



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

On July 18, 2009, members of Ruth Lodge No. 89 (Norfolk) along with other Tidewater Masons traveled to Arlington to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This event was spearheaded by Right Worshipful Robert McBride, Chairman of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Public Relations. Masons from around the Commonwealth met at Arlington Cemetery along with members of the DeMolay to pay respect to our veterans.

The highlight of the day was when Rt. Wor. Robert McBride and Rt. Wor. Fred R. Dixon, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 35-A led the contingent of Masons in the placing of the wreath at the foot of the Tomb. 41 Master Masons were present for the wreath laying along with 9 DeMolays. The Masons assembled in the center of the crowd with their jewels, aprons, and gloves on and presented a shining example of our patriotic ideals to those assembled.



Paying respect to the Unknown Soldier during the playing of Taps after the laying of the wreath.



The wreath in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Virginia Masonic Herald Supplement

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How Strong is Your Chain?

CHAIN: *A series of things linked, connected, or associated together; fetter, or to fasten, bind or connect with or as if with a chain.*

I suppose we have all been part of a group solving a task and have been exposed to the idea that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This has been coined in the arena of motivational speeches for decades. Now take these two chains - one is plastic and the other is steel. Which one do you want to restrain a tiger at the circus?

Reflecting upon this fact, I hope we can all agree that in order for success to occur we must match the chain to the task. For instance, you don't use a logging chain to suspend a fern from the ceiling anymore than you would use a plastic decorative chain to move a log. Knowing what to use and when to use it is essential to achieving a positive result. There are also mental chains connecting us to some object or person, which we usually call obligations. Sometimes we rename these obligations. The marital chain, which some people call a ball and chain, is another name for connectivity, loyalty, and affection seasoned with submission. Chains anchor our lives to meaningful objects, situations, and people.

But, they also hold us back. Take for instance the elephant. It only takes a small lighter-than-expected chain to restrain an elephant, because the elephant has been taught from its early development that the chain on its leg defines its boundary. My dog on the other hand has had a leash on his collar and still thinks he's supposed to go the opposite way.

What is the strength of your chain to the Craft? Do you have a strong chain of commitment to seeing the Craft prosper or a lightweight plastic chain easily flexed and often broken? No one can measure your chain but you. However, the effectiveness of your chain is evident to all in your level of performance.

You see this is why we are so motivated to participate in meetings, events, and programs. One of the strongest means of developing that strong chain is through mentoring each other. By mentoring, truly mentoring, a Brother, we develop those strong chains of commitment. Your Lodge's newsletters, the fellowship we share, our times when we can set together to learn from each other are all types of mentoring. Every time you hold an officer meeting and discuss the management of the Lodge is and will be a mentoring situation for someone in the group, possibly you, and your chain will be strengthened. Look upon these opportunities as wonderful learning experiences not just something you feel obligated to perform. Many things will come before you to manage as a successful member of this Craft. Take the time, now, to learn how to manage them. The effort you spend in developing the strong chain of commitment will lead you one day to say, "I am so glad I stayed connected to my Lodge."

Fraternally,

Grand Master

Grand Master's Calendar

AUGUST

- 18 Nansemond Lodge No. 77
- 19 James Stanley Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament
- 20 Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 and Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, Unification Night
- 22 Dedication of Millboro Lodge No. 28
- 24 Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54, Table Lodge
- 28 Babcock Lodge No. 322

SEPTEMBER

- 1 McAllister Lodge No. 185
- 2 James Stanley Johnson Golf Tournament - rain date
- 3 Treadwell Lodge No. 213, Outdoor Lodge
- 5 Hiram Club Installation Ball
- 9 MAHoVA Board Meeting
SP&I Committee Meeting
- 11-12 Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association, Virginia Beach
- 17 South Atlantic Shrine Association, Virginia Beach
- 19 Wor. John Stewart Dunn Memorial Grand Lodge Reunion
- 19 Prince Hall Grand Annual Communication, Richmond
- 24-25 Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 25-27 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference, Virginia Beach



Discovering our Potential

Great Night in Norfolk

August 13, 2009 was a great night for Freemasonry and particularly Virginia Masonry. Owens Lodge No. 164 (Norfolk) had 108 Brethren in attendance at their August stated communication! That was members and visitors combined, which is more than they had at their last annual communication. There was a scrumptious dinner served and then we went upstairs for the meeting.

It was Senior Warden's night and by many accounts he did a superb job. The biggest attractions though were the two Travelling Gavels. Naomi Lodge No. 87 (Norfolk) captured the Masonic District 35-A Travelling Gavel and Victory Daylight Lodge No. 1778 (Norfolk) captured the Statewide Traveling Gavel. But wait, here is the best part. Victory Daylight Lodge had 24 Brethren present; Norview Lodge No. 113 (Norfolk) was runner up with 21 present including Most Worshipful William Lee Holliday (2000) and Grand Treasurer; furthermore, Great Bridge Lodge No. 257 (Chesapeake) and Naomi both had big numbers too! Can you believe those numbers? It was a truly enjoyable evening and many Brethren said so.

As a side note, the Statewide Travelling Gavel will be up for grabs at Victory Daylight Lodge's September stated communication, which will be on September 12, 2009 at 10:00AM.



Mission and Vision Statements of The Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia

The **mission** of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to teach and perpetuate a way of life that promotes the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and to assist its Lodges to grow and prosper.

The **vision** of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to be the premier organization composed of men of integrity and character, who are honest, true to their word, believe in God, are devoted to family, charitable in their community, and courteous and helpful to each other.

Committee on Membership Update

By Rt. Wor. William E. Hershey, Chairman

Brethren, this month I want to share with you a couple items that I will term “Success Stories” from Brethren around the State. The information I will relay to you in the following paragraphs is testimony to me that our efforts to “Discover Our Potential,” with regards to membership are paying off. First let me tip the hat to Brother Raymond “Mickey” Moats, the District Membership Coordinator (DMC) for Masonic District 3. Using tools provided by the Membership Committee and other items of information he has downloaded from the Grand Lodge’s website, Brother Moats has presented Membership Programs in all of the Lodges in Masonic District 3. While this is a laudable accomplishment in itself, with the consent of Right Worshipful Larry Cave, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 5, Brother Moats has presented Membership Programs to Lodges in Masonic District 5, where a DMC is yet to be designated. Thank you Brothers Moats and Cave for your support of the Membership Program.

In another part of the state, Brother Les Kahn, DMC for Masonic District 14-A reports he has spoken at each Lodge in Masonic District 14-A, encouraging them to invite perspective candidates to a “Bring A Friend Night (BAFN),” but to also invite them to social functions being hosted by their Lodge. He goes on to inform me that a most successful event was a Joint BAFN sponsored by all the Lodges in Districts 14-A and 14-B. This event was hosted by Warwick Lodge No. 336 (Newport News), and held on a Saturday. The turnout was very impressive with 60 Brethren and potential candidates in attendance. As a result of the event, six petitions were received and to date three of these six have been accepted and candidates are in various stages of receiving their degrees. I see the six petitions as important but what is more important is the way the Brethren of Districts 14-A and 14-B came together to “Discover Their Potential.”

The invitations for this event included families of the Brethren and the potential candidates. This presented a picture of Freemasonry as a vibrant organization to the candidates. After the presentation, light refreshments were served and the event lasted just under two hours. The event was well received by the Brethren and as a result, plans are being made to repeat this event in the fall.

Moving on to Masonic District 17, Brother Brian LaFontaine has shared with me a few things the District has done. First, they have established a District Telephone Tree. Phone calls are automatically made to individual Lodge members reminding them of meetings and Lodge events. Calls are placed to all of the Brethren in the District informing them of events such as degree work, District meetings, and notices of importance (death, illness, etc.). Masonic District 17 has been hosting BAFN as a District for several years and recently hosted a District BAFN on August 11, 2009. They send letters of “Welcome” to each candidate upon being voted to receive the degrees as well as after each degree. Similar letters are also mailed to the candidate’s wife, so she will understand Freemasonry and her husband’s involvement.

These Brethren continue to “Discover Their Potential” putting Masonry in front of the public. They prepare and serve food for the Batteau Festival on the river, they conduct Child ID programs in all of their County schools, and one Lodge has a hamburger/hotdog concession stand at a summer concert series every Friday night throughout the summer. The District has two banners that can be used by these Lodges to bring Freemasonry to sight of all who attend these various events.

Brethren, I could go on with other District and Lodge success stories but I want to stop writing before you stop reading. The message I want to leave you with is that our efforts to showcase Freemasonry and promote membership growth and retention are limited only by our desire to get out there and work to make it happen. Membership growth and retention is directly related to the effort the Lodge is willing to put into these programs. What are you doing to help your Lodge discover its potential?

Let me know if I can help.

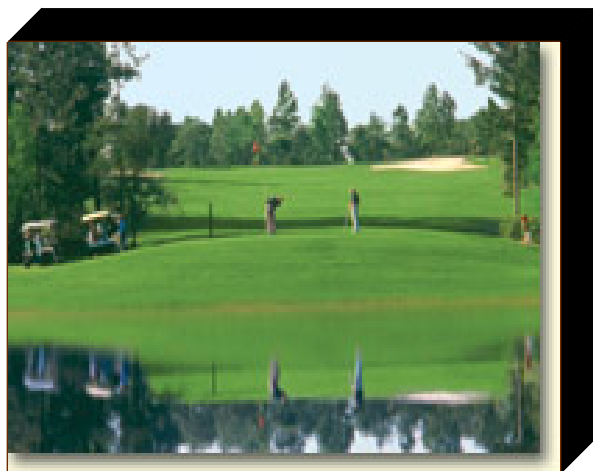


AMARANTH FIGHTS DIABETES GOLF OUTING

Colonial Heritage Golf Club

Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

August 29, 2009 8:30 A.M.



Sponsored by:
**The Grand Court
Order of the Amaranth
Commonwealth of Virginia**

**Open to ALL Players
Ladies & Gents
Individual & Team**

**Come join in the fun and help raise funds to
find a cure for Diabetes.**

**Shotgun Start (8:30am), Captains Choice
Lunch and Prizes**

\$80.00

(Golf, Cart, Lunch, Practice Balls, and More)

4 Mulligans

\$20.00 per person

Hole Sponsorship

\$10.00 per person

\$40.00 per team

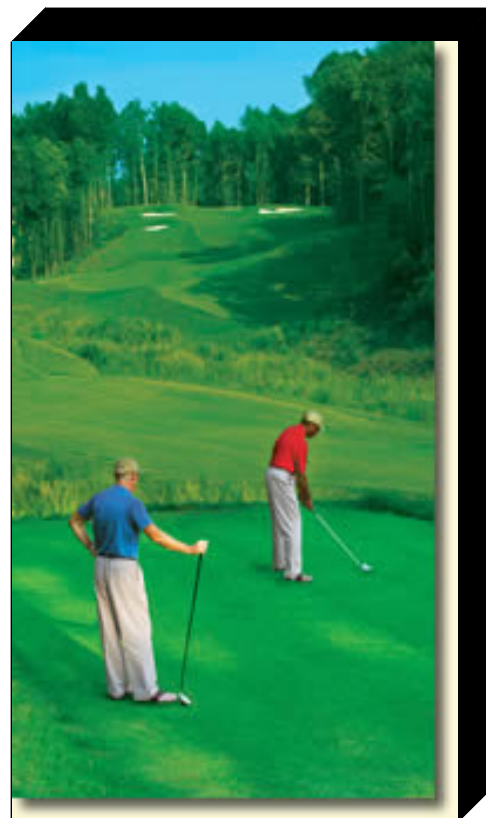
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The Virginia DeMolay Alumni Association
is proudly hosting the

*Howard Sebel Class
of Honorary DeMolays
for 2009*

If you support the ideals of:

**Love of Parents, Reverence, Courtesy, Comradeship,
Fidelity, Cleanness and Patriotism**

and were never a DeMolay then come become an Honorary DeMolay *

**This class is open to Master Masons (and adult males over 21 who have the Executive Officers approval) who never assumed the vows of DeMolay in their youth.*

Initiation fee: \$85.00 (payable to VA DeMolay Alumni Association) include:

- Pre-Degree Luncheon
- Initiatory and DeMolay Degrees
- Lifetime membership in the VA DeMolay Alumni Association
 - Sponsorship of a new DeMolay member

Sunday, October 4, 2009

The Kena Shrine Temple
9001 Arlington Blvd
Fairfax Virginia 22031

Luncheon 1 PM Degrees 2 PM.

Mail registrations & checks to:

Jim Schimmel

7705 Stone Wheat Court, Alexandria, VA 22315

**Luncheon only is \$10.00 pp. Register for "Lunch Only" via
james.schimmel@cox.net with number attending.**

For further info please contact Jim Schimmel at 703-971-0442 or 703-593-4761