

Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A. F. & A. M.

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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*The Master's Trestleboard
April 2021*

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"UNITED WE STAND"

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147th Year
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Tiler Emeritus
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LIVING PAST MASTERS OF LAKE DRUMMOND LODGE NO. 178

S.D. Archer – 1981	K.P. Strickland – 1991	W.R. Manier – 2005	W.M. Mutter – 2015
R.B. Holmes – 1982	W. R. Manier – 1995	R.G. McEvoy – 2006	J.W. Conroy, Jr. – 2016
H.M. Hatfield – 1984	G.R. Tester – 1996*	R.D. Reed – 2008	D.L. Bagley – 2017
R.S. Best – 1985	P.W. Morley, Jr. – 1998	K.W. Strickland - 2009	J.W. Snow – 2018
+J.V. Matthews, Jr. – 1986	T.W. Magas – 1999*	K.E. Stephens, Jr. – 2010	H.P. Strickland – 2019
L.P. Fields – 1987	+H. C. Slaughter, Sr. – 2000	K.L. Hobbs, Jr. – 2011	R.S. Anderson – 2020
C.R. Jefferson – 1988	R.L. McDaniel – 2001	R.T. Smith – 2012	
M.B. Joyner – 1989	+M.F. Mansfield – 2003*	C.A. Allsbrook – 2013	
G.E. Brown – 1990	+F.T. Whittington, Sr. – 2004	H.P. Strickland – 2014	

+ - denotes PDDGM, * - denotes demitted

LIVING MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST MASTERS OF OTHER MASONIC LODGES

J.V. Matthews, Jr., PDDGM-NC	Garland #664, NC	1997-2001
A.W. Densley	Princess Anne #25	2012
G.L. Hanson	Edmond #37, OK	2018

LIVING AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS

F.N. Boalt	Ancon Lodge – Balboa, Rep. of Panama	1981
B. R. Faulkner, PDDGM-SC	Solomon's #1, SC	1976, 1999, 2008
	Old Fort #420, SC	1981, 1982, 2016
	Egeria #71, SC	2014
T.S. Ferrell	Great Bridge #257	2009
W.E. Irving, PDDGM	Great Bridge #257	1984
F.E. Small	Elizabeth #34	1995
R.G. Underdown	Campbell #316	1981
B.H. Wilson, PDDGM	South Norfolk #339	1990, 2013

Master's Message

Right Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, and Brethren all, as we move into April I feel that things are improving. Soon we will all be able to meet and enjoy the fellowship that we all miss and long to return to. Masonry will endure and was made for hardships such as this. It teaches us to be kind to one another, to be charitable when necessary, to love our neighbors as we do each other, and to hold onto the faith that things will get better. As we look upon the walls in our dining hall we are surrounded by a visual representation of struggle, turmoil, and the fortitude to move forward during even the darkest of circumstances. Our lodge was formed shortly after the United States Civil War. It has survived several wars including: World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, the "Cold War," Gulf War, and the Afghanistan / Iraq wars; and has survived multiple pandemics including: Yellow Fever, Flu pandemic of 1889, Polio, Spanish Flu, Mumps, Swine Flu, Zika virus, and currently Covid-19. Lake Drummond has survived all of the adversities, set-backs, atrocities, and heartbreak that come from these wars and plagues. Why do you think that has been possible? The answer is simple, the Masonic Brethren. As Masons we hold onto what is right, and we move forward with the knowledge that what is important we will keep relevant. We will make the sacrifices to keep our beloved fraternity moving forward even when things appear bleak. What matters the most to us, we take care of. What is important to us will endure. The lessons of Freemasonry become most relevant and important during times of struggle, hardship, and strife. This is what masonry was made for. As we prepare to meet again in-person I ask all of our brethren to make the extra effort to call a Brother, check on the distressed and pray for our country, our Fraternity, and our neighbors.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Paul A. Wotring
Worshipful Master

From the West

Greetings from the West,

As we look forward to the Spring weather and the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, let us remember to keep our guard up and stay healthy and safe by practicing good hygiene, maintain physical distance and wearing your mask when within 6ft of others for prolonged periods. If you need assistance, any other the Lodge Officers are available to help. Most of all during this period of rebirth and renewal, let us remember our obligations to our Brethren and families, and lend assistance when needed.

Bro. Billy Phelps, Senior Warden

Brethren: The Grand Master has issued guidance relaxing COVID Restrictions: Lodges able to meet in-person with up to 50 in attendance. It is hopeful that meals will be able to be served soon. CDC safety measures are still in effect, face masks must be worn, physical distancing, and use hand sanitizer, etc. Degree work will be able to continue as well. Let's get back to Lodge at our April Stated while we enjoy Wor. W.M. "Billy" Mutter as our Speaker.

From the South

Greetings from the South Brethren,

It looks like we will be opening our doors to many more brothers for our April stated. This is exciting news not only because we are one step closer to normalcy, but also because we have petitions to be read. Good men are ready to knock at the West Gate and we will need degree teams this summer making Masons out of our candidates. I hope everyone found a way to enjoy their down time, I for one am eager to pick up where we left off and make this year something great.

Bro. Adam Drake, Junior Warden

Quote of the Month

"Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and grieves which we endure help us in our marching onward." ~ Bro. Henry Ford

Moment of Light from Wor. Chris Allsbrook

"Ruth Meets Boaz"

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." So, she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So, she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest." Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my Lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants." And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her." So, she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So, she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." So, she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Ruth 2:1-23 ESV

Components of Masonry

F I D D A B Y R N O S A M E E R F
 Y E E K N U G Y T I R A H C L W U
 C F E J B I J N Z C O M P A S S Z
 N L J E D L K K I P S J P R T N Y
 L O K A A D K H W L W K E L W U E
 L Y R L O E W L L E E H V C U R X
 E O O P V R O O T Z T V P G A M N
 V G J R A S Z J O O C C A U M O S
 E T E M P L E M R C F T Q R M O B
 L Y A K V D F B T X C S F O T Z H
 C O D U Y L I C M S Z O L A N E O
 N U E B G L R A J X H O W P I D P
 Y M Y A L E V A G X S C Y U K T E
 Z T U E N L I G H T E N M E N T H
 V G I Y G E X Y O J V E E Y J V W
 E R C N S A L N S E R Z N H G T B
 S J O A U G U S O K C K A H W K F

APRON	BROTHER	BUILDERS
CHARITY	COMPASS	ENLIGHTENMENT
FAITH	FREEMASONRY	GAUGE
GAVEL	HOPE	LEVEL
PLUM	SOLOMON	SQUARE
TEMPLE	TRAVELING	UNITY

This Month in Masonic History

- April 04, 1778: Voltaire initiated in "Les Neuf Soeurs" Paris, Conducted by Benjamin Franklin and Count Gebelin.
- April 05, 1886: Rudyard Kipling received his 1st degree.
- April 08, 1790: The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was constituted.
- April 19, 1787: The Grand Lodge of Maryland was formed.
- April 18, 1850: The Grand Lodge of California was formed.
- April 20, 1884: Pope Leo XIII issued a famous Papal Bull against Freemasonry, titled Humanum Genus.
- April 21, 1821: The Grand Lodge of Missouri was founded.
- April 22, 1785: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart received his 3rd degree.
- April 24, 1901: President Theodore Roosevelt received his 3rd degree.
- April 28, 1738: Pope Clement XII issued the first Papal Bull attacking Freemasonry.
- April 28, 1840: The Grand Lodge of Illinois was formed.

Masonic Trivia

Test your Masonic knowledge with a few random trivia questions.

Questions:

Q1: Which U.S. President and Freemason died 3 hours after he was scheduled to give a speech to the Knights Templar in Hollywood, California?

Q2: Which Federal scout and Indian fighter was raised a Master Mason in the Platte Valley Lodge No. 32 in Nebraska?

Q3: Who were the first two Freemasons to travel in the Dakota Territory?

Q4: Which Mason led the Marine Corp Band in the 1880's?

Q5: Which General and Freemason said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away?"

Answers:

- A1:** President Warren Harding
- A2:** William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody
- A3:** Lewis and Clark
- A4:** John Phillip Sousa
- A5:** General Douglas MacArthur



◀ March 2021	April 2021						May 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 Berkley 167	2	3 Hampton Roads York Rite College 95 (Virtual)	
4 Easter Sunday	5	6 South Norfolk 339	7 Lake Drummond Officer Meeting Officer Practice Discuss Barbeque Fundraiser	8 Lake Drummond 178 Wor. Billy Mutter – speaker	9	10 C. Frank Hicks' Ritual School (POSTPONED)	
11 Lake Drummond Ritual School	12 Parkerson Ritual School (56 District) (POSTPONED)	13 Doric 44	14	15 Lake Drummond Zoom Meeting	16	17 Lodge Clean-up work party small cookout to follow (tentative)	
18	19	20 Indian River 252	21	22 Lake Drummond Work Night TBA	23	24 Lake Drummond Spring Barbeque Fundraiser MOVED TO MAY 22	
25 Lake Drummond Ritual School	26	27 Cradock RAC No. 72 (In-person and Zoom)	28 Great Bridge 257	29 Lake Drummond Family Night	30	Notes:	

Brethren, during this time of uncertainty please verify meeting dates and know that things are subject to change.

In Memoriam

Brother Guy Boyce Walters Raised – Feb. 16, 1984 Died – March 16, 2021

Sunshine Committee Report

Please keep our sick and distressed raised up in your thoughts and prayers. The best thing that you can do for someone is to pray for them. If you know of a Brother, widow, or family member that is sick, injured, or distressed, please inform either the Sunshine Committee, or one of your Lodge officers. We want to ensure we are praying for every need any of our Lodge members may face. In this unprecedented time, we need to readily reach out to one another and share each other's burdens. All reported needs will only be shared based on the privacy and discretion requested by each member.

Get Well Cards	Thinking of You
Wor. William "Billy" Mutter, Knee recovery Bro. Ron Hepler's Wife Terrie Hepler, In ICU Bro. Gregory "Gus" Gustafson, Back and Heart Bro. Edward Corona's wife Marie Corona, Stroke	Right Wor. Boyd Wilson, Loss of his wife Bro. David Sammon, Medical Issues Wor. Bobby Jefferson, Medical Issues Wor. Luke McCoy, Surgery Recovery Bro. Ron Hepler, Medical Issues Wor. William "Bill" Manier, Loss of sister Wor. Raymond Anderson, Neck Issues

A Masonic Journey

Each month we will spotlight a different Mason. We will tell his Masonic story, what brought him to Freemasonry, his most remembered masonic moment, his thoughts, his accomplishments, his dreams. We will learn about members of our Lodge by spotlighting different Masons each month. This month I would like to spotlight a mason that has inspired me, **Brother Ronald Lee Hepler**.

Brother Ronald Lee Hepler was born October 1, 1960 and grew up in Alexandria, VA until his father, a United States Marine, was reassigned to Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA. Ron attended and graduated from Western Branch High School in 1978. He didn't know it at the time, but that is where he first met his wife to be. She left for Lynchburg to attend college at Liberty, and Ron attended at Old Dominion University in Norfolk. When his High School friend returned from college, he ran into her again. She and Ron were married in 1987 and have spent 34 wonderful years together.

Ron was first exposed to masonry by his father who was a member of Naval Lodge No. 100 in Portsmouth. As his father was learning his Fellowcraft catechism, he died unexpectedly. This caused Ron to have an interest in freemasonry. He first worked as a surveyor/ contractor and then got a job with the City of Chesapeake in 1980 where he remained for 32 years, retiring in 2012. While working in Chesapeake he made some good friends; Brothers Steve and Mike Best, Rt. Wor. Henry Parker, and Rt. Wor. James "Jim" Morgan. They took young Ron Hepler under their wing and eventually helped to shape his masonic career. Bro. Jim Morgan was a signer on his petition. Bro. Ronald Hepler was initiated an EA on May 15, 1983, was passed to Fellowcraft on August 18, 1983, and was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 26, 1983. He was one of the first two Masons raised at the current location of Lake Drummond No. 178. He went through his Catechisms with Bro. Glen Brown.

Bro. Hepler has enjoyed being a mason for almost 39 years. He said that it has taught him how to solve and handle problems, using the Holy Bible as a rule and Masonry as his guide. "All problems can be solved using just those principals." When asked what he would say to a prospective member, he responded "Masonry is a family and a brotherhood that makes you a better person, better at decision making, and better as a family man." He said that newly raised Masons should not be afraid to ask questions and learn all they can. During his Masonic career he has been a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine. He has since demitted from both, not wanting to divide his time from the "Blue Lodge," where he said that his ideals and thoughts were better aligned. When asked if he would do it all again, he quickly responded "Oh yeah, definitely! It is hard to understand why there are not more Masons than what there are today." The thing that stands out the most is the sense of togetherness, brotherhood, and the willingness of others to reach out and help each other and their families. He stated that he loves Masonry and wouldn't change any part of it. "I always look forward to the fellowship, friendship, and meals."

Bro. Hepler loves to serve others. He enjoyed his time with the City of Chesapeake and after he retired, he still wanted to serve his community. He became a member of FEMA in 2012 and served until his health began failing in 2017. He has had a below the knee amputation, as well as a couple of toes on the other foot, and is currently on dialysis. While this has slowed him down a little bit, it has not stopped him from trying to make the most of each day. He recently received a prosthetic leg and has had his vehicle configured with hand controls. He said that Masonry has helped him through these struggles by prayers, phone calls, and friendships that help to brighten his days, including Bro. Gene Klemp, who has called him religiously throughout these difficulties.

Please pray for Bro. Hepler's wife, who is currently in the Intensive Care unit at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. She is having oxygen saturation issues and is in kidney failure. Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers.

April Masonic Birthdays

Join us in wishing these Brethren a Happy Masonic Birthday!

Wor. F.N. Boalt - April 9, 1962 - 59 years
Bro. R.L. Bass - April 29, 1965 - 56 years
Bro. C.C. Molleen - April 6, 1967 - 54 years
Bro. J.E. Dixon - April 14, 1970 - 51 years
Bro. R.M. White - April 5, 1973 - 48 years
Bro. F.J. Ifko, Jr. - April 22, 1982 - 39 years
Bro. W.J. Boyd - April 25, 1985 - 36 years
Rt. Wor. B.H. Wilson - April 30, 1985 - 36 years
Bro. J.V. Matthews, III - April 3, 1986 - 35 years
Bro. T.L. Manier - April 4, 1991 - 30 years
Bro. M.D. Eberhardt - April 2, 1994 - 27 years

Bro. D.F. Patrick, Jr. - April 24, 1997 - 24 years
Wor. A.W. Densley - April 28, 2005 - 16 years
Bro. B.L. Williams, Jr. - April 5, 2007 - 14 years
Bro. J.R. Gettier - April 19, 2007 - 14 years
Wor. C.A. Allsbrook - April 1, 2008 - 13 years
Bro. D.K. Sammon - April 22, 2010 - 11 years
Bro. T.A. Lucas - April 28, 2011 - 10 years
Bro. G.T. Gustafson - April 18, 2012 - 9 years
Bro. C.D. Brill - April 4, 2013 - 8 years
Bro. R.L. Bagley - April 16, 2015 - 6 years

596 Total Years in Freemasonry

Uplifting Moments

Celebrations from a far, separate but together, let us share the great milestones that our Brethren have and are experiencing. No matter how big or small, every positive event should be celebrated. let any officers know of items you feel may be noteworthy!

Wor. Henry P. Strickland and his wife Brooke welcomed the birth of their daughter Josephine "JJ" Strickland on Feb. 19, 2021.

Lake Drummond would like to give a special thank you to Bro. Norman Strickland, Bro. Bobby Allen, and Brother Marshall "Bubba" Tatem Jr. for their work cleaning and redoing the Kitchen.

Lake Drummond would like to give a special thank you to Bro. Tony Reynolds and Bro. Raymond Bagley for assisting with extensive repairs to a fellow Brothers driveway.

Fundraising

With the relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, the Lodge will hold our Spring Barbecue Fundraiser on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from noon until 5:00 PM. Tickets will be going out the second week of April. Barbecue dinners will be available to-go for \$10.00

Pledge cards are being sent to each member to help raise funds to offset building repairs and maintenance. Donations and/or pledges of any amount are greatly appreciated, and certain levels will receive various recognition. Each member will receive a Lake Drummond Lodge face mask as gift from the Lodge.

