Worshipful Master: Matt Hedrick Editor: Henry Spomer, PM

Edition: November 2021

**George Washington's famous quote:**

"99% of failures come from people who make excuses." “It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one.” “It is better to be alone than in bad company.” “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

George Washington, September 17, 1796, Farewell Address to the People of the United States.

I leave you with undefiled hands, an uncorrupted heart, and with ardent vows to heaven for the welfare and happiness of that country in which I and my forefathers to the third or fourth progenitor drew our first breath.

After the Revolutionary War, Washington hoped to live as a gentleman farmer in Virginia, yet he repeatedly deferred this wish in order to serve his country. Called to the presidency in 1789, he told the citizens of Alexandria, Virginia, on April 16 of that year, “my love of retirement is so great, that no earthly consideration, short of a conviction of duty, could have prevailed upon me to depart from





my resolution ‘never more to take any share in transactions of a public nature.'” Unanimously re-elected to the presidency, he completed a second term and retired in 1796. As late as 1798, however, when war with France seemed imminent, Washington again accepted command of American forces.

**Born: February 22, 1732, Westmoreland County, VA**

**Died: December 14, 1799, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA**

Greetings to all brothers! We hope this edition of the Corner Post finds you all doing well and your working tools are beginning to shine as you return to utilizing them to do our Masonic work.

Check out our Web Page at mm56.org. It has posts and new Masonic Education articles on it.

From our Worshipful Master: Brethren, as we head into the holiday season I wanted to take a second to thank everyone for the hard work they have put in over the last few years. The last two years have brought trials and tribulations to many of us. But we are the lucky few in this world who are blessed with the comfort of knowing we have the support, friendship, and brotherly love of the lodge to help see us through any dark times. So as this year begins to wrap up, keep your heads up and look brightly to the future, lean on your Brothers when you need to, and support your Brothers when they need it. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge! Happy Thanksgiving. Matthew Hedrick, WM

**Updates:**

Your Pedestal Officers are moving forward on the Lodge of Perfection program as they gather background information so we know where we have been doing and then put together plans as to where we will be going in the future. The Lodge Officers Hand Book in nearing completion of construction and editing.

Your Secretary is gathering information to update records on each member. If you want updates on your contact information please notify WB Dave Brown, Secretary, with the information.

Exciting times ahead for our Lodge. Come join us into the future.

Dinner: The Thanksgiving dinner before the November 1, 2021 meeting was a great success. Everyone enjoyed tasty turkey, ham, mashed potato, stuffing and gravy. Great selection from our Jr. Warden Joe Felix and Pat Zech. Somehow the following ladies again captured the kitchen to do the final prep and serve the meal. Theresa Beatty, Michele Felix, and Joanie Spomer helped put the diner on and cleaning up afterwards. A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM. We had 6 ladies join us for diner for a total of 27. We had 21 in attendance for lodge.

The December meeting will be ham prepared by Brother Steve Lamb with side dishes being provided by the Pedestal Officers. **Reservations** to Henry Spomer 1papapie@comcast.net

The lodge will be supporting Booth Fickett K-8 Magnet School this year. As we receive information on the Grand Lodge Public Schools program we will get with the school for more activity.

If you know of one of our Lodge Brothers who has fallen on hard times and needs help with his dues, please let WM Matt Hedrick and Secretary Dave Brown know. Please let someone know as the Lodge and Brothers are here to help.

**Upcoming:**

There will be a 3rd degree practice on November 9 with an actual 3rd degree on November 16, for an Aaron Lodge #49 candidate, hosted by and at Marion McDaniel. Both begin at 7 PM so please be ready to do your part. If you would like to participate, please contact, Josh Sticht joshsticht@gmail.com.

Next meeting is December 6, 2021. Please let Henry Spomer know if you will attend the diner so we will have enough food. Email 1papapie@comcast.net

At our December 6th meeting WB Larry Behers, PM, Doctor of Astronomy, will be presenting a short talk on “Why it is called a Blue Lodge”. All Masons are invited to attend. This just might add to your Masonic Knowledge so please mark this event on your Calendar.

Marion McDaniel’s officer’s installation will have held Sunday December 12, 2021, beginning at 11:30. Requesting officer and any others, for pictures be there by 11 o’clock.

Election Results: From our November meeting

Worshipful Master--Joseph Felix

Senior Warden--Josh Sticht

Junior Warden--Matt Hedrick PM

Secretary--David Brown

Treasurer--Pat Zech PM

1 yr. Trustee--Jeff Horton PM

2 yr. Trustee--Jim Wild PM

3 yr. Trustee--Gordon Beatty

**Educationally:**

When there’s someone you can count *on for most anything of all* ..

Who is always there to help you *Who will answer any call* ..

There when skies might be the darkest *with that helpful hand to lend*

Who is always close beside you *when a fellow needs a friend*

I have seen the kind of friendships *that proclaim a lasting deed*

They are always very faithful *when there’s nothing you might need* …

But it’s when the clouds are heavy *and your hope has reached on end*

It’s that par of reassurance *when a fellow needs a friend …*

Words can never tell the meaning *of good old faithful one ..*

From the smallest sort of kindness *to the endless things they’ve done*

With a bit of kindly guidance *and that smile that says*, “ALL’s WELL”..

There’s unspoken understanding *that only real happiness will tell ..*

He is rich who shares a friendship *in that treasured sort of way*

Who is sure that someone loves him *through the toughest kind of day*

For it really matters little *all the trials that life may send..*

If a heart and hand are ready *when a fellow needs a friend*

Author: Garnett Ann Shultz

**Wisdom:**

An extensive study in the U.S.A found that the most productive age in human life is between 60-70 years of age. SOURCE: N.Engl.J .Med. 70,389 (2018) ..

The 2nd. most productive stage of the human being is from 70 to 80 years of age.

The 3rd. most productive stage is from 50 to 60 years of age.

The average age of NOBEL PRIZE winners is 62 years old.

The average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years.

The average age of the pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71.

The average age of the Popes is 76 years.

This tells us in a way that it has been determined, that the best years of your life are between 60 and 80 years.

A study published in NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE found that at age 60, you reach the TOP of your potential and this continues into your 80s.

Therefore, if you are between 60 -70 or 70-80 you are in the BEST and 2nd. level of your life.

I send you this information so that you can re-think when you say that you are old

..... friends, this walk called life is just beginning

**December Masonic History:**

|  |  |
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| December 4 | On this date in 1807, Most Worshipful Brother Prince Hall, the first African American known to have received the Masonic degrees in America, died. |
| December 5 | On this date in 1730, Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette included news about several Lodges of Free-Masons meeting in that "province." Franklin was not yet a Freemason when his newspaper printed this item. |
| December 8 | On this date in 1858, the Grand Lodge of Washington State was formed |
| December 9 | On this date in 1999, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of D.C. voted to recognize the Grand Lodge of D.C. |
| December 12 | On this date in 1787, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was organized |
| December 14 | On this date in 1994, the United Grand Lodge of England issued a statement that it found the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the source of all Prince Hall Masonry in the United States, to be regular and deserving of recognition. |
| December 15 | On this date in 1779, American Union Lodge, a traveling lodge under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, met and proposed that George Washington become the General Grand Master of Masons in the United States. There is no evidence that Washington ever heard about this, and no evidence that he ever held any Masonic position other than Master of a lodge (and no evidence that he attended this lodge while he was Master, or possibly ever). On this date in 1874, the Grand Lodge of Wyoming was formed |
| December 16 | On this date in 1786, the Grand Lodge of Georgia was organized |
| December 17 | On this date in 1867, the Grand Lodge of Idaho was formed |
| December 18 | On this date in 1786, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey was organized On this date in 1799, George Washington's funeral was conducted in Masonic fashion, at Mount Vernon, VirginiaOn this date in 1843, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin was formed |
| December 22 | On this date in 1753, the Royal Arch degree was conferred in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia. This is the first unquestioned evidence of the conferral of this degree. |
| December 26 | On this date in 1972, Harry S. Truman, former President of the United States, Past Grand Master of Missouri, and a very active Freemason, died. He had requested a Masonic funeral, but instead the government, which handled the details, permitted a short Masonic ceremony during the funeral service. |
| December 27 | On this date in 1783, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina was organizedOn this date in 1813, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was formedOn this date in 1813, Grand Officers and Brethren of the United Grand Lodge of England consummated the union of the Moderns and Ancients into the UGLE |
| December 30 | On this date in 1837, the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed |

**Birthdays:**

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| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Birthday** |
| Albert | Leslie | 1-Nov |
| Joseph | Felix II | 4-Nov |
| Vaughn | McNeely | 9-Nov |
| Joseph | Leininger | 20-Nov |
| Matthew | Hedrick | 25-Nov |
| Joseph | Talvy | 28-Nov |
| David | Mahon | 29-Nov |
| Ronald | Mealka | 3-Dec |
| Phillip | Horton | 11-Dec |
| John | Barnes | 13-Dec |
| Charles | Holbert II | 17-Dec |
| Nicholas | Leluan | 17-Dec |
| Robert | Nagore | 19-Dec |
| Michael | Palmer | 26-Dec |
| James | Hedberg | 27-Dec |
| Alfred | Curtis III | 29-Dec |
| Merle | Hudson | 31-Dec |

**History Education**

**ATOP THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT, ARE DISPLAYED TWO WORDS: *Laus Deo***

Just in case you may not have known…

One detail that is seldom mentioned is that in Washington, D.C. there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the Ten Commandments, etc., this is worth a moment or two of your time.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., are displayed two words: Laus Deo.

No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less. Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know.

These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say Praise be to God!

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, Laus Deo, "Praise be to God!"

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant ..... a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north, The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was NOT, is NOT, in the Constitution. So, read on.

How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy 'One Nation, Under God.'

I am awed by George Washington's prayer for America .... Have you ever read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on...

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love MERCY, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Laus Deo!

It is hoped you will send this to every sister, brother, father, mother or friend. They will not find it offensive because you have given them a lesson in history that they probably never learned in school. With that, be not ashamed or afraid, but have pity for those who will never see this because someone failed to send it on.

**Word Scrambler:** **RDEENTEETACNPPIREEDEREG** Email the Editor with your answer.

I was asked what the prize was for getting the correct answer and after much thought I came up with “ISSRNOOIAOTATFYUCWN”. Pat Zech, PM. reported October’s word was “John Wayne”

Fraternally,

Matt Hedrick, WM Joe Felix, JW

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