

LYNNHAVEN MASONIC LODGE #220
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Virginia Beach, VA 23452

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Lynnhaven #220
Master Builders

Master Builders donate \$5 for one year to help defray the cost of our newsletter.
If your name is printed in **Bold** print, your name will come off the list next month.

Wor. Brian Adams (04/21)
Wor. Richard E. Allen (05/24)
Bro. Arthur Bartlett (02/22)
Bro. Bill Batten, Jr. (09/22)
Wor. John Brown (03/22)
Bro. Charles Cheeseman (05/21)
Bro. John Collins (08/21)
Bro. Thomas Darr (09/21)
Bro. Chuck Delaney (10/27)
Bro. Cecil Doughtie, Jr. (02/30)
Rt. Wor. Dennis & Nadine Edwards (08/25)
Bro. Bruce W. Exum (03/24)
Rt. Wor. George & Jackie Ganter (05/22)
Rt. Wor. Pete Gordon (04/25)

Wor. Ken Gregory (09/21)
Wor. Joseph Hagerman, Jr. (09/24)
Wor. Ron Hudson (06/21)
Wor. Jesse Hughes (08/27)
Wor. James Kelly (04/22)
Bro. William Kennedy (04/22)
Bro. Jim Kiphart (03/21)
Bro. John Knox (05/26)
Wor. Brent Lane (05/24)
Wor. Jules E. Lingoni (03/32)
Bro. Wes Latchford (4/21)
Bro. Wallace E. Maybery (12/24)
Bro. Bob Meeker (03/27)
Rt. Wor. Edward Meise, Jr. (02/24)
Rt. Wor. Raymond Mountford (03/23)

Wor. Jay Oubre (12/23)
Bro. Steve Owen (09/27)
Bro. Jack Pallett (06/24)
Wor. Bob Rathbun (09/27)
Bro. Bob Schratweiser (06/24)
Bro. Allen Sokolik (03/31)
Bro. James C. Spencer (08/21)
Bro. Don Super (12/20)
Bro. Carl Vance (10/24)
Bro. Stephen Vogel (04/31)
Wor. Jimmy W. Wagner (02/33)
Bro. Arthur H. Wahl (11/35)
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) 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

December, 2020
Our 58th Year



FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

There are two big events for the month of December...the Election of Officers during our Stated Communication on the 10th followed by a CLOSED INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS on DEC 12 @ 5 PM. So we will have a lot of items to cover at the Stated Communication. **THE NEW COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS LIMIT FOR THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ALLOWED IN THE LODGE IS 25.** There are 11 Lodge Officers plus one Mason of the Year award recipient; therefore, we can only allow thirteen (13) Brethren on the sidelines for our December Stated Communication. If you are planning to attend, you need to request by way of email or phone call to our Secretary Wor. Bob Rathbun at bobrathbun2@cox.net. The first thirteen (13) requests received by email, by person to person, or by phone will get to attend. I strongly suggest using email because our Secretary has a day job and cannot answer the phone while at work and phone answering services have been proven to be unreliable. We are still under the SAME COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS AND PROTOCOLS; YOU KNOW THE RULES.

Brothers Donald Marsh and William S. Johnson are receiving the 60-year Veteran award by way of the U.S. P. S.

The family of Wor. William Bernard Ramsey, who passed to the Celestial Lodge above on November 6, 2020, has announced that there will be a "Celebration of Life" where we will conduct a Masonic Rite of passage after the Pandemic is over.

I apologize for mentioning COVID 19 again, but it does not want to stay away from me/us. Every time I decide to say "finally, I do not have to mention it again to my Brothers, it shows up with a record-breaking spike. I guess I must accept the fact that I am destined to have this rendezvous with the COVID 19 for the whole year while I am the Worshipful Master of our Lodge. I hope that it does not penetrate through my body health defenses and to yours, Brethren.

There are two (2) MILESTONES that I am hoping to meet this year:

- To attain the **goal of \$7,000/year for the Parking Lot Fund Drive.** Brethren, we have met our target for this Milestone—to date, the total donation for the is **\$7,890.** This is placed in our **Building Fund.** We normally build this fund from dinners, breakfasts, special occasions like Fish Fry, etc. This account is what we use to fix what is broke (windows, parking lot, etc.) in our lodge. **Brethren, we have excelled in this effort this year. Thank you very much.**
- To maximize the **Collection of our Annual Membership Dues before the end of December.** Reason being is that we pay our annual bills, i.e. Building Insurance, Grand Lodge Assessments etc. from our Annual Dues Collections which are deposited in our **General Fund.** We are getting ready to write a check for our Building Insurance and a couple of months later, our Grand Lodge Assessment will be due, and the total of **these two bills alone amounts to about \$9,000.** Remember, there are other bills to pay in addition to these two like the utilities, admin and more. The point is, **for those who have not submitted their Annual Membership Dues for 2018, 2019, and/or 2020, please do so as soon as possible** so we can meet our obligations as in pay our Lodge's bills. As you can see, one cannot overemphasize the importance of getting this done.

As we approach the end of the year, I cannot help but ask the question, "Where did the time go?" I guess the obvious answer is "It was guzzled by the Pandemic along with the life-style that we used to enjoy." But then that would be too negative. So, looking at the positive side, the Pandemic tested our Fraternal strength and cohesiveness and we passed with flying colors. We displayed exemplary camaraderie and unity through the thick of things. During the lockdown, when everything was closed and our city seemed to be a ghost town, our fraternity was very much alive. Sure, we closed the building to non-members and limited the number of members permitted inside. The maximum numbers allowed in the lodge was enough to clean and sanitize it. Some of you stripped and waxed the floor, some painted the walls and appliances, and refurbished the paneling, and sprayed, wiped, the building with disinfectant. There were working parties for the ground areas outside, fixed storm damages, picked up illegally dumped tree debris, soil and many more. And then there is the Parking Lot project which we started in February. We paved the parking lot to make it safer for our members to tread on and then we started the fund drive. The fund drive got off to a good start in February and was going strong for a month and a half, then suddenly, in April, the LOCKDOWN WAS IMPLEMENTED. The possibility of our objective to collect \$7000 for the year diminished due to the lockdown to mitigate the spread of the virus. As I mentioned above, we normally have fund raising dinners and other special occasions but they were shut down due to the COVID 19 lockdown. And, we ran out of ideas on how to reach our target for the year and just went on from one hope to another and kept the positive attitude that something might come up, and something did happen. Brethren, **You happened! You came through for your lodge!** You continued sending donations every month and this was during the time when our nation was under the grips of the Pandemic and our economy was spiraling down in geometric progression because of the shutdown. Donations continued every month until November where Wor. Jim Wagner donated to the Parking lot fund. Who knows, we might get another one this December. Brethren, we reached our goal for this year against all odds because of you, (you know who you are). And to those who could not participate due to their financial situation, thank you just the same for your well wishes and prayers for our Lodge, I am a believer of the power of positive attitude and prayer. I am feeling a lot of emotions as I write this article, but the most prevalent is the emotion of gratitude, gratitude to you, Brethren, I am deeply honored and humbled. Our Junior Warden, Bro Wes Latchford did have a silver tongue persona when he coined this phrase in January - "LYNHAVEN 220, PLENTY OF UNITY AND CAMARADERIE IN THE YEAR 2020." Brethren, whenever we met, at our Stated Comm, working parties, or any happenstance, remember..." **MY HAT'S OFF TO YOU,**" because of you, **we attained our goal for the Parking lot fund this year. I hope you will show the same or better enthusiasm for our next Worshipful Master for the year 2021. NEVER A MIS-TAKE, ALWAYS A LESSON. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU. STAY SAFE.**

Sincerely and fraternally
Marlo B. Pilar, Worshipful Master

PRAYER CORNER

Please keep the following Brethren and families in your thoughts and prayers:

- Bro. Jack and Dianne Lawlis
- Nita Leonard
- Nancy Linger
- Lola Thompson

In memory of Wor. William B. Ramsey.

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



MASONIC BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER, 2020

David R. Conner	12/16/1986
William A. Emry	12/05/1964
Jason P. Enge	12/06/2007
Mark P. Johnson	12/07/2009
George R. Snead, Jr.	12/06/2007

FROM THE SOUTH

"And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of ever artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah."



Genesis 4:22 (KJV)

Artifice is a late Middle English/Anglo-French word meaning "trade, craft, or craftsmanship." An archaic word when used today, an artificer was a skilled or artistic worker or craftsman who we know today as goldsmiths, silver-smiths, coppersmiths, and blacksmiths. But before any of these artificers ply their craft, they need the refined metal to work with.

Gold has long been considered one of our most precious metals, but it does not come out of the mine as such. To become truly valuable, it must first be refined. Refining is the process of removing all the other metals and impurities found in the raw ore leaving only the gold.

The refining of gold has been done since the 6th century BC and the basic process has changed little over the millennia. The metal is heated to the melting point, where impurities will separate into a layer on the surface of the molten metal and are repeatedly and carefully removed by the artificer until all that remains is purified gold. Gold karat weight is based on how much refining it has undergone: 24 karats=100% gold, 14 karats=58.5% gold, 10 karats=42% gold. The less the refining, the less precious it is.

Like the Entered Apprentice's common gavel, used to break off the corner of rough stones, the better to fit them for the builders use, the artificer takes an impure substance of little intrinsic worth and value refines it into a precious metal with which to manipulate into something truly beautiful. A Master Artificer was once asked by his young Apprentice, "When do you know when you're finished refining?" The wise old Master replied, "I keep removing the impurities until I can see my reflection as if looking in a mirror." We are the Supreme Architect of the Universe's precious metal, and Masonry provides us the means for refining ourselves by removing the impurities of our lives to better reflect Him in our all our interactions with Mankind.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Bro. Wes Latchford, 32^o, Junior Warden
757-831-2438
ecclesxii@gmail.com

FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

As we approach the end of 2020, in many ways, it is a disappointing year. The usual events, with familiar faces and pleasant conversations, for the most part, just did not happen. The events we normally expect to provide comradery and satisfaction may not have occurred, but other than giving it a quick head nod, and acknowledge that it is true, I do not intend to dwell on it any further. Life is good, the sun still comes up, I am still a member of the best lodge in Virginia, and I think we have had a great year. We have gotten a lot of good business done in the Lodge. Our dangerous "trip and fall, lawsuit waiting to happen" parking lot has finally been repaved. That in itself is a worthy accomplishment. We have been talking and worrying about this for years, and it is finally DONE. Not only that, but it is completely paid for. Bravo to our Master, and to all our Brothers who dug deep and came up with the money to make this happen. Our building and grounds look as good as they have in years. In addition to the parking lot, front windows have all been replaced, A/C has been repaired, front entrance scrubbed clean, riding lawnmower replaced, dining hall stripped and waxed, and all usual routine repairs done. A lot of good work has been done. Thank you to our Brothers who have generously volunteered their time and money, and our Trustees, who look after our building and property. We have added four newly raised Brothers, affiliated several more, and welcomed back some who were suspended. If this is a bad year, I can live with it. A lot of good things have happened, even more important, a lot of predicted bad things have not. Count your blessings. We are a fortunate band of Brothers, Worshipful Marlo has brought us through a difficult year in the best way he possibly could, and we are intact, financially sound, and ready to proceed to the future. I look forward to a wonderful upcoming year, and I thank God for this particular group of Brothers who are here with me, at this time. I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation, and I am confident we will handle anything it may bring, in the best way we possibly can.

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



*Happy Holidays
and the most joyous of
New Years!*