

THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

622 W. Campbell Ave. SW

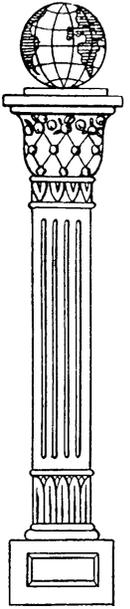
Roanoke, VA 24018

Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month

Phone: 540-632-2163 Email: contact@pleasants63.org

www.pleasants63.org

January 2011



Worshipful Master - Stuart Matthew Bain

Senior Warden

Sidney Warren Bush

Junior Warden

Fred Marion Burns

Secretary

Barry Dale Light

Treasurer

Thomas Edward Purbes

Senior Deacon

David Eugene Campbell, III

Junior Deacon

Taha Hasayn Bullock

Chaplain

Charles Henry Stowe

Tiler

Kenneth Ray Robinette

Senior Steward

Robert Tasker Carter, III

Junior Steward

Matthew Howard Gregory

FREE MONEY INSIDE

Brethren,

Did my headline grab your attention? Good! Read on, because it isn't a joke.

On behalf of Pleasants Lodge, Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and pray you have a wonderful 2011. With January here, it is time for us to "resume labor" at Pleasants. I invite you to do so and would like to extend a personal "thank you" to the brethren (and their ladies) who will assist me by serving as your lodge officers for 2011. With their outstanding support and assistance, I am certain Pleasants will have a productive and rewarding year.

Existing Programs

Wor. Duffy Ferguson will continue to coordinate our Child ID events this year, and I do hope to continue the momentum he built up over the course of the past few years. Under his guidance, I think Pleasants Lodge is the established leader in the district as regards the Child ID program. We are able to "lead the pack" in the 22nd District thanks to the dedication and efforts of brethren like Wor. Duffy. Hats off to a job well done!

Pleasants will also continue to contribute to charitable organizations and causes as we have in the past. In addition to our school bike program, we traditionally contribute to other charities and Masonic organizations. I intend to continue this tradition and hope that any brethren with further suggestions on how we can become more active members of the community will bring their ideas to lodge for discussion and consideration.

Old Programs Reborn

In previous years, we had a "night out on the town." These events occurred on a monthly or bimonthly schedule and provided us, as a lodge with our ladies and family, the opportunity to a dinner together at a local res-

Lodge Statistics as of December 31, 2010 (for the year)

Demits Processed: 7 Suspensions: 3 Deaths: 5 Affiliated: 1 Raised: 5 Restorations: 1

Honorary Members: 3 Life Members: 12 50 Yr. Members: 18, Remitted Members: Hardship 2, Illness 1, Officers: 3

Current Lodge Membership: 135 plus 2 candidates, 0 petitioners, Total Dues Paying Members: 96

Initiated as Entered Apprentice: Mark Anthony Gibson, Brian Lee Thomas

restaurant. Somewhere along the way, the program was discontinued. I plan to resurrect this program starting in February and hope brethren will be able to attend January's stated communication for a discussion of what nights and times work best for us as a whole.

What is YOUR idea?

Any Brother, even if not a member of Pleasants Lodge, who has an activity or opportunity for Pleasants should always feel free to bring it to an officer, the Worshipful Master, or directly to the lodge at any lodge meeting. I look forward to listening to your suggestions.

NEW THIS YEAR! - Master's Wages Card

Remember that "free money" headline? Here it is! In addition to our existing programs and the planned re-introduction of our night out on the town, I will be introducing a new program for the brethren of Pleasants Lodge. Due to two influencing factors, I am introducing this new program this year with hopes that it will have a positive impact on the lodge and lodge attendance.

The first influencing factor is the recent increase in our lodge dues. With the state of our nation's economy, one of the tough choices we had to make in recent years was the decision to vote to amend our bylaws and raise our yearly dues. Due to the declining value of the U.S. Dollar over time, our dues structure was much in need of an update to be more in line with today's rate of inflation. This resulted in an increase that put some of our brethren in a tough spot. With the economy and job market in the shape it is in, we see many people, including our members, struggling with financial decisions. Unfortunately, this includes the decision as to whether or not to continue their membership (some in multiple lodges) or demit in the face of a dues increase. Some chose have chosen to demit, and we are sad they have done so. They will be missed. I pray the economy will recover quickly so we see less financial strain in our community and fraternity. In the meantime, brethren who are struggling with financial problems and wish to continue their membership should know they can always come to the lodge or directly to the Worshipful Master in confidence that we are willing to work with them towards ensuring they are able to maintain their membership.

The second factor is involvement and attendance at our lodge. Over the years, Worshipful Masters and Past Masters have tried a number of ways to encourage members to attend lodge regularly and play an active role in the lodge meetings and activities. Nothing seemed to work. One Past Master even confided in me that he had tried to personally contact every brother on the membership roster to find out why they aren't attending. That didn't seem to work either. Our Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful John Mason Chambliss, Jr., mentioned during his address to his home lodge (Lakeland #190) here in Roanoke that an effort should be made to make personal contact with each member. He also stated that contact should continue throughout the year. Consider this the first of my many attempts to contact each member of our lodge.

It is my hope that every member, especially **you**, will attend as many lodge functions and meetings as possible. At a minimum, I encourage you to dedicate to regularly attending our stated communication every month (3rd Monday) and make arrangements to attend if need be. If you need assistance getting to lodge, please let us know. We are always willing to go out of our way to make sure that brethren are able to attend if transportation or other accommodations are required. To that end, I am introducing the "Master's Wages Card" program.

While I personally think the true wages of a Master Mason are the friendships, relationships, and brotherhood we enjoy as part of our great fraternity, I am hoping to include even more in the way of wages this year. Here is how the program works:

Every year, the brethren of each lodge in Virginia submit their dues to their lodges. A significant portion of those dues go to the Grand Lodge of Virginia in the form of a Grand Lodge Assessment. Given that the recent dues increase was around the equivalent of the assessment paid to the Grand Lodge each year, I am enclosing your Master's Wages Card to help offset the cost of the dues increase. The only action required on your part is to bring the card with you to every stated communication you attend and place it on the Secretary's desk prior to the start of the meeting. Afterward, pick it up at the conclusion of the meeting and bring it back to each month's state communication.

At the end of 2011, when your dues notice for 2012 arrives, submit your payment as usual, but if your Master's Wages Card has **seven out of twelve (minimum) stated communications** initialed by the secretary on the back, simply include it as the Grand Lodge assessment portion of your dues, submit payment for the difference, and **the lodge will pay your Grand Lodge Assessment for you.** *

Having reviewed the lodge finances prior to my installation as Worshipful Master, I am certain the lodge can afford to cover the cost of your Grand Lodge Assessment. Brethren who are Life Members In Perpetuity at Pleasants and submit a Master's Wages Card with at least 7/12 blocks completed will also be rewarded in another fashion.

I hope you see all the benefits (not just "free money") of committing at least one Monday a month to attending lodge functions. We look forward to seeing some new (albeit "returning") faces soon. Even if you haven't attended in years, consider this your formal invitation to not only start attending regularly again, but to reap the benefits of doing so. For our brethren who are physically or medically unable to attend for whatever reason, it is my deepest regret that you are not able to attend and participate in this new program. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers regardless of your ability to attend.

I thank you all for choosing me to be your Worshipful Master for 2011 and look forward to hopefully meeting each and every one of you.

In closing, I intend to take advantage of the gracious offers of our members and their ladies to try and offer meals as often as possible prior to our stated communications and ritual schools. It is a bit late to try to organize a dinner for the January Stated as this newsletter might not reach you in time. We would like, however, to begin taking reservations for February. This will be the official visit of RW Arthur Lee Pendleton. If you would like to RSVP for the February 2011 meal, which will be at 6:00PM prior to our 7:30PM stated communication, please call or email the lodge before February 17 so we can plan accordingly.

Phone: 540-632-2163

Email: contact@pleasants63.org

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Stuart M. Bain, Worshipful Master 2011
Pleasants Lodge #63 A.F.&A.M.
Roanoke, VA

* Please note that every Brother receiving this newsletter will also be receiving the "Wages" card but only Pleasants Lodge #63 members are eligible for the Assessment offset.

Birthdays

Christopher Scott St. Clair	January 3	Jay Michael Becker	February 3	James Dean Cole	March 3
Roy Wilson Lynch	January 6	Harry Tuckworth Lucas, III	February 4	Bruce Neal Stewart	March 3
James Richard Meredith	January 9	Jeffrey Gerard Nicola	February 5	James Milton Scearce, Jr.	March 10
Joseph Frank Huddleston, III	January 12	Julien Irwin Sacks	February 8	David Alyn Goode	March 16
Charles Dunmore Fox, IV	January 12	Boreham Boyd Johnson	February 11	Curtis Elery Downey	March 18
Timothy Arnold Fitzgerald	January 17	Donald Richard Nevins	February 12	Courtney Elwood Jarvis	March 21
Mike Fries	January 17	Daniel Harvey Agee, Jr.	February 15	Clarence Mortimer Hawkins, Jr.	March 22
Clive Elvyn Rice	January 17	Michael George Lawson	February 16	John Draper Walrond	March 26
Jeffrey Lynn Butler	January 19	Orville Max Leach	February 17	Thomas Michael Wilbourn	March 27
Daniel Gilbert Oakey	January 21	Charles Carmine Perna	February 20	Harold Oliver Nofsinger	March 30
Harry Robert Deaton, Jr.	January 29	George Wilbur Carden, Jr.	February 22	John Charles Renick	March 30
		Howard Carroll Packett	February 23	William Kenneth Ramsey, Sr.	March 30
		John William Slusher	February 27	Timothy Daniel Robertson	March 31

Listed below are the scheduled programs for 2011. Any notification for a dinner prior to the Stated will be announced in the Columns issued at the first of the month. March, July and September will all involve a dinner, or in the case of July a picnic.

Please mark your calendars accordingly.

January 17, 2011	Pleasants Lodge - Past, Present, Future DEO/DIW Planned Visit
February 21, 2011	RW Arthur Lee Pendleton District Deputy Grand Master
March 21, 2011	Ladies Night
April 18, 2011	Program by James Ruhland
May 16, 2011	Masonry & Pop Culture
June 20, 2011	St. John's Day
July 18, 2011	Picnic
August 15, 2011	Program by Grand Sr. Warden RW Louis K. Campbell
September 19, 2011	Ladies Night
October 17, 2011	Founders Day Past Masters Night
November 16, 2011	Masons and Veterans
December 21, 2011	Election of Officers Open Installation