



Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alpina in Switzerland Visits Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4



Photograph by William J. Baumbach, II

Most Worshipful Bruno Welti (fourth from the right) and his Officers, who were in attendance, of the Grand Lodge of Alpina in Switzerland posed for a picture at the end of the evening's festivities. Also in attendance were Most Worshipful Donald Maynard Robey (1987) (far left) and Most Worshipful John P. "Buck" Buchanan (2002-2003 Grand Master of American-Canadian Grand Lodge in Germany) (far right). Worshipful Shelton Sanford Mackey, III, (center) Worshipful Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 informed everybody that the Grand Lodge Officers and their ladies were deeply moved by the hospitality of every Brethren that came that night to represent their Lodge and district. The Grand Master felt as if we had welcomed each of them into our family.

Grand Master's Address



Virginia Masonic Herald Supplement

Posted monthly for the Brethren of Virginia

M.:W.: William E. Rorer, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

M.:W.: Alan W. Adkins
Associate Editor

R.:W.: David A. Burkus
Chairman & Editor

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R.:W.: David A. Burkus, Editor
Grand Lodge of Virginia
757.469.6727 (H)
757.967.2616 (W)
e-mail: vmheditor@gmail.com

*Mailing Address of Grand Lodge:
Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia
4115 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA 23223-4926
804.222.3110*

e-mail:
grandsecretary@grandlodgeofvirginia.org

Dear Brethren,

How swiftly the sands of time pass, part one. It is really hard to believe that a quarter of my term has expired. I have been so impressed with the number of Brothers coming out to have a good time with their Masonic Brothers and when appropriate, their families. I am sure that the fact I am there is just an excuse to enjoy each other's love of Freemasonry and the fruits of our brotherhood in its purest form. I see at these events Brothers renewing friendships and have heard that Brothers who have, for one reason or another, gotten out of the habit of attending Lodge are returning to enjoy the programs of Masonic ritual and education that have been added to the meetings of old. I also have heard of Brothers checking on Brothers who use to come to Lodge to see how they were doing and to let them know how much they were missed. At the district visits, I see more and more Brothers and their wives traveling from district visit to district visit making new Masonic friends who they would not have met otherwise. I am seeing younger members coming into our Craft than before. Also, I see more family members becoming a part of the Fraternity. These things are exciting to me. I have been in Lodges that have the purest ritual one could ever experience and have heard brief Masonic Lodge programs where I have learned things I did not know. I continue to see that brotherly love for a Brother circumscribes all un-Masonic desires, that Brothers are working to strengthen the Craft and are living daily the lives that a Freemason is obligated to live. All of these things have given this Grand Master great joy.

Unfortunately, we have also seen many a good Brother lay down his working tools for the last time in this Terrestrial Lodge during this quarter. Many of these Brothers were Masonic ritualists, Masonic educators, and/or Masonic leaders. I sincerely hope that the seeds they have sown through the years will inspire those who they have touched to follow in their footsteps, so the legacy they have left us will never fade away. Some I knew as close friends, some as acquaintances, and some I did not know at all, but all I knew by what they had done for the Fraternity in the Lodges and districts in which they labored.

In their midst, there was one Past Grand Master. Most Worshipful John Robert Dean was the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1992 and his theme was, "A Touch of Class." Brother Bob and I had many wonderful memories and I shall always cherish the "Bill Who" nickname he gave me.

Before he became so ill, he was fundamental in putting together the Southwestern Virginia Masonic Home Outreach Gala which will occur August 28, 2010 in Abingdon, Virginia. This event will now be billed as the "Most Worshipful John Robert Dean Gala, A Benefit for Masonic Home Outreach" in his honor. The proceeds of this charitable event will help assist qualified Brethren, their wives and widows to be able to continue living in their homes when this would not be possible for them otherwise. This program was originally started to assist members in the Craft living in the six Masonic districts in the southwestern-most parts of Virginia.

William E. Rorer, Jr.
Grand Master



Grand Master's Calendar

“Forget Not the Children”

MARCH

- 16 Nansemond Lodge No. 77
- 17 Tri-State Shrine Club Meeting, Bridgeville, DE
- 18 Cherrydale Lodge No. 42
- 19 DLC, Waynesboro
- 20 DLC, Alexandria
Official Visit, Masonic Districts 4 & 54
- 27 Scottish Rite Spring Workshop, Richmond
- 31 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 15-A, 15-B, & 15-C

APRIL

- 1 Official Visit, Masonic District 9
- 3 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 1-A & 1-B
- 5 Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27
- 8 Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
- 9 DLC, Keysville
- 10 DLC, Richmond
- 12 Virgilina Lodge No. 248, 100th Anniversary
- 13 Ian M. Shipley, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament,
Newport News
- 14 MAHOVA Board Meeting
Strategic Planning and Implementation Meeting
- 15 Official Visit, Masonic District 16
- 16 DLC, Big Stone Gap
- 17 DLC, Ft. Chiswell
DLC, Roanoke

Dear Friends,

There will be a luncheon fundraiser entitled "Forget Not the Children" in the spring of 2010. The charitable donations will benefit the Virginia Masonic Child Identification Program.

This delicious luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at 11:00 AM at the ACCA Shrine Temple located at 1712 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. Attire for the affair will be dressy casual for ladies (hats preferred) and black tie for men.

Please consider being a hostess for this luncheon. As a hostess, we would like for you to sponsor a table and invite seven other people. Donations are \$30.00 a ticket. The hostess is asked to provide a theme for their table and to decorate it with a centerpiece and table favors. We would like for the hostess to provide an item for the silent auction.

The silent auction and jewelry sale will be supplied from the items donated by each participant.

We are looking forward to your attendance at the Spring Luncheon and hope you will consider being a hostess for this fabulous event.

Please contact me at 757.566.3342 at your earliest convenience.

Fondly,

Judith Rorer
Grand Master's Lady

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.

Our Grand Master is Coming!

By Rt. Wor. David A. Burkus

How many Worshipful Masters through the years have told their membership these exact words, “our Grand Master is coming”? How many of them though really understood the honor being bestowed upon them by the Grand Master with his visit to their Lodge? Understanding the honor of a Grand Master visit is one thing, but do they have a sense of the proper Masonic protocols? I do not believe that many do or, if they do, they do not have a sense of the Masonic protocol and courtesies required for his visit.

Currently there are 314 Lodges in the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia. Grand Masters on the average visit about 25 Lodges during their year. The Grand Master’s schedule is a very busy and complex thing to coordinate; hence, the use of an Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master. The Grand Master has many functions he is required to attend throughout the Commonwealth and United States. Then when you add in the required Official Visits to each Masonic District, you can see that his schedule can become pretty busy. So for him to schedule a visit to your Lodge, it is indeed an honor.

Every year at the Division Leadership Conferences, as the Grand Master progressed up the line, he informed his counterparts if they would like for him to attend their Lodges for a special event or something, to please submit it as soon as possible. Some do and get their requests honored while others don’t. But for those lucky few - planning, Masonic protocol, and courtesies are three items which must go hand-in-hand for the Grand Master’s visit.

In the planning for their meeting, I am sure they want to let everybody know:

- He’s coming,
- Make sure they have a great dinner planned for the night,
- Have awards ready for him to present if there are any, and
- Have had a meeting with their Officers and Past Masters (yes, I did say Past Masters) to make sure all bases were covered.

But there are some items which fit into Masonic protocol and courtesy that many have gotten away from:

- I am sure they are planning on giving the Grand Master and his traveling party a complimentary meal (and possibly any Grand Lodge Officers or Past Grand Masters who might attend)?
- I am sure they are planning on providing the Grand Master with money to refuel his car?
- I am sure they plan on minimizing most of their Lodge’s business and have a very quick meeting, so it is evident to all that our Grand Master is the main event for the night?
- I am sure they contacted all candidates who were going to be voted upon that evening and informed them the vote would be delayed for a month?
- I am sure they wouldn’t have elections or balloting on any major subject during his visit?
- I am sure if the Grand Master is too far from home to be able to return at the end of the evening, a place to stay for the night would be provided?
- I am sure they wouldn’t plan on major discussion like: changes to bylaws, building modifications, or any other major discussions. If they were planned to be discussed, there were delayed to a following meeting?

These are courtesies and unwritten Masonic protocol (at least I can’t find out where it is actually written) which one should follow when our Grand Master is coming to visit the Lodge. The preceding recommendations should also be done for his personal representative, the District Deputy Grand Master, when he makes his Official Visit to your Lodge as well.

Side comment: What has been determined as the major reason for the Grand Master’s or District Deputy Grand Master’s visit to your Lodge being a success or something else? Planning!

Masonic Issues and Lessons Shared by the Grand Master

In business I worked for a company where if one entity did something incorrectly then every entity was required to take action, so it did not happen again at any other entity. Although we did not always like doing this, we found that over time it made us a better and stronger company. I have learned in the very short time I have been in this Office that many things I assumed Masons should know, they may not. So these items that I will share are for all Lodges to review, if necessary take action, and adhere to in the future in an effort to “do what’s right” to better and to strengthen our Fraternity in Virginia.

- No Lodge can conduct a stated communication with **no** stationed officers present and without a Past Master or the District Deputy Grand Master presiding at the Master’s request and stationed officers occupied by Master designated Master Masons. See Sections 2.04 and 2.05 of the Methodical Digest. This situation can be prevented by getting the District Deputy involved prior to the scheduled stated communication. He can grant a dispensation to hold the meeting at a different time or on a different date. See Section 1.95 of the Methodical Digest.
- Trustees of a Lodge are the elected Brothers appointed by the Court to be the legal holders of the title to the Lodge property and to invest funds which the Lodge makes available to them either by direction of the Lodge or in the absence of direction to the best of their ability. They remain in this office for the set term, or in most cases for life, until they resign, are found mentally incompetent by the court, or die. The Master of the Lodge has no authority to remove or interfere with the duties of the trustees. See Sections 2.69 and 2.70 of the Methodical Digest.
- All major events or decisions requiring a vote, also require the notification of the entire membership of the Lodge one month prior to the event or vote. See Section 2.48 of the Methodical Digest.
- Every Lodge is required to have a current by-laws which have been approved by the Grand Master. See Section 2.85 of the Methodical Digest.
- It is imperative that every Masonic Brother demonstrates brotherly love for every other Brother in our Masonic Fraternity. Even in the worst conflict, or when no consensus or resolution can be reached between two or more Brothers, because of the brotherly love they have for each other, they are required to keep their passions within due bounds and agree to disagree and part as friends and Brothers. It is not acceptable, nor will it be tolerated by this Grand Master for any Virginia Mason to violate this order whereby any Brother holds a grudge or in any way does wrong, cheats, or defrauds another Brother, or at any time forgets to treat the welfare of another Brother better than his own. This bond was made by you before God at the altar of your Lodge, and as long as you remain a Mason, it shall not be broken.

Forget Not The Duties

Upcoming March/April 2010 DLC Locations and Dates

March 19, 2010 – DLC Waynesboro (Waynesboro High School)

Registration 6:30 P.M. Conference begins 6:55 P.M. Conference ends 9:25 P.M.

Contact: Worshipful Joe Wayne Murphy 540.887.8333

March 20, 2010 - DLC Alexandria (Scottish Rite)

Registration 8:30 A.M. Conference begins 8:55 A.M. Conference ends 11:25 A.M.

Contact: Right Worshipful John Shroeder 703.321.7047

April 9, 2010 - DLC Keysville (Southside – John Daniel Community College)

Registration 6:30 P.M. Conference begins 6:55 P.M. Conference ends 9:25 P.M.

Contact: Right Worshipful Lonnie Lee Godfrey 434.821.4183

April 10, 2010 - DLC Richmond (Scottish Rite)

Registration 8:30 A.M. Conference begins 8:55 A.M. Conference ends 11:25 A.M.

Contact: Worshipful Hans Rainer Lindquist 804.225.2584

April 16, 2010 - DLC - Big Stone Gap (Mountain Empire Community College)

Registration 6:30 P.M. Conference begins 6:55 P.M. Conference ends 9:25 P.M.

Contact: Worshipful Jason Scott Wamsley 276.679.4539

April 17, 2010 - DLC – Ft. Chiswell (A.M.) (Ft. Chiswell High School)

Registration 8:30 A.M. Conference begins 8:55 A.M. Conference ends 11:25 A.M.

Contact: Right Worshipful Owen Tee Wade 540.674.9437

April 17, 2010 - DLC – Roanoke (P.M.) (Scottish Rite) Afternoon Session

Registration 12:30 P.M. Conference begins 12:55 P.M. Conference ends 3:25 P.M.

Contact: Right Worshipful Hafford Lee Arritt, Jr. 540.977.0430

Poquoson Lodge No. 49

Poquoson Lodge No. 49 (Poquoson) held an Open House/Bring-A-Friend Night on Thursday February 11, 2010. Attending that evening were 28 people including 6 prospective new members. We were also honored to have Most Worshipful Clifford Alan “Skip” Parker (2002) in attendance. Light refreshments, video presentations on Masonry, and a tour of the Lodge was provided.



A question and answer session was also held in the Lodge. All in attendance enjoyed seeing Poquoson Lodge and learning more about Masonry

Committee on Membership Report

By Rt. Wor. William E. Hershey, Chairman
Committee on Membership

What The Grand Master's Theme Says To Me

By the time you read this article, we will be well into the New Year and the new decade of this 21st Century. As we begin this New Year and decade, it is also a time to assess just where we are in our personal lives as it concerns what are we doing to "Grow the Craft." In his Installation Address at the November 2009 Grand Annual Communication, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful William Earle Rorer, Jr., inspired us with his message and likewise challenged us to "***Forget Not The Duties.***" While we are all familiar with not only the words, but the context in which we most often hear them; I cannot help but think these words mean different things to us as individuals. As the Chairman of the Committee On Membership, "***Forget Not The Duties***" reminds me of my obligation to you my Brethren and to our Grand Master to do whatever I can and whatever it takes in this upcoming year to help the individual Lodges to attract new members and retain existing members.

With this article, I also encourage each of you to "***Forget Not The Duties.***" I would ask that if you are a member of the Lodge and not an officer; ask the Worshipful Master what his plans are for attracting new members and retaining those Brethren who are already members. If you are the Worshipful Master, I encourage you to ask the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) what his plans are to support the Grand Master's Goals for Membership and Retention. If you are the DDGM, ask your District Membership Coordinator (DMC) what ideas he has to promote attracting new members and any suggestions he might have that will assure we retain our existing members.

If you are reading this article and are uncertain as to how best to proceed, the Grand Lodge has resources you can draw on. There is a Brother who represents the Committee on Membership for each of the 12 Masonic Regions. This Brother's name is on the Grand Lodge website. I encourage you to reach out to him. The Committee on Masonic Education has a number of excellent publications on the Grand Lodge's website that address attracting and retaining members. Talk with the District Education Officer or Division Provost about all that is available to you from the Grand Lodge's website which are posted there to be downloaded and at no cost to you.

My Brethren, I have a very down-to-earth request I would make of you at this time. Think about the Grand Master's theme and "***Forget Not The Duties.***" If we are to sustain Freemasonry in Virginia, we all have to promote membership growth and retention. My phone number is 540.972.1692 and my e-mail is wehershey@comcast.net. Please let me hear from you if you believe I can be of any assistance to you in any manner as you work to support our Grand Master's theme and help him to achieve the goals he has set for himself this year as pertains to membership and retention.



**VACHIP Program
of the Grand Lodge
A.F. & A.M.
of Virginia presents**
13TH ANNUAL
**Ian McLaurin Shipley Jr.
Memorial Golf Tournament**
April 13, 2010



LOCATION

Kiln Creek Golf Club & Resort
1003 Brick Kiln Boulevard
Newport News, VA 23602

TEE TIME

April 13, 2010
Check in @ 11:00 AM
Shotgun Start @ 12:00 PM

(Rain Date:
Wednesday, April 20, 2010)

ENTRY FEE

**\$100 per player
or \$400 per team**
TAX DEDUCTIBLE (in full or part)

FORMAT

**4 man Florida Best Ball,
(Captain's Choice)**

Includes: 18 holes with cart,
beverage during play, gift bag,
family style picnic & awards
presentation

**Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place in
Three Flights, Door Prizes,
Hole Prizes
& Long Drive Prizes**

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AND MUCH APPRECIATED!**

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(In Full or Part)**

Platinum \$1,000
(Includes fees for 4 Golfers)

Gold \$500

Silver \$250

Bronze \$100

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Captain: _____ Player 3: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Phone: (____) _____
Player 2: _____ Player 4: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Phone: (____) _____
Mailing Address: _____

For Further Information Contact:

Wayne Golden
3217 Mistletoe Way, Chesapeake, VA 23323
Phone: 757.286.3586

Make checks payable to:

Grand Lodge AF & AM of Virginia
VACHIP Program