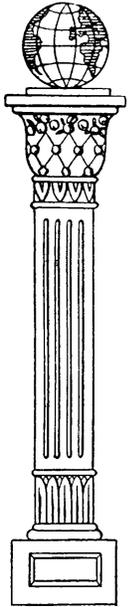


THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 Af & Am

622 W. Campbell Ave. SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month, 7:30 PM
Phone: 540-632-2163 Email: contact@pleasants63.org
www.pleasants63.org



April 2013

Worshipful Master - Fred Marion Burns

Senior Warden	Duffy Jerome Ferguson	Junior Warden	Stuart Matthew Bain
Secretary	Sidney Warren Bush, Sr.	Treasurer	David Eugene Campbell, II
Senior Deacon	Michael Lynn Johnson	Junior Deacon	Timothy Morris Shepherd
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Glen Wayne Hall	Junior Steward	David Reed Hamblin

Do you realize that it is officially SPRING? But wait, what is that white stuff out there?

While it might be cold outside it is always warm here in the lodge. Come on out and join with your brothers for some friendship.

We continue to grow by adding new members. We elected Warren Thompson to receive the degrees of Freemasonry at our March Stated. Watch the Blue Bulletin for his initiation date. As always we need brethren to come and take a part in the ritual. Please give Wor. Sid a call and volunteer for a part..

Wor. Duffy gave a fine program on Child ID at the Stated and with that in mind we will be having a fund raiser soon to raise monies for the supplies that it takes to put on one of these events. BUT money isn't the only thing that is needed. We need YOU to come and help. There is plenty to do and you don't need to be an expert in anything.

In April we will be having a family night. Watch the Blue Bulletin for date and time. And as always if you need a ride please CALL or send an email and we will arrange for a ride for you. This is true for any of our events! Just because you can't drive at night shouldn't keep you from enjoying the company of your brothers. There are MANY brothers, that have been members for MANY years that don't come to lodge anymore. Don't let this be the reason why!

Several years ago we initiated a program called "Masters Wages" where if you came to Stated Meetings at least seven (7) times in the year we would help you with your dues by paying the Grand Lodge Assessment portion. That is now up to \$38 per member. But you have to come to take advantage of this.

Don't forget that we have ritual school Monday nights at 7PM. And, as always our Stated is the third Monday of each and every month! Put April 15 on your calendar, now. 7:30 PM as always.

Thank you and God Bless.

Fred Burns
Worshipful Master

From the West Gate

Well March has come and gone and I am still trying to figure out where the first 2 months went. As the days get longer and the temperatures get warmer (I know it is hard to believe it is spring when there is 4 inches of snow on the ground) our thoughts turn toward outside activities and playing with kids at the parks and playgrounds. It can get really hectic really fast, as there is yard work to do, golf to be played, and kid's practices and games to attend. While all of this is true, and I am no stranger to a full schedule, please don't forget that there are both fun things and lodge programs that need our attention. This past weekend 114 kids received Child Id kits during 2 school fun festivals. The requests for VaCHIP events in this and surrounding areas are growing at an unbelievable rate, and while we have enough systems and supplies to keep up with the demand, the need for volunteers is growing. The same 15 or 20 volunteers are not going to be able to fill every slot every time. We have been fortunate enough to have brothers and friends alike from area lodges join this effort, please be patient or more importantly lend a hand in training these newer volunteers so that we are all on the same page. Yes this may mean when you show up to an event expecting to run a computer, you may be asked instead to assist a newer volunteer or help remind a recent recruit how things work and answer questions when things go wrong. You may feel like you have nothing to do or that you are not needed, but you are hugely mistaken, by helping to teach others it takes some of the burden off of the original 15 that have been with me since we began this program in 2009, and more importantly you help to insure this program will continue to flourish long after my role as district coordinator comes to an end.

I mentioned fun things, Pleasants Lodge once again has a relatively young line of officers and we are looking at and trying to plan fun events throughout the year for members, family and friends alike to participate. Who knows, I may even get a day off to join you in floating the James River or going fishing. Stranger things have happened!!! Most Worshipful Campbell's emphasis this year is on our youth, and we are reaching out to involve both our youth groups in both work and fun programs.

The youth both in the lodge and in our youth groups are the future of masonry, our elder members represent the history, the knowledge and the backbone of our institution. One can not exist without the other. Please be mindful of this as we move forward, as you try to mentor a younger mason/candidate or you try to learn ritual from a more seasoned brother. We have one newly raised master mason and 2 beginning their journey in masonry, they will need both our help in being successful and in getting something meaningful out of what I lovingly call my "extended family."

Duffy Ferguson
Senior Warden

Secretary Sez...

Brethren,

At our Stated Communication March 17 the brethren present elected Mr. Warren Harold Thompson to receive the degrees of Masonry. His initiation will be held soon, please come out and help to welcome him to the Lodge. Watch the Blue Bulletin for the time and date. You don't get the Blue Bulletin??? Then go to www.pleasants63.org and sign up. Our webmaster will add you to the email list. You can also catch up on older issues of *The Columns* there.

Also, if you missed the Stated you also missed a fine program about Child ID. Wor. Duffy, District 22A coordinator did a fine job presenting the goals, successes and some of the issues involved with this program. We need brothers to step up and volunteer for these events.

Check your dues card! If it doesn't say 2013 then please write your check now and send it in.

Sid Bush
Secretary

Birthdays

Robert Glen Bishop	April 2	Fred Marion Burns	May 1	Donald Dean Gates	June 14
James Hardie Lawrence	April 11	Calvin Peter Keister	May 2	Barry Dale Light	June 15
Curtis Neil Dickerson	April 24	Paul Garry Black	May 4	Major Nicholas Reed	June 17
William Arthur Seymour, Jr.	April 26	Sidney Fulton Baker	May 12	John Robert Gibson	June 26
Jerry Wayne McMillan	April 29	David Bruce Baumgardner, Jr.	May 14		
		J. Edward Conner	May 19		
		Anthony Todd Holland	May 20		
		Roger Sedgewick Pendrey	May 20		
		Lloyd Marion Holfield	May 23		
		Charles Henry Stowe	May 24		
		Harry Kenneth Shelton	May 27		