



Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219
A. F. & A. M.
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121



View From The East – Worshipful Ronald G. Elliott, Sr.

May 2010

Dear Brethren,

Another summer is around the corner . . . time flies when you are having fun or maybe it's getting older, not sure which one. There was a very good showing at our last Stated Meeting all went very well and I hope we keep it up.

The Grand Master's dinner, held at Collingwood on the Potomac when very well, we had a great showing from our lodge. I believe every one who attended had a great meal and evening. The Grand Master seemed very pleased and our District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful William Larry Alexande represented our District 1 very well.

Well, I have good news and bad news, The good news first . . . one of our newest Master Masons, Brother Mark Eggerstorfer has purchased his "LMIP" bring our total LMIP/MLMIP memberships in 2010 to 107. Who will be next? The bad news is our efforts to get a Cell Tower approval and lease on our property is looking very doubtful. The Fairfax County Supervisors turned down our request even after receiving 100% approval from the Planning Commission. An appeal is being considered, but it is not looking good. If AT&T backs out on us, we must have another cellular provider to replace them before going forward and we're working on that. I will keep you posted as things progress.

We still have a number of candidates in the pipeline, 1 for Entered Apprentice, 5 for Fellowcraft and 2 for the MM degree. We sure could use help on Monday evening tutoring these Candidates along this most dedicated path. So far this year we've done very well moving these Candidates along, hoping for more Master Masons before the end of my third year as Master of Mount Vernon Lodge.

I'm working on another Family Night fund raiser on or before the end of September this year and I hope to announce the date and time by our June Stated Meeting.

Remember the "LMIP" store is always open. See Worshipful Charles Hinkle, our Lodge Secretary, or myself and we will be more than happy to help you. I would love to see 110 LMIPs before the end of this year.

Last but by no means least, remember the Lodge is Opened, Tiled and Tested . . . and the sound of the gavel in the East calls the Craft from Refreshment to Labor. See you in Lodge!

Fraternally,
Ronald (Ron) G. Elliott Sr.
Worshipful Master

Notes from the Senior Warden in the West - Our Masonic Presidents –

It is always interesting to look back and read about some of the Masons in our country's history. I have been looking into the lives of our nation's Presidents who were Master Masons and I wanted to share a few notes about some of them with you this month.

Harry Truman: the 33rd President... Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri on May 8th 1884. He was raised a Master Mason on March 18th, 1909 in Belton Lodge No. 540 at the age of 24. Masonry became his social and intellectual life. This eventually led to a pattern in his life which was responsible for taking him from the farm to the political arena. He became Worshipful Master of his own lodge in 1911, Secretary in 1912, and again Worshipful Master in 1916. In 1924 he was elected District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lecturer in 1925 and finally Grand Master of Masons in Missouri in 1940. He completed his Scottish Rite in 1917 and was the first U.S. President to be coronated 33rd Degree in October 19, 1945. Truman died on December 26th, 1972 at the age of 88.

Warren G. Harding: the 29th President... Harding is unique in that Masonry did not shape his life; he became a Mason very late in his life. He became known as a joiner in his early life and over the years joined the Baptist Church, the Elks Lodge, the Moose Lodge, the Sons of Union Veterans, the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and the Young Men's Republican Club which led to his political career. By 1900, he became a state senator and now felt qualified to be a Master Mason. He petitioned for degrees in January of 1901, and was blackballed. He petitioned every month until June when he was accepted. Due to difference in political views, a Democrat in the lodge stopped him from advancing any further. It wasn't until 1920 that he advanced to Fellow Craft and later raised to Master Mason. One special note: he is pictured in the corner stone of the George Washington Masonic Memorial !

Theodore Roosevelt: the 26th President... Teddy came from an aristocratic family. They spent little time with other people. In fact, Teddy was home schooled. As a boy he was very sickly. So much so, his father said to him one day, "Son you have good mind but a puny body." And so, Teddy began his gymnasium career and built himself up. In 1900, Roosevelt wanted to be President but took the position of Vice President with McKinley. McKinley was shot on September 6, 1901 and Roosevelt became President. He was re-elected in 1904. He was unique in the fact that he hated corruption. Many politicians told him to brush it under the carpet, but he pursued it to the end and punished all involved. His Masonic career began at the same time his Vice Presidency began – in 1901. On the 2nd of January, he entered Matinecock Lodge No. 806 in Oyster Bay, New York. He never held a Masonic office but always attended meetings.

James Buchanan: the 15th President... His Masonic career began in 1816 when he was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Lancaster Lodge No. 43 at the age of 25. He was passed and raised in January of 1817. By 1822, he was the Worshipful Master of his lodge. Buchanan never disgraced Masonry. He lived a life of high moral quality. Throughout his entire political career and during the time of the Anti-Masonic movement, there was never a trace of moral failure. Even though he has been rated a failure as President, yet it was stated later "He was a far better public official than he is given credit for."

I will provide a little more about Masonic Presidents in our history in the next trestleboard...including President Andrew Jackson (our 7th President) who I think had one of the most colorful lives in my option. Until then, I hope to see you in Lodge !

“The Payment of Dues is Always in Order.” What does that mean? One way of looking at it is to take a look at your annual dues card. If it does not have “2010” on it, chances are that you have not paid your annual dues for this year and you need to contact the Lodge Secretary. Current annual dues for those who are not Life Members in Perpetuity (LMIP) are \$68.00.

And Speaking of Life Memberships in Perpetuity. . . . As the Worshipful Master noted, we now have 107 Life Members or Memorial Life Memberships in Perpetuity (LMIP/MLMIP). As an LMIP, you never have to pay annual dues for the rest of your life even if the annual dues are raised. Additionally, your LMIP is an investment that will continue to benefit our Lodge even after you pass to the Celestial Lodge. Simply put, your LMIP monies go into an investment fund managed by the Grand Lodge of Virginia and Mount Vernon Lodge gets a return on that investment every year. . . .so your LMIP is a gift that really does keep on giving. You can also purchase a Memorial Life Membership in Perpetuity to honor a Masonic member of your family. If you are interested, please contact Worshipful Charles Hinkle or the Lodge Secretary who will be more than glad to talk to you about LMIPs. The current cost of a LMIP is \$1,088. If that does not fit your budget, talk to us about an installment plan (no interest) that could help you become a LMIP. Think about it !!!

Questions and Answers from the Lodge Secretary. Here are a couple questions that comes up a lot from the Brethren.

Question: How come it takes so long for our personal check to clear? **Answer:** While we receive and monitor all communications during the month, we conduct the actual business of the lodge once a month at our Stated Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month. All checks and monies that have been received in the previous month are consolidated by the Lodge Secretary in a signed summary report, reviewed by the Worshipful Master at the applicable Stated Meeting, and given to the Treasurer (who signs a receipt) for deposit and accounting. So as an example, if you sent a check to the Lodge on 15 April, it will be submitted to the Treasurer at the Stated Meeting on 5 May and those monies will be deposited within a few days after the Stated Meeting. If your check is received after the 5 May Stated Meeting, it will not be processed/deposited until after the June Stated Meeting.

Question: What bills and expenses does the Lodge have to pay during the year? **Answer:** Your Lodge is almost like a small business in some respects with the Worshipful Master as the President or CEO. The Master controls the funds of the Lodge and is responsible for the payment of all monies required for the operation of the Lodge. We have regular monthly utility bills to pay (Gas, Water, Electrical, Phone, Trash Services) . . .we have copying costs and bulk mailing fees for our trestleboard and other mailings .we have insurance payments on the lodge building/property. . . .we have dues and assessments to the Grand Lodge. . . .we have maintenance and cleaning costs for the building. . . .we have consumable costs (toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, paper plates/cups for refreshments and standard food items like coffee and soft drinks) . . .these are just some examples of the “bills” the Lodge has to take care of every month. Again, the Lodge Secretary puts together a summary listing of all required payments which is reviewed by the Worshipful Master before each Stated Meeting. He determines if the bills are necessary for the operation of the Lodge and if so, orders them paid. The payment summary is then signed by the Lodge Secretary, signed approved by the Worshipful Master and signed by the Treasurer acknowledging the Master’s approval to pay the

bills listed in this summary report. The signed payment summary as well as the signed summary of payments/monies received by the Lodge become part of the official record for that Stated Meeting which is kept in the Lodge Master Files for record purposes and is available for any Lodge Brother to review.

Events/Dates coming up in May 2010:

Every Monday evening, the Lodge is open for instruction and ritual work starting at 7:30 pm and lasting approximately one hour. This month, there is one exception....the Lodge will not be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st.

1 May: William Hiram Woods Ritual School

5 May: Mount Vernon Lodge May Stated Meeting at 7:30 pm

11 May: Mount Vernon Chapter No. 178, Order of Eastern Star Stated Meeting at 7:30 pm

26 May: Called Communication – Fellowcraft Degree at 7:30 pm

27 May: District 1B Ritual School at Occoquan Lodge at 7:30 pm.

TBD: Called Communication for EA Degree Work.

Masonic Birthdays: The following Brethren were raised as Master Masons in May and we wish them all a Happy Masonic Birthday !

Brother and Date Raised as a Master Mason	Years
Homer Raydon Aikin – May 27, 1964	46
Clarence William Bartlett Jr. – May 12, 1961	49
Vearl Hagen Bowers – May 8, 1968	42
Robert Lee Burnett III – May 23, 1973	37
Kenneth Michael Dague –May 22, 1985	25
Ernest Lee Dean Sr – May 24, 1978	32
Wayne Thomas Frakes – May 26, 1953	57
John William Hayes – May 24, 1967	43
James Elmer Jewell – May 26, 1982	28
Thomas Nelson Johnson – May 29, 1961	49
Stuart Franklin Kober – May 10, 1978	32
John Vincent Lucas Jr. – May 10, 1969	41
Dennis Albert Miller – May 23, 1973	37
James Everett Rowland – May 12, 1965	45
Murray Scheine – May 12, 1999	11
Lee Jackson Sloppy – May 19, 1976	34
David Earl Stout Jr.-May 19, 2004	6
Bruce Lee Summer – May 20, 1980	30
James G. Gee – May 26, 1982	28
Gary Lee Short – May 1, 2000	10