

Springfield #217

7001 Backlick Road

Springfield, VA 22150

(724) 859-5277

wmspringfield217@gmail.com

<https://www.springfield17.org>

What's Happening:

11/7: Stated Meeting

11/9-11: Grand Lodge

11/14: FC Practice

11/21: Installation Practice

11/28 or 29: FC Degree

11/29: Military CB Award

12/5: Stated Meeting

12/9: Officer Installation

Interested in Freemasonry?

Anyone seeking membership in Freemasonry must fill out a petition and must have two endorsers. A petition may be obtained from any Mason. The Lodge then has an opportunity to vote on each petitioner, who must receive unanimous approval from the Lodge. Freemasons do not solicit membership, but any member may be asked to give the procedure of how to join this great and honorable fraternity.

You can also contact
wmspringfield21@gmail.com



November 2023 Trestleboard:

Worshipful Master:

Tyler James Cousins

Senior Warden:

Leomeldo Layag Geminano

Junior Warden:

Thomas Francis Nance IV [Pro Tempore]

Secretary:

Samuel Abarquez Flores Jr.

From the East

Brethren!

As Master Masons, we are charged not only to inculcate the many virtues and blessings of this great and venerable institution, but also to foster a continuance of friendship and brotherly love, by extending our right hands toward supporting the youth, growing our fraternity, and celebrating our history. It brings me great honor and privilege to announce the passing of Brothers Jerome Fajardo Enorme and Renz Oliver Inigo Tabil to the degree of Fellow Craft. Please guide our new Fellow Crafts as they continue their life-long journey in Masonry.

Throughout October, Springfield Lodge continued to work supporting the youth. On 14 October, Springfield Lodge turned out over 20 members to support the Grand Master's Official Visit to the district [38 if you include masonic families]. Additionally, on 21 October, we hosted a very successful, district wide, Oktoberfest celebration, receiving support from both lodge sponsored youth groups of the Internal Order of the Rainbow for Girls and DeMoley! At this event, our two District Deputy Grand Master's present sizable donations to both organizations. Thank you very much to Wor. Bro. Kristopher Bough for leading this event [see below].

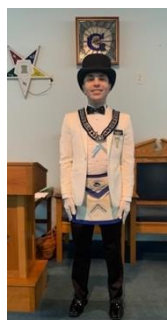


As we close out Masonic Year 2023, we once again show support to our prior leaders by holding the annual Past Master's night. Please join RW Ernesto Cacal Apaga for a "monumental" night full of fellowship and reminiscing. Also in November, we will visit the workplace of a member of the military to present a well-deserved Community Builders Award.!

Thank you all for your continued support, advice, and dedication to the Craft. Please reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bro. Tyler James Cousins
Worshipful Master
(724) 859-5277



October Fellow Craft: Bro. Jerome Fajardo Enorme and Bro. Renz Oliver Inigo Tabil



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: OKTOBERFEST

Dear Brethren,

On October 21st, Springfield Lodge hosted an Oktoberfest dinner for all Brothers, friends and families from D1B. Prospective Brothers interested in masonry were also invited to attend. In celebration of Masonic Founders Day in Virginia, during dinner, there were short presentations given by friends and Brothers including, RW Ernie Apaga, Ms. Chaiya Ortiz from the Medical Care for Children Partnership who spoke about her family's masonic history and Springfield Lodge's charity donations to her work; Worshipful Brandon Bateman, from John A Lejeune Lodge #350, spoke on "What is masonry all about?"; WB Peter Terrill, our Division Provost, spoke about the Founders of Masonry in Virginia; RW Shelley Richmond spoke about the Masonic Home of Virginia; the Master Councilor of Woodlawn Chapter of the DeMolay and one of the Rainbow Girls each spoke about our masonic youth affiliate groups; and there was a panel discussion including: Bro Mike Beck (D1B), Bro Xavier Mariscal (D1A), RW Jeff Hayes (DDGM D1A), and Worshipful Tyler Cousins who each briefly shared their masonic story, what masonry means to them, and their motivations for joining the fraternity. There were approximately 75 in attendance including Brothers and families from D1A and D1B and a visiting Worshipful Brother from Colorado! It was a terrific evening filled with great food, fellowship, learning and fun. A big thank you to all of our speakers and presenters!! Thanks to Springfield Lodge for hosting our D1B event, Bro Greg Melencio for cooking his smoked ribs, RW Ernie for the mac and cheese, and my sister and niece – Sara and Emily Lanz – who helped prepare a terrific meal of mango-jalapeño chicken, bratwurst, sauerkraut, soft pretzels, salad, rolls, cookies, brownies, and much more! Please keep a look out and come join us for our next masonic friends and family night in 2024!!

-WB Kristopher Bough, Chaplin SL217, D1B Membership Coordinator

District 1B Oktoberfest at Springfield Lodge!



FROM THE MASONIC ANGEL FUND COMMITTEE

Brethren,

As many of you know, last year, myself and Worshipful Brothers Kris Bough and Jay Zayas got together to form a nonprofit organization to continue the functions of the Masonic Angel Fund in the memory of the late Ron Heald. For many reasons, particularly related to the length of the cable tow of many of us over the past, many months, managing and administrating this new organization has become difficult.

After much deliberation and consultation with the Worshipful Master and others, it was determined that the best course of action for us to take, in order to continue to have a charitable impact in our community and to meet the goals which we sent when incorporating the new Masonic Angel Fund, would be to dissolve the legal entity, which currently exist outside of Springfield Lodge, and return the remaining funds to the lodge. This dissolution would take place following all the rules and regulations set by state and federal law, and would be done with the understanding that the funds return to the lodge to be used for purposes, consistent with the goals of the Masonic Angel Fund.

Worshipful Kris and I have been afforded a few minutes to present this to the lodge at this months stated meeting, and can try to answer any questions at that time. If this is approved, myself and WBs Kris and Jay will meet to approve the dissolution, as well as a plan to dissolve the fund. We will close out our bank account and report the fund dissolved to the state government and the IRS to maintain compliance.

It is my hope that this step will make it much easier, with less roadblocks and hoops to jump through, for us to achieve some of the goals we had set for the Masonic Angel Fund, and for us to continue to live out our charitable mission as Masons, while honoring the legacy of our departed brother who so fervently exemplified that charity in his Masonic undertakings. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

In fraternity,
Bro. Ethan West

FROM THE LODGE INSTRUCTOR OF WORK

"A Note about Masonic Education"

*Brethren, as we enter the holiday season, **DONUT LETTUCE** forget our ritual and education. Even though we "go dark" after our installation, Masonic light should never be extinguished. Therefore, I encourage everyone to find a topic they can research during that time and we can incorporate that into our weekly SLEW sessions via Zoom. While those sessions are currently focused on assisting our EAs and FCs as they progress, I am always open to topics that touch on ALL the degrees.*

Fraternally,
Wor. Kevin Torres
Wor. Kevin Torres
Lodge Instructor of Work
Philanthropy Committee
Springfield Lodge #217, AF&AM
www.springfield217.org

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

November 2023

Dear Brethren:

Fraternal Greetings!!!

As we feel a little chill in the air and heading towards the Holidays, Please do not forget **Springfield Lodge No. 217 Installation of Officers will be on December 9th, 2023.** Time and details to follow...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all the Brethren who have sent their dues payments for the year 2023 and to those who generously donated to the Masonic Home of Virginia and the Lodge.

As we work with Fairfax County for the Lodge's Building Use Permit. PLEASE STAY TUNE for some announcements coming up...

I just want to let you know that payments for **Annual Dues for the year 2024 are now being accepted.** Remember to please update your lodge (slsecretary217@gmail.com) on any changes in your address, email, and phone numbers. Please help us maintain an accurate data base of membership.

ALSO

If you have not signed up or logged in to the Grand Lodge of Virginia Membership Portal "The Grand View System", please do so. https://va.grandview.systems/users/sign_in here you can see your Lodge,

your information as Grand Lodge have it and most specially keep up with Grand Lodge Announcements. If you need help with it just call me or email me and I will be happy to help you.

We are always here for you our dear brothers of Springfield Lodge, should there be a change in your situation please reach out to your lodge.

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family!!!

Take care and be safe.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Bro. Sam Flores, PM
Secretary
slsecretary217@gmail.com
202-641-0195

Upcoming Events and Lodge Education

Grand Annual Communication: November 9-12 - Hilton Garden Inn, Richmond, VA

All Stationed officers, or their proxies are required to attend. Please let the Worshipful Master know if you can make it. The lodge will provide accommodations for stationed officers.
Contact Worshipful Brother Samuel Flores for details.

Community Builders Award: November 29th – Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Fort Belvoir

A small number of Brethren will present a Community Builders Award to a member of our military. Springfield Lodge embodied Building Through Excellence in 2023 by doing no one thing in particular, but all of the small things daily that set us apart from society. In like manner, our military frequently moves from location to location, but positively impacts the community through regular and recurring community service, thus making them stand apart from society. The recipient is well deserved and will be recognized in the next month's Trestleboard.

Lodge Education Opportunities:

For those brethren who are interested in expanding their knowledge of masonic governance and symbolism and would like to take the [correspondence courses](#) offered through the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the lodge will pay your costs. Please email wmspringfield217@gmail.com and slsecretary217@gmail.com with your request.

Springfield Lodge Officers & Committees

| Officer | Position | Committee | Members |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Wor. Tyler James Cousins | Worshipful Master | Building & Grounds | Wor. Daniel Abarquez Bro. Stefan Dodson |
| Bro. Leomeldo Layag Geminano | Senior Warden | Education | Wor. Alfred Tecson Wor. Peter Terrill |
| Bro. Thomas Francis Nance IV [Pro Tempore] | Junior Warden | Finance/Ways & Means | Bro. Halim Ezzeddine Bro. Jason Dillon |
| Bro. Halim Aref Ezzeddine | Treasurer | Funeral Services | Wor. Alfred Tecson Bro. Erick Vargas |
| Wor. Samuel Abarquez Flores Jr. | Secretary | History & Archive | Rt. Wor. Ernie Apaga Bro. Thomas Nance |
| Bro. Erick Antonio Vargas | Senior Deacon | Investigative | Bro. Mel Geminiano Bro. Ricardo Tolentino |
| Bro. Jason Yun Dillon [Pro Tempore] | Junior Deacon | IT/Website | Bro. Kevin Torres Bro. Thomas Nance |
| Bro. Kristopher John Bough | Chaplain | Outreach | Bro. Ethan West Bro. Jeff Levallee Bro. Sharukh Nasim |
| Bro. Jeff Leon Lavallee | Senior Steward | Lodge Blood Coordinator | Bro. Jeff Leon Lavallee |
| Bro. Jason Yun Dillon | Junior Steward | Strategic Operations | Wor. Kristopher Bough Bro. Kevin Torres Trustees Rep. |
| Wor. Kevin Edgar Torres | Tiler | Philanthropy Committee | Wor. Kevin Torres (Co-Chair) Wor. Kristopher Bough (Co-Chair) Bro. E.J. Smith Wor. Daniel Abarquez |
| Bro. Ethan Evan West | Marshal | Lodge MAHOVA Representative | Wor. Michael McGrath |
| Wor. Daniel Abarquez | Musician | Ritual & Catechism | Wor. Samuel Flores Wor. Ramon Llamas Bro. Kevin Torres |
| Wor. Kevin Edgar Torres Wor. Ramon Llamas | Lodge Instructor of Work (LIW) Assistant LIW | | |
| Wor. Peter Terrill | Lodge Education Officer | | |



BUILDING THROUGH EXCELLENCE:

BUILDING THROUGH EXCELLENCE represents not any one act in particular, but all of the little things that we, as Freemasons, do daily to set us apart from the rest of society.

The future of Freemasonry must play through its' historical strengths and build on, with, and through excellence!



Back Row [Left to Right]: Bro. Erick Vargas, **SD**; Bro. Thomas Nance, **JD**; Bro. Ethan West, **Marshal**; Wor. Kris Bough, **Chaplin**
Front Row [Left to Right]: Bro. Halim Ezzeddine, **Treasurer**; Bro. Mel Geminiano, **SW**; Wor. Tyler Cousins, **WM**; Bro. Ric Tolentino, **JW**; Wor. Kevin Torres, **Tiler**; Wor. Sam Flores, **Secretary**

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT WITH ANY INFORMATION OR REQUESTS

Worshipful Master: wmspringfield217@gmail.com

Secretary: SLSecretary217@gmail.com
