members. To keep these men interested our current membership will need to be involved with mentorship, teaching ritual or learning ritual to support the degrees we will be putting together.

We will also have three fund raising dinners this year to help support some major charities, The Shrine Hospitals for Children, Richmond Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center and Camp Holiday Trails. We will be supporting several blood drives this year. This month's stated meeting I will address the membership with a detailed schedule of the years up and coming events. I look forward to working with each of you in our ever constant endeavor to make good men better.

Fraternally yours,

David T. Simpson
Worshipful Master

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, for many years, Freemasons have endeavored to achieve a level of recognition within their respective communities, and

WHEREAS, this activity has taken many forms and produced a like number of programs and some success has been achieved, and

WHEREAS, continuous and on-going displays of our Masonic membership will forever engrave a lasting memory in the minds of friends and associates of our commitment to our Brothers, our Lodges and, most importantly, our way of life,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Earle Rorer, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Virginia to be more proactive in this area, do hereby proclaim that all Lodges Holden under this Grand Lodge shall observe Masonic Recognition Day on the first day of each month. This recognition should take the form of wearing of Masonic apparel such as hats, shirts, jackets, belts, etc. Further, each Mason is encouraged to hold every day as Masonic Recognition Day by studying a portion of the Methodical Digest, Presentation Volume, other Masonic books or pamphlets, and the Volume of Sacred Law, as well as hold discussions with well-informed Brethren that his actions may conform to the most favorable kinds of public recognition. This recognition is not limited to Craft, or symbolic recognition, but is meant to include all appendant organizations of the Masonic family including the youth organizations. I also direct that this recognition be communicated to every Mason in Virginia by whatever means the Lodge deems appropriate, but no later than sixty (60) days after receipt of this proclamation.

**January Masonic Birthdays!
Call a Brother and wish him a
Happy Masonic Birthday.**

- Lee W. Bullwinkel, January 19, 1973
- Elmer E. Burruss, Jr., January 12, 1951
- Larry Campos, January 28, 1998
- James G. Carpenter, January 25, 1993
- Halbert E. Davis, January 31, 1983
- W. Benton Downer, III, January 4, 1979
- Paul H. Drinard, January 27, 1969
- James D. Dunbar, Jr., January 30, 1984
- William C. Fields, January 24, 1994
- Rolling E. Fields, January 19, 1973
- Kurt M. Gloeckner, January 31, 1972
- Jimmy G. Houser, January 5, 1976
- C. Parker Leake, January 12, 1977
- Jimmy W. Marshall, January 13, 1973
- Thomas A. Patrick, III, January 30, 1984
- E. Mack Powell, January 31, 1961
- Philip S. Waufle, January 24, 1972



Meriwether Lewis Council No. 481, A.M.D. was constituted by the Grand Council with eight charter members. Pictured First Row, L-R; Rt. Ven. Douglas Jordan, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Council; Ven. Russ Snodgrass, Sovereign Master; Rt. Ven. Charles W. Wagner, Grand Superintendent of Grand Council. Second Row, L-R: Ven. Jim Dickerson, Secretary/Treasurer; David Simpson; Jeff Hodges; Ven. Andy Keller, Junior Warden; and Ven. T. C. Dickerson, Senior Warden. Not pictured is Mike Griffin and Bob Simpson.

New Life Members

Congratulations to Bro. G. W. Estes and Bro. R. R. Dorsey in becoming the 45th and 46th Life Members of Widow's Sons' Lodge.



December Masonic Birthdays recognized, pictured L-R: Bob Simpson, Charlie Via, 43 years; T. C. Dickerson, 43 years; and Jim Patterson, 2 years.



Noble Harvey Hague is the new President of Piedmont Shrine Club. The other officers are: Bob Cleminson, President Elect; Bob Simpson, Secretary/Treasurer; Frank Terrell, Chaplain; and Directors: Gene Carpenter, Jim Dickerson, Andy Keller and Clayton Coleman. Congratulations!

The Ballot

There is perhaps nothing more respected in a Masonic lodge than the ballot of a member. His motives are never to be questioned. His sincerity is not to be doubted. This is one of the great democratic principles that govern the fraternity. When the ballot box is passed, there is none mightier than the individual on the sidelines.

There can be no great trust without great power, and vice versa. The power of the ballot is fraught with great potentialities. The flip of a coin may decide the fate of an applicant. A vote may elect or reject. The very act of voting is a register of a man's convictions. It may indict him for an act that is purely selfish and biased, or it may reward him because he is strong enough to rise above petty objections and vote for the good of the lodge. No man can vote as his conscience dictates unless he takes his conscience in as a trusted advisor. We grow in strength, and our conscience is a comfort, when our ballot has been cast discreetly, with full sincerity, and as we believe it should be done.

And what should be the guiding principle in this matter of the ballot? The fraternity must depend upon the good judgment of its members for continued growth and prosperity. It is certain that a wise selection of candidates for degrees will bring new strength to Masonry. It seems safe to suggest that before any peti-

tioner is rejected by any Mason, that Brother should put himself in the place of the applicant and think it through. Likewise, unsuitable material should be rejected. The petitions of our personal friends should be dealt with as scrupulously as those of strangers.

Every true Mason is a builder. The living temple is rising, block upon block, as we individually perform our duties as members. Every noble act sets another stone in place. Every improper act tears one out. When we ballot as our conscience dictates, we are acting constructively. That is true Masonry. How shall I know if I am I voting correctly? That is a fair question and deserves an answer. The same thought can be raised about any election. There are varying viewpoints to consider. The experienced Mason has listened attentively to the lectures and admonitions, has witnessed the portrayal of integrity as it stands fast and has come to appreciate the ideals of the fraternity. He understands that he is responsible for preserving a high quality of membership. To do this job properly he must be well informed on the high standards set for judging the qualifications of a petitioner. He must be willing to submerge any personal feeling in the matter and he needs to be able to distinguish between appearances and worth.

Wisconsin Freemason
April 1959

A GIFT OF BLOOD IS A GIFT OF LIFE

RW Werner Herman Morlock

Money can't buy it. Science can't duplicate it. People can't live without it. The best thing in life is the freedom to share your priceless human resource. Most Worshipful William Munford Johnson, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, has focused on this freedom through his theme: "Freemasonry by Choice." When you, a member of your family, a friend, or a coworker, choose to support our Masonic Community Blood Program, you give a gift so invaluable that it cannot be priced. The only cost to the grateful recipient covers processing, hospital matching, testing and transfusion and those are usually covered by health insurance.

As a Master Mason, you cannot ignore the needs of your community. Every twelve seconds someone in your community needs a transfusion. Every day, at least 700 people are needed in one region that covers 14,000 square miles, and takes in 37 counties.

You, like all of us, are a potential recipient at some time during your life. However, only 57% of us meet the medical and

age requirements for donating.

Currently less than 4% of our eligible donors assist in helping the sick rescue the accident victim, assist a fellow human being in surviving surgery and aid in the birth of Rh factor children by being a donor of blood. My Brethren, we need to give what it takes, each of us a little more often.

You can give where you live. The Lodge participates monthly in a blood drive at the University of Virginia Hospital. Contact your Lodge Blood Chairman, or the Worshipful Master. Inquire when your Masonic District will sponsor its next Bloodmobile. Ask your business acquaintances, your fellow church members, your community group, or members of your family to share the good feeling which will be yours as you give life's most valuable asset. When you give, you get what money can't buy. Nothing feels better than feeling invaluable. Support your MASONIC COMMUNITY BLOOD PROGRAM.

Congratulations to Brother Bill Reinhold who has contributed 93 pints of blood!

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
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David C. Merchant, Steward
Harvey J. Hague, Steward
T. C. Dickerson, III, Marshal
Bobby Cameron, Tyler
Edward D. Ryan, Assist. Tyler

Hiram's Journal



2009 Discovering Our Potential Awards 2009 were presented to the following: Ritual, David Simpson; Community Service, Rob Harrison; and Good Idea, Harvey Hague. Pictured L-R: Bob Simpson, David Simpson, Rob Harrison, and Harvey Hague. Congratulations!

Brother Jim Patterson receives a certificate and Bible for his proficiency in the three degrees using the Alternate Method.