

# *Richmond Randolph No. 19*

*Ancient Free and Accepted Masons*

[www.Richmondrandolph19.com](http://www.Richmondrandolph19.com)



*Est. Anno Lucis 5787 Oct 29<sup>th</sup>*

TREASTLEBOARD

January A.L. 6012



## TO THE BRETHREN

*From the Secretary*  
[virginiafreemason@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiafreemason@yahoo.com)

Brethren,

We're off to a good start. In the wings, we have many exciting events planned. Along with our newly instituted Lodge visits, a small yet dedicated group has been meeting together for insightful discussions on some very interesting Masonic reading. So far, we have thoroughly enjoyed such books as *Observing the Craft* by Bro. Andrew Hammer and *The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry* by Bro. Cliff Porter. Our next selection is *The Golden Builders: Alchemists, Rosicrucians, and the First Freemasons* by Tobias Churton. Our first meeting on this third book will be January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, location TBD. Reading the book is not a requirement as our discussions are generally broad and amenable to all. All selections are available through Amazon.com

### **DUES FOR 2012 ARE \$85.00 AND ARE NOW DUE!**

Please make your checks payable to Richmond Randolph #19 A.F. & A.M. and mail to the Secretary.

Brethren, if you do not have a 2011 dues card, it is probable that your dues are in arrears. Please rectify this matter

**Report any change of residence or e-mail address your Secretary.**

### **\*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\***

(All Lodge Activities **including the full year of Lodge visits** are posted on the website, under Calendar)

**If you need a ride to any Lodge meeting, event or class, please contact any Lodge officer.**

**Richmond Randolph No. 19 Schedule:**

**Dec. 28th** – 225th anniversary planning committee meeting. 6PM in the Lodge room.

**Dec 28th** - Ritual Practice. 7PM in the Lodge Room [Every 4th Wednesday evening]

**January 4th** BOOK CLUB at 7pm, location TBD. The current book is '*The Golden Builders*'. Look for an invite in your email. Even if you have not read the book, come on out. It will be worth the conversation.

**January 14<sup>th</sup>**: Stated Communication at 9:00 AM breakfast served at 8AM

#### **LODGE VISITS:**

Dec 30: Williamsburg No. 6 St John's Day Procession **12:30 – 3:00**

Jan 2: Westhampton

Jan 12: Alexandria Washington No. 22

Feb 9: Northside

#### **General Masonic Events:**

**Masonic Recognition Day:** The first day of every month. Wear your Masonic pins and clothing proudly.

**Every Saturday night,** 7:00 p.m. The Robert Lewis Gibbs Masonic class meets at the SRT

**Masters and Wardens - 4th Saturday,** 9:00am at Westhampton Lodge, except June, July, August, and December.

**As always, it is strongly encouraged that everyone utilizes email communication if you are going to another lodge for a visit or work. Others may wish to join in.**

### **MASONIC BIRTHDAYS**

Marc Graham 15 yrs.

Dear Brother, the Worshipful Master requests your attendance at the following Communications of your Lodge to be held Mason's Hall, 18<sup>th</sup> and Main, Richmond, Virginia. Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Virginia A.F. & A.M. is welcome.

## WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD

Brethren, you, and your Masonic friends are cordially invited to attend the following:

**STATED COMMUNICATION: Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> A.L. 6012 at 9:00 AM**

Breakfast in the dining room at 8:00 A.M.  
Open Lodge @ 9:00 A.M --  
Regular Business --  
Program --  
Close Master Mason Lodge

By order of: Wor. Paul A. Dierickx  
Worshipful Master

Attest: Bro. Christopher P. McPherson  
Secretary

**Stated Communication Dress: Officers - Black suite, white shirt, tie;  
Members - Coat & tie**

## OFFICERS OF RICHMOND RANDOLPH LODGE No. 19

**Wor. Paul A. Dierickx  
Worshipful Master**

4905 Riverplace Court Glen Allen VA 23059-5655  
(C) 690-1614 [pauldierickx@gmail.com](mailto:pauldierickx@gmail.com)

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Wor. W. Troy Bailey</b> 12008 Gordon School Road. Richmond VA 23236                            | Sr. Warden  |
| <b>Bro. Lee A. Oppenheim</b> 8017 Glen Abbey Drive Glen Allen VA 23059 (C) 571-480-2693           | Jr. Warden  |
| <b>Bro. Charles W. Hundley</b> 11204 Old Lewiston Road Richmond, Virginia 23236 644-8010          | Treasurer   |
| <b>Bro. Christopher P. McPherson</b> 3782 Three Chopt Rd. Gum Spring, VA 23065 (H) 556-3534       | Secretary   |
| <b>Wor. Michael D. Joyner</b> 8267 Siege Road Mechanicsville VA 23111-4544 (H) 730-8706           | Sr. Deacon  |
| <b>Bro. Travis L. Oliver</b> 16 N. 18th St. Apt. #1 Richmond, VA 23223 (H) 564-4960               | Jr. Deacon  |
| <b>Rt. Wor. Barrye L. Absher</b> 11500 Crawford Wood Terr. Midlothian, VA 23114 (C) 512-5621      | Chaplain    |
| <b>Bro. Robert T. Slaughter</b> 19608 Walker Avenue Colonial Heights, VA 23834 (C) 400-4743       | Sr. Steward |
| <b>Bro. Steven G. Duke</b>  | Jr. Steward |
| <b>Rt. Wor. James H. Duke Jr.</b> 11451 New Farrington Ct. Glen Allen, VA 23059 (H) 752-7879      | Marshal     |
| <b>Bro. Bernard L. Adams Jr.</b> 706 N. 27 <sup>th</sup> St. Richmond, VA 23223-6506 (C) 517-9038 | Tyler       |

## COMMITTEES

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – Wor. Keith Winder, Wor. William Bailey, Bro. Bernard Adams Jr.

**FUNERAL COMMITTEE** –All Officers

**ILL and/or DISTRESSED** – Bro. Lee Oppenheim

**PROPERTY** -- Wor. W. Troy Bailey, Wor. William Bailey, Rt. Wor. J. Larry Dixon

**MASONIC HOME AMBASSADOR** – Rt. Wor. Stormy Thorson

**LODGE BLOOD COORDINATOR** - Wor. Skip Brooks

**LODGE INSTRUCTOR of WORK**– Wor. William Heltzel

**225th Anniversary Celebration:** Bro. Lee Oppenheim

**Building Capital Fundraising:** Bro. Link Parikh

**Masons' Hall Rod and Gun Club:** Bro. Mark Anderson

## FROM THE EAST

Brethren of Richmond Randolph No. 19,

I thank you again for the honor of being elect Worshipful Master of Richmond Randolph No. 19 this past December. My post installation comments given at the last Stated Communication have been included in the Trestleboard and online for those who were not present or if you wish to review them in detail. Many of the thank yous and outline for the coming year were posted in that speech, so I will not repeat them here. Please pay attention to the calendar, as we have several activities planned prior to the January Stated Communication.

I am excited to announce the formation of the 225th anniversary celebration committee which will be headed by our Junior Warden, Brother Lee Oppenheim. We will be having a Table Lodge in October and our keynote speaker will be Most Worshipful Eugene Hodges, who has prepared a paper on our namesake, Hon. and MW Edmund Randolph. Other details such as cost, commemorative items and catering will be determined in the near future in order to ensure a packed house. I'm certain the committee will create an event worthy of such an auspicious occasion.

For our January Stated Communication, our deliberation will be initiated by yours truly on the topic of Meditation. To get the most out of our endeavors, I would suggest you come prepared to for open floor discussion on the topic. The February topic will be headed up by our Junior Warden. Also, Brother Link Parikh will be outlining our first Capital Campaign. This effort will be for the sole benefit of supporting Masons' Hall.

Finally Brethren, I have a simple request: If you have a need, a bone to pick or an idea, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I'm not a fan of the Masonic cliché '...your year'. With our efforts to form a 5 year cohesive plan and the fact that this is a collective effort, every year is 'our year'. Let's make the most of our energies staying focused on making the lodge everything we all imagine it can be and kicking off significant improvement to Masons' Hall.

Your WM,  
Paul Dierickx

## Message from the South

Brothers,  
October 2012 will mark the 225th anniversary of our lodge. As such a committee is now being formed to plan and organize this important event. If you would like to assist or share ideas for the table lodge which will be held in October please join me in the planning process. The first meeting will be held December 28th at 6:00 PM in the lodge dining room.

Brethren, as the holiday season is upon us, I encourage each of you to be mindful of drinking and driving. Should any brother require a ride during the holiday season please consider calling myself, 571.480.2693, or any other brother prior to driving yourself.

Finally brothers, should you be made aware of another worthy brother in need of our assistance, prayer or visitation please notify me so the appropriate actions can be taken. 571.480.2693 or

[Lee.Oppenheim@Yahoo.com](mailto:Lee.Oppenheim@Yahoo.com)

Sincerely,  
Lee A. Oppenheim

### **From The Sr. Deacon**

Brethren,

I am proud to move another step to the East as your incoming Senior Deacon, but as Yogi Berra once said, "I have that déjà-vu feeling all over again" as I sat here when Wor Keith Winder was in the East. I look forward to our 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and I am working to have an update to the chronicle of our Lodge's illustrious history. It is a continuing honor to be an officer at Richmond Randolph # 19.

Yours

Michael Joyner

### **From The Jr. Deacon**

Brethren,

To say that It is an honor to be an officer during the 225th year of Richmond Randolph Number 19 would be an understatement. I have been lucky enough to be part of a Lodge for the last year and a half that is striving to be one of the finest Lodges in Virginia and I thank each and every one of its members for the hard work and passion that it takes to accomplish this. As we move into 2012, I look forward to further examining the traditional aspects of Masonry that have been reinstated in our lodge and how we can use these additions as tools to make us better Masons. I also look forward to exploring the concept of the Lodge and what a Lodge truly consist of. While we have in our care a beautiful building that is historic to both Masons and non-Masons alike, too often, we get sidetracked by the preservation of the building and lose site that a Masonic lodge is a group of Masons that come together to better themselves and this can be done in any place at any time. I look forward to the new responsibilities that I have been entrusted with and again thank the Lodge for the support it has given me.

Bro. Travis Oliver

Brethren,

It is indeed an honor to be elected as the Worshipful Master of Richmond Randolph No. 19 during its 225th anniversary and within the confines of this fabled building, Masons' Hall. As with all such declarations, there are many people to thank. It begins with a few of the members of Glen Allen No. 131 where I was raised. RW Donny Kelley and Wor. Joe Parker for taking the time and effort to teach me all three of my catechisms. Since, my time at Masons' Hall, I would like to thank RW Jimi Duke and Wor. Bill Heltzel for making the effort not only to work on the required elements of the Warden's Certificate, but also going above the call of duty by meeting me at my office as to better fit my hectic schedule. Also, RW Jimmy Burton, our class president and being present during our many practices, exemplifications and individual instruction. Finally, I would like to thank the many of you who have inspired me to pursue many avenues within our Masonry that I didn't think would be possible.

Under the skillful and experienced guidance of our most recent Past Master, RW Jimi Duke, we have implemented some aesthetic changes that have been well received this past year. Utilizing real candles for the Lesser Lights, music headed up by Ian Nelson, incense and time for meditation or reflection which allows our minds to expand or adjust to new enlightenment. All of these were done, and will continue, as an enhancement to our individual and group experience as Freemasons. Also, we reinstated the concept of lodge visitation, making 4 official visits this past year. This may not sound like much, but our presence elsewhere has been noticed and well received. These visits are important for several reasons. 1) They extend our Masonic network which can be useful when others are in need, planning events or if we ourselves are in need. Every degree conferred this year has involved Masons from other lodges filling necessary roles, 2) Observing what other lodges do well that we may wish to incorporate, 3) Spreading the message of Observant lodges, Masons' Hall and encouraging all Masons to start or increase philosophical discussions within their meetings. The lodge also started a book club in the 3rd quarter of 2011 which was kicked off by having author and PM, Andrew Hammer as a guest speaker. We are currently on our 3rd book, The Golden Builders for which there will be 3 discussions, with the first being on January 4th.

Looking forward to 2012, we will continue to introduce new elements to our Masonic experience. Before going forward, I want to emphasize a particular word in the previous sentence, WE. Do not allow yourselves to be disillusioned that these new elements were the brainchild of the person who stands before you as a newly installed Master or of someone power hungry and wishing to flex some new sense of entitlement. These concepts have been born of group discussion, for those who chose to participate, and are a collaborative effort of your Officers and others. First up, the execution and understanding of our ritual. The ritual is the crux of what we stand for as Masons and as such, we should strive to do it perfectly and understand the whats and whys within it. The ritual and its encompassed obligations are what set Freemasonry apart from the abundance of organizations vying for your time and money. If we cannot execute or comprehend the ritual or live by our obligations, then we are no different than an Elk, Moose or Flying Squirrel. Every fourth Wednesday at 7pm starting on December 28th, Masons' Hall will be open for practice. Wor. Bill Heltzel has agreed to make himself available and assist us in this pursuit. You should count on being present to learn, hone or scrape off the rust of you ritual knowledge.

There will also be other efforts to help achieve this goal of excellence, such as striving for the Hillman award or individually, working towards the Master Quarryman's Achievement Award and Correspondence Courses. Secondly, in an effort to make the most of your time during Stated meeting days, all business except for the clearing of the Secretary's desk will take place during the breakfast hour. This includes reports from the Treasurer, Sick and Distressed, Building & Grounds and general announcements.

What will we do with the newly acquired time normally taken up by these items? We will continue to blaze the path of being an Observant lodge. Our guiding principal is that Masonry is a philosophical society which demands of its members the highest standards in all areas of its labor. To put it another way, making good men better. Therefore, focusing discussions around making our own ashlar's more perfect. There must be an emphasis on labor. It takes work to make things happen. There is no entitlement to the achievements we seek for our lodge. These achievements we collectively seek cannot be obtained by being the same as every other fraternal organization in the world. Each month, someone will present a topic and an open debate on the floor will ensue. This topic will be published in advance allowing the Brethren to do their own research in preparation for enlightening others and being enlightened. This my Brothers, is what is missing in Masonry for so many of us.

As we are all aware, our temple, Masons' Hall, is in need of many things. Over the course of our multi-year plan, we will introduce several initiatives to ensure she remains a Masonic icon for another 227 years. Next month we will introduce a Capital Fundraising campaign. Link Parikh will head up this effort and we will provide all of the details in a month.

In addition to the aforementioned items there will be a focus on our interactions with one another. Keeping ourselves within the confines of our obligations and remaining centered in the circle bounded by the Holy Saints John and the Book of Constitutions. Not doing so would simply highlight the lack of intimacy between the Brothers of this lodge. We must learn to subdue our passions and Truly, agree to disagree, absent the harsh feelings that so often perpetuate disagreements or points of view among the Profane. My favorite example is Wor. Bill Bailey and I. Bill and I have worked on this building for countless days together during the past few years, usually on my Friday off from work. Mowing the grass, resetting the fence posts, cleaning, etc. During that time I've come to know Bill, his love for this building and his continuing personal obstacles. Yet, he never complains and as he told me some time ago 'I too have the bug' when it comes to caring for Masons' Hall. Some time back I broached the subject of the Chamber of Reflection. Later on, I provided Bill with a written description of one such Chamber's implementation. He came back to me a month later, after reviewing the write up, and upon further reflection, explained to me his perception of the Chamber and why he was not in support of it. Despite his objection, the lodge proceeded with the implementation of just such a Chamber of Reflection. Now, if this were a normal interaction, it could have created a rift between Bill and I. However, this is a case where two Just and Upright Masons simply did not agree on a singular topic and nothing more. I still have the utmost respect for Wor. Bill and based on our interactions since our initial discussion months ago, he harbors no negative opinion of me for supporting this one idea. And thus, this is how it should be. We may not see eye to eye on every topic, but we should keep paramount our obligations to one another and the Craft. Unlike others, we should not shy away from differing opinions. Just the opposite, we should embrace them. How else can we claim to have an informed opinion and also have the opportunity to change our own minds?

Finally, we're going to have fun. Anyone who knows me knows I like to have fun. This year we celebrate our 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To commemorate this, we will have a Table Lodge in October. Also, in August we'll travel to RW Jimi Duke's home state, to be a part of Union Lodge's Annual Cave degree weekend. I attended this event in 2008 and I can attest it'll be quite a bit of fun and a learning experience seeing other Grand Jurisdictions' degree work. This August we will go to the Cave degree weekend to observe and have great fellowship. In 2014, thanks to the Past Grand Master of Tennessee who manages the annual event, Richmond Randolph No. 19 will have the honor of exemplifying the Master Masons degree, as the center piece of the Cave Degree weekend. Brothers from around the world will be able to enjoy the fruits of our labor to come.

Interspersed throughout the year we will have dinners with our spouses and a family day. I happen to know a fantastic BBQ caterer (our very own Secretary) who would fit the bill well for such an occasion. Mark Anderson has agreed to head up our Masons' Hall Rod and Gun Club. Mark has committed to organizing or linking us into already organized events throughout the year.

In conclusion, do not think that I am ignorant of the challenges set before us. Some may disagree with our efforts and chose to part ways. Some of our initiatives may fall flat on their face and fail miserably. But I say to you, do not give credence to such things. Failure is a part of the human nature of success and if we try to make everyone happy, we will end up serving no one. I challenge you: If you object, speak firmly and not behind closed doors. If you can do better, step forward and let your actions show us the way. We will welcome both, as we all have the same set of goals – make this body of good men better and to save this wonderful building from the decay of time. Use this lodge's humble beginnings as a starting point to appreciate the obstacles that have already been overcome in the past 225 years. That starting point was the number Three. In Masonry, Three is a powerful number and has many applications. In the case of Richmond Randolph No. 19, the number three has a unique value. It was just 3 brave souls from Richmond No. 10, who ventured beyond their comfort level and founded this lodge. Each of us should strive to be as brave in all aspects of Masonry and our lives as our three lodge founders.

I thank you again for this honor and again encourage you to be vocal in your Masonry.

Your WM,  
Paul Dierickx

## **LIVING PAST MASTERS**

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Norman Cox 1956        | William Bailey 2001  |
| McClellan Burgess 1966 | Joseph Gardner 2003  |
| Robert Bedell 1971     | William Bailey 2004  |
| Lothar Bernhard 1988   | Barrye Absher 2005   |
| James Burton 1990      | Thomas Breeden 2006  |
| J. Larry Dixon 1995    | Wade Evans 2007      |
| W. Troy Bailey 1996    | E. Keith Winder 2008 |
| Anthony Pearce 1997    | C. Thomas Sykes 2009 |
| William Bailey 1998    | William Heltzel 2010 |

## **LIFE MEMBERS IN PERPITUITY**

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rt. Wor. Barrye Absher  | Bro. Anthony Pearse       |
| Bro. Ronnie Childs      | Rt. Wor. Charles Sarbaugh |
| Bro. Paul Dierickx      | Bro. Chris Shuman         |
| Rt. Wor. James Duke Jr. | Wor. C. Thomas Sykes      |
| Wor. William Heltzel    | Bro. Curtis Thompson      |
| Bro. Douglas Mack       |                           |

## **Honorary Members**

Most Wor. Frederick Martin III  
Rt. Wor. J. Larry Dixon  
Wor. William Bailey  
Wor. W. Troy Bailey

## **60 yr members**

Wor. Norman Cox  
Bro. James Currie

## **50 yr members**

Bro. McClellan Burgess  
Bro. Horrace Dowdy  
Bro. Raymond Durvin Sr.  
Bro. Kyle Epperly  
Bro. Edward Griggs Jr.  
Bro. Walter Henry Jr.  
Bro. Henry Hester Jr.  
Bro. John Kuester  
Bro. James Price

