

LYNNHAVEN MASONIC LODGE #220  
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*Master Builders donate \$5 for one year to help defray the cost of our newsletter.*  
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Bro. Steve Owen (09/27)  
Bro. Jack Pallett (06/24)  
Wor. Marlo Pilar (11/20)  
Wor. Bill Ramsey (02/22)  
Wor. Bob Rathbun (09/27)  
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Bro. L. Wirt Walker (02/21)

**NOTE TO LODGE COMMITTEES AND APPENDANT BODIES** Input for the *Burning Taper* by Lodge Officers, Committees and Appendant Bodies must be submitted to the Worshipful Master Marlo Pilar ([13lakay@cox.net](mailto:13lakay@cox.net)) no later than the third Wednesday of each month. E-mails accepted and preferred.



# The Burning Taper

Lynnhaven Masonic Lodge No. 220, AF & AM  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

August, 2020  
Our 58th Year



## FROM THE EAST



Brethren,

On July 9, 2020, we re-opened our Lodge for Stated Communication after 3-1/2 months hiatus. It was a baby step or may even be a crawl just to test how we can navigate our way around with the implementation of a few “new normal” procedures as required by the protocols to prevent the spread of the COVID 19.

After a few weeks of intensive cleaning and sanitizing, measuring, and laying out 6 feet distances between seats and marking floors for proper distances, we opened the lodge room and held our long-awaited Stated Communication. It was a short meeting with just a couple of items on the agenda. We did one first reading and 5 second readings and then balloted on the 5 second readings which were all elected by the lodge. So, we have added four members, which consist of the two affiliations, and two restoration of rights and benefits and reinstatement of membership to our lodge that were elected by the lodge during the balloting. After that, we closed the lodge, and it felt like it was not that difficult at all to implement the “new normal” procedures. Everybody expressed their willingness to embrace and support the “New Normal” procedures.

So now, that we have learned to crawl and had done the baby steps, we are ready to begin a task with a great deal of forward momentum and conduct a full-fledged Stated Communication with all the introductions and committee reports to go along with the program and multiple items on the agenda. Accordingly, for the August Stated Communication on the 13<sup>th</sup>, one item on the agenda is to test Bro. Thomas Mirsky’s proficiency on the MASTER MASON’S CATECHISM previous to his receiving a certificate from the Grand Lodge. Another item is a second reading for Mr. Wayne Carl Carruthers immediately followed by balloting, and whatever communication from the Grand Lodge that arises between now and our August Stated Communication.

We will, of course, continue to observe the protocols which we are already familiar with by this time. As a reminder, to name a few, observe 6 feet distancing, masks are strongly encouraged, use the hand sanitizers in the foyer as you enter the lodge and sanitize your seat in the lodge before you leave the lodge.

To this writing, there are still a whole lot of things that we cannot do at the lodge, like renting the lodge for private meetings/get togethers, eating/dining and drinking beverages, cooking, etc. So, I am asking you, Brethren, to be more flexible and wait a time with patience until we can get through this Pandemic or at least until we can get a vaccine or cure.

For a period of about a month, we have had a tremendous working party that entailed stripping and waxing our cafeteria floors, painting the kitchen, restoring the paneling in the foyer, grounds and parking area weed whacking and spraying with weed killer, followed by sanitizing and re-arranging the lodge furniture to conform with the CDC

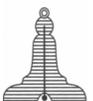
standard COVID 19 Protocol for re-opening the Lodge, etc. Brethren, I am continually gratified and appreciative of the incessant dedication and ability of all those who have and continue to perform additional leadership responsibilities beyond typical work or service task at our lodge, keep up the good work. Brethren, you are the backbone of our organization, the critical component of a collective impact effort that embraces the principles of servant leadership which is one of the Masonic attributes that we apply in providing service to our Organization. “Servant Leadership” was the theme of one Past Master here at our lodge and he did just that during his year with exceptional capability. I am humbled and immensely impressed. Thank you very much.

As per June 18, 2020, email of Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones, the Most Worshipful Grandmaster of Masons in Virginia; a statewide one-day conferral is tentatively scheduled by the Grand Lodge for October 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or October 10<sup>th</sup>. For a candidate to be included in this one-day conferral, he needs to turn-in his application on or before August 11, 2020.

And finally, I am proud to announce that the total Parking Lot Donations to date is \$6,282.47. **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, BRETHREN, FOR YOUR GENEROSITY and WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE OUR BUILDING AND THE PARKING AREA AROUND IT.** Stay safe and healthy, Brethren.

Sincerely and fraternally  
Marlo B. Pilar, Worshipful Master  
Cell: (757) 779-0705

## FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

There is an expression commonly heard in project management, “Paralysis, by analysis”. It means never accomplishing anything, because you are always in the process of determining how best to do it. Years can go by, and the project never starts, it is still being planned to perfection. Unfortunately, this is not just a joke in the project geek community, it can affect anyone, and I in particular am a frequent offender. It is in my nature to look at a situation endlessly, analyzing all the possible choices, and outcomes, looking for the perfect solution, the best reward for the least amount of pain, treasure, or effort. Every new detail puts the whole question back into the first stages of evaluation. Frankly, it is maddening, always trying to make the absolute best choice. Unfortunately, it is my nature, and I do it a lot.

Recently, I had some important and consequential decisions to make. These are big decisions that will affect the rest of my life, and can’t be undone. I made charts, graphs and spreadsheets and tried to think of all the possible outcomes from every different direction. Every time I

*Continued on Page 2...*

**PRAYER CORNER**

Wor. William Ramsey  
Bro. David Schroy  
Bro. Jack and Dianne Lawlis  
Nita Leonard  
Nancy Linger  
Lola Thompson



Prayer request, please call Carl Pennington at 757-822-9863.

**FROM THE SOUTH**



Discrimination and inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity continue to persist across the world – within and among countries, races, ethnicities, and religions. At this moment in time in the United States, there is no shortage of news, videos, blogs, demonstrations, advocacy, and regrettably violence surrounding all these issues. Yet one hundred twenty-four years ago there was a Masonic Lodge in what is now Pakistan whose attitudes and actions should give us pause in the 21st century. In fact, if we take just a moment, they might even give us insight on how Brothers can be integral in addressing discrimination and inequality.

Bro. Rudyard Kipling was initiated into the Lodge of Hope and Perseverance No. 782 in Anarkali, Lahore on April 5, 1886, at the age of twenty—yes, he had a dispensation. As this was the Lodge into which he was initiated it became his Mother Lodge.

His poem “The Mother Lodge” written in 1895 celebrates the equality which should reign among Freemasons without distinction of profession, rank, race or creed and clearly reflects the unique diversity of this particular Lodge. The refrain in the poem which contrasts the behavior displayed in public with that shown inside the Lodge underscores this.

*Outside - "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!  
Inside - 'Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.  
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,  
An' I was junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!*

In a country driven by discrimination and inequality due to caste, race, and religion, Lodge Hope and Perseverance was neutral territory, where Indians and English met as equals. Kipling wrote, “I was entered by members of the Bramo Samaj [a reformist Hindu movement], passed by a Mohammedan [Muslim], and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew, we met of course on the level, and the only difference anyone would notice was that at our banquets some of the Brethren who were debarred by caste rules from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat by empty plates.”

Oh that we would but learn from these Brothers of days past and truly act upon our charge to meet on the Level, act by the Plumb, and part upon the Square as they did.

You can read Bro. Rudy’s poem “The Mother Lodge” at <https://tinyurl.com/ycj4gnvn>.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Bro. Wes Latchford, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Junior Warden  
757-831-2438  
ecclesxii@gmail.com

**FROM THE WEST** *Continued from Page 1*

had come to a conclusion, I would say “on the other hand...” and back down the never ending rabbit hole I went.

I finally found some help Masonicly, maybe not in black and white, telling me exactly what to do, but just general principles shedding some light, so I could see for myself a little more clearly. First of all is the trestle board. I wrote the plan down, and once I decided on it, I quit revisiting it, once plans are made, follow them. When in doubt, just consult the written plans, and keep moving forward, don’t start planning again from scratch. Next, and much more important, from Solomon’s prayer at Hiram’s grave, “Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months is with thee. Thou has appointed his bounds, which he cannot pass.” Teaches me to be more mindful of time, it is a finite resource that each of us has, and when it is gone, it is gone forever. Time itself has a huge value, so time wasted reduces the value of anything else you might seek to gain. A job done well, and finished, beats a job done better, but never complete. Furthermore, I will never have a chance to do even one more thing, once my days are up. If I want to be sure something is going to get done, I had better start it right now.

The exact problems I was wrestling with are immaterial to this discussion, but it is interesting that in Masonry, and Solomon’s prayer, in particular, I found the solution to my problem, and finally came to a decision. I hope this makes life and it’s priorities a little more clear for you also.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Dale Graham  
Senior Warden  
(757) 805-1441

**PHONE NUMBERS**

Secretary .....	Wor. Bob Rathbun .....	639-3407
Treasurer .....	Wor. Dave Conner .....	338-5366
Senior Deacon .....	Bro. Bob Adams .....	754-9216
Junior Deacon .....	Bro. Cory Tinner .....	492-0700
Chaplain .....	Bro. Carl Pennington .....	822-9863



This is Brother Bob Schratweiser. If you see him at the Stated, thank him for his many hours mowing and edging the lodge lawn and mulching the flower beds.