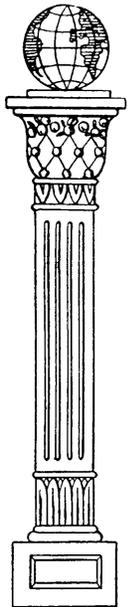


# THE COLUMNS

## PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

Located at 622 W. Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24018  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 12067, Roanoke, VA 24022  
Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month, 7:30 PM  
Phone: 540-632-2163 Email: [contact@pleasants63.org](mailto:contact@pleasants63.org)  
[www.pleasants63.org](http://www.pleasants63.org)



June 2014

Worshipful Master - Duffy Jerome Ferguson

Senior Warden	David Eugene Campbell, III	Junior Warden	Michael Lynn Johnson
Secretary	Sidney Warren Bush, Sr.	Treasurer	Taha Hasayn Bullock
Senior Deacon	Timothy Morris Shepherd	Junior Deacon	Ronald A. Wirt
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Calvin Lucas	Junior Steward	Scott Christopher St. Clair



On May 19, at our stated Staff Sergeant Troy Sisson, Staff Sergeant Cain and another member of the Virginia Army National Guard Military honors team presented a program on the military honors that are available for deceased veterans and their families. They also spoke on the necessary paperwork needed to support the request for honors and talked about the importance of communicating your wishes for when the Supreme Architect calls you from labor to rest. Following their program, Rt. Worshipful Corky Coughlin joined me in presenting the Community Builders Award to Staff Sergeant and his team for the work they do in honoring our deceased veterans across the Roanoke Valley and outlying areas. They were deeply touched, Sgt. Troy Sisson made the statement that it was the first time anyone had recognized their team for the work that they do.

Following the Community Builders Award presentation, Rt. Worshipful Charlie Hale finally got to present the scholarship that is named after him for the first time in three years. Sandy Chang, the daughter of Brother Charlie Chang, received a check for \$2,000 to the University of Virginia. It is our hope that she has as much success in her college studies as she had in high school, good luck young lady.

Following the purging from the lodge room of all non master masons, we opened lodge and had 5 members of Bayard Commandery present the flag of our country in the East as we continued to honor our veterans and celebrate the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday. Looking back over the last 5 months, we have raised one brother to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, initiated one candidate, voted on two more to receive the degrees of masonry, and had the first reading of three more petitions of men wishing to join our fraternity. We have had 3 dinners, given 2 Community Builders Award, and made two fraternal visits. While it appears we have been busy and are growing, why does it feel like we, and me especially, are failing? Coming up later this month, I will be suspending multiple brothers for non-payment of dues and have decided due to the poor attendance at our dinners, stated communications and degree work that we will not be having any more organized dinners preceding stated meetings for the rest of the year. I believe our Senior Warden may follow this track as well, as a cost saving measure, it makes no sense for us to pay for a meal for 30 or 40 people when 10 or 15 may show up. We all have lives outside of lodge and cable tows can get pretty stretched at times, but it has become disheartening to look at the side lines and see those empty seats at a stated communication, or when we have to get brothers to double up on parts for degrees because not enough people bother to show up. I have always hoped that when my son got old enough, he would follow in my footsteps and petition my lodge for membership, now I am wondering if there will be enough of a lodge remaining in the next 15 years for him to join.

If this lodge, and Freemasonry itself is to continue, more than the line officers and two or three people need to show up at stated communications or degrees or events like child id or movie night or any one of the number of events this or the other nine lodges in this valley sponsor.

Fraternally, Duffy



United States Army Funeral Honor Guard, Staff Sgt. Sisson on right



Presentation of Pleasants Lodge Community Builders award by Wor. Duffy Ferguson and RW Corky Coughlin to the United States Army Funeral Honor Guard, S. Sgt. Sisson and his assistant.



Bayard Commandery No. 15 Flag Presentation Unit, Charlie Steele, Ewell Beirne, Billy Wills, David Layman, Lee Arritt

## From the West Gate



Greeting Brethren,

As always, I hope that this message finds you and your families doing well. With the arrival of Memorial Day, stated meeting was not without fanfare for celebration to our beloved fallen troops.

We started off our meeting with an incredible meal hosted by Wildwood Smokehouse and several honored guests. The meal included BBQ pulled chicken, pulled pork, and beef brisket, which also included typical BBQ trimmings that were extremely mouth watering. After the dinner, we gathered in the lodge for two special events. One, demonstrated by the Army National Guard Honors Team, the other, our 2014 Pleasants Lodge College Scholarship recipient. The National Guard Honors Team treated the guests in attendance to a portion of a cremation ceremony, it was a sight to behold. Plus, Wor. Duffy Ferguson had a surprise for them as well, our second Community Builders Award for 2014. Following this ceremony and award presentation, Wor. Charles W. Hale presented a \$2000.00 College Scholarship to Ms. Sandy Chang, daughter of Bro. Charles Chang, who is the owner of Fiji Island on Franklin Road. Ms. Chang is to be commended for her efforts and academic achievements of maintaining high marks throughout her senior year in high school. We wish her the best as she heads to UVA to complete her advanced studies and a obtaining a college degree.

As always, I leave you with this lesson. Remember, your brothers are there to help, aid, and assist you. All you need do; is ask them for good counsel, they are there. However, and most importantly, remember that your family members are by your side too! Your parents, siblings, spouse, and children are your greatest strength, be thankful..and remember to tell them so as often as possible. No one is ever truly replaceable.

Sincerely and fraternally, S.W. David E. Campbell II



Charlie Hale, Sandy Chang & Charlie Chang

## Secretary Sez



The second 2014 dues notices have been mailed to those brothers that have not already paid their dues.

I regret to say that nine brothers will receive certified letters that have not paid their 2013 and 2014 dues informing them that they are subject to being suspended. Remember that if you are suspended from your lodge for non payment of dues you are automatically suspended from all other Masonic organizations even if you are current with them. If you are one of these brothers please contact me at 540-520-1101 before the June Stated Communication.

Any past masters from 1989 to 2008 Please call me at 540-520-1101. We are putting a Past Masters album together and need your help.

At the May Stated we awarded our Charles Wesley Hale Scholarship of \$2000.00 to Sandy Chang the Daughter of Charlie Chang. Ms. Chang completes her high school with a 4.25 grade point average and will be attending UVA.

We have much degree work to do with an EA ready for his Fellowcraft, two more men waiting to be initiated and three which will be voted on in June to receive the degrees of Freemasonry. We will be needing help soon my Brothers.

If you have had an address phone number or e-mail change please e-mail me at [ipopop@cox.net](mailto:ipopop@cox.net) or call me at 540-520-1101.

The photos of the Honor Guard, Commandery and scholarship presentation in this newsletter are courtesy of Brenda Hale.

Sincerely and Fraternally, Sidney W. Bush, Sr. Secretary

## Birthdays

Matthew Howard Gregory	July 3	David Reed Hamblin	Aug 2	James Richard Meredith	Sept 1
Glenn Warren Dillard	July 7	Elvin Gene McComb, Jr.	Aug 9	Emory Cary Crowder, Jr.	Sept 6
Scott Ronald Geddes	July 7	James David Cheatham	Aug 10	Joseph Edward Reade	Sept 6
Louis Kerford Campbell	July 8	Ricky Gleason Wilkerson	Aug 10	Paul Brown Caldwell	Sept 11
Wayne William Wise	July 9	Walter Blaine Elliott, IV	Aug 13	Ellard Vincent Youngberg	Sept 14
James Robert Staggs	July 10	John Boyd Obenchain	Aug 20	Richard Wayne Booth, Sr	Sept 15
Billy Estil Frazier	July 14	Ronald Harry Geiger	Aug 28	Paul Dale Walrond	Sept 16
Jeffrey Scott Purves	July 19			John Leslie Ford	Sept 18
Todd Franklin Hearp	July 22			Haden Thurston Dudley, III	Sept 19
Raymond Carter Cox	July 24			Andrew Martin Yuhass	Sept 20
David Price Maxey	July 25			Stuart Matthew Bain	Sept 24
Duffy Jerome Ferguson	July 28			John William Hardin	Sept 25
				William Thomas Watkins	Sept 26
				Timothy Morris Shepherd	Sept 28
				Francis Stedman Hylton	Sept 29