

SPRINGFIELD
LODGE #217 AF&AM

Chartered February 12, 1958

February 2026

Issue 2



MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD
GUIDING LIGHT

wmspringfield217@gmail.com

www.springfield217.org

CONTENTS

01

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS
(PG. 3)

02

AROUND
THE LODGE
(PG. 4)

03

THE
MASTER'S
MESSAGE
(PG. 8)

04

SECRETARY'S
CORNER
(PG. 11)

05

THE
WARDENS'
COLUMNS
(PG. 12)

06

MASONIC
EDUCATION
(PG. 14)

07

BROTHER
SPOTLIGHT
(PG. 16)

08

COMMITTEE
REPORTS
(PG. 18)

09

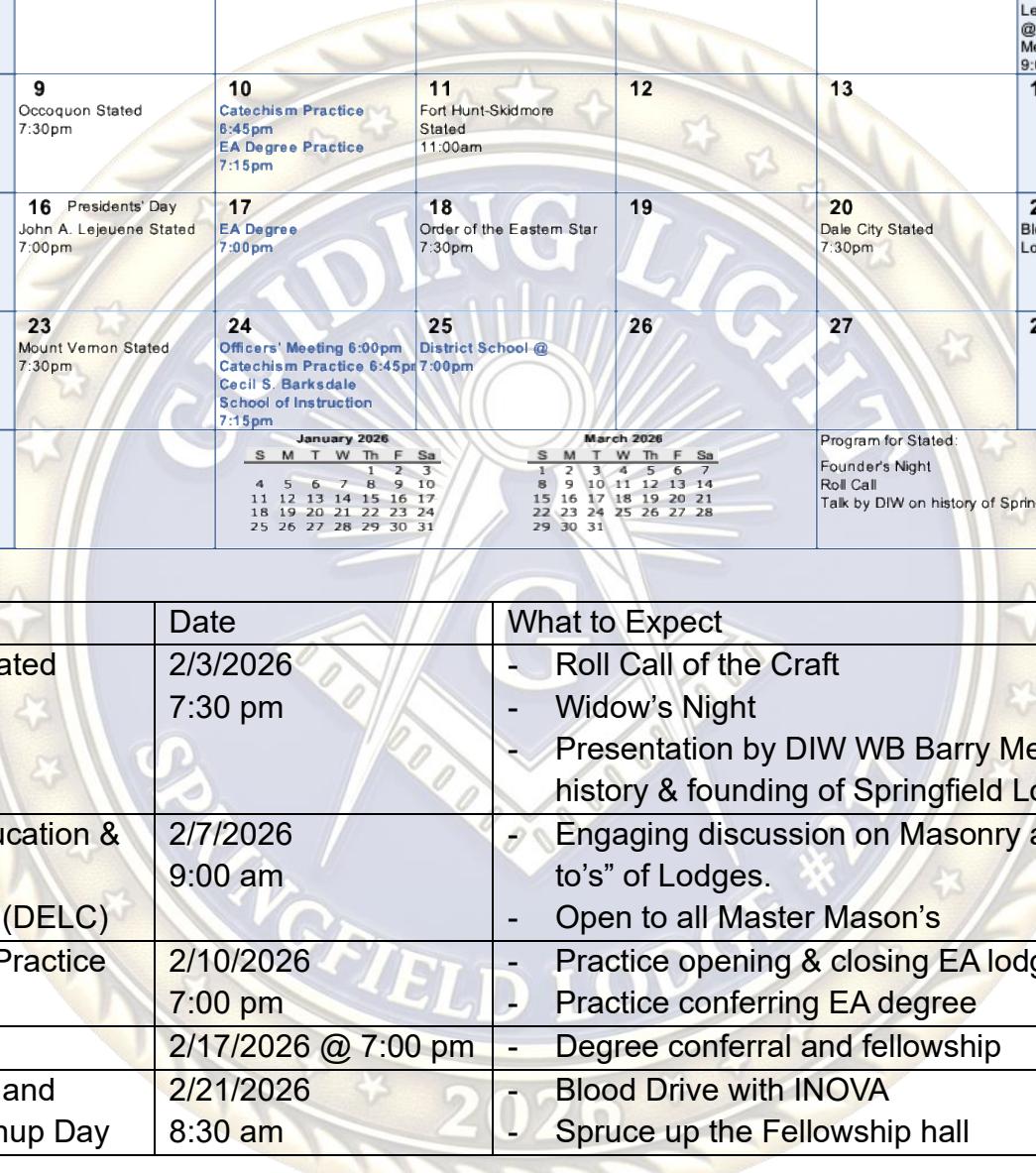
CONTACT
INFO
(PG. 19)

10

THANK YOU
(PG. 21)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
1 DeMolay 3:00pm	2	3 Stated Meeting @ 7:30pm	4	5	6	7 Division Education & Leadership Conference @ GW Masonic National Memorial 9:00am - 12:30pm																																																																													
8 Rainbow Girls 5:00pm	9 Occoquan Stated 7:30pm	10 Catechism Practice 6:45pm EA Degree Practice 7:15pm	11 Fort Hunt-Skidmore Stated 11:00am	12	13	14 Valentine's Day																																																																													
15 DeMolay 3:00pm	16 Presidents' Day John A. Lejeune Stated 7:00pm	17 EA Degree 7:00pm	18 Order of the Eastern Star 7:30pm	19	20 Dale City Stated 7:30pm	21 Blood Drive @ 10:00am Lodge Cleanup Day																																																																													
22 Rainbow Girls 5:00pm	23 Mount Vernon Stated 7:30pm	24 Officers' Meeting 6:00pm Catechism Practice 6:45pm Cecil S. Barksdale School of Instruction 7:15pm	25 District School @ 7:00pm	26	27	28																																																																													
		January 2026 <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	March 2026 <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					Program for Stated: Founder's Night Roll Call Talk by DIW on history of Springfield Lodge #217	
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																													
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																													
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																													
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																													
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																													
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																													
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																													
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																													
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																													
29	30	31																																																																																	

Upcoming	Date	What to Expect
February Stated Meeting	2/3/2026 7:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roll Call of the Craft - Widow's Night - Presentation by DIW WB Barry Mensh on the history & founding of Springfield Lodge.
Division Education & Leadership Conference (DELC)	2/7/2026 9:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging discussion on Masonry and "how-to's" of Lodges. - Open to all Master Mason's
EA Degree Practice	2/10/2026 7:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice opening & closing EA lodge - Practice conferring EA degree
EA Degree	2/17/2026 @ 7:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degree conferral and fellowship
Blood Drive and Lodge Cleanup Day	2/21/2026 8:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blood Drive with INOVA - Spruce up the Fellowship hall

Recent Highlights:

- Katherine Hanley Family Shelter Donation (pg. 5)
- Wreath's Out at Arlington National Cemetery (pg. 5-6)
- Artificial Intelligence Pancake Breakfast (pg. 6)
- Relief in Action: Supporting Brother Gary Binge (pg. 7)

AROUND THE LODGE

February Masonic Birthdays

Buddy Gene Beck	44 years	Michael Patrick McGrath II	11 years
William Liberato Bridgeman	30 years	Michael Louis Ramirez	10 years
Jerome Fajardo Enorme	2 years	Edward James Smith	10 years
Roy Edward Gulledge	54 years	Steven Ray Thiebaut	15 years
Justin Ryan Harman	13 years	Walter Frank Thomas	15 years
Marcus Alonzo Harrison III	37 years	Ryan James VandenHeuvel	17 years
Brian Scott Kandul	11 years	Jeffery Lance Westbrook	19 years

MASONIC BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS are encouraged to attend Lodge so we can recognize your special day.

February Birthdays

Jeffrey Fuller	Feb. 4	Kris Bough	Feb. 14
Robert Bartruff Jr.	Feb. 4	Matthew Andrews	Feb. 18
Ryan Cvik	Feb. 7	Steven Lanz	Feb. 18
Robert Hall	Feb. 9	Ronald Butler	Feb. 23
William Lloyd	Feb. 9	Alexander Mendoza	Feb. 26
Michael Gustin	Feb. 12	Luben Montoya	Feb. 28
Brian Brooks	Feb. 13	Joshua Messersmith	Feb. 29

50-year Members

Kenneth Richard Sheesly	Raised March 29, 1976
-------------------------	-----------------------

25-year Members

Jon Kevin Carpenter	Raised November 28, 2000
Franklin Ray Yarboro	Raised May 22, 2001

10-year Members

Michael John Brennan	Raised December 8, 2015
John Joseph Pardalis	Raise December 5, 2015
Tyler James Cousins	Raised January 9, 2016

Katherine Hanley Family Shelter Donation

Guiding Light – Community Charity.

On December 23rd, SL217 made a \$500 holiday donation to the **Katherine Hanley Family Shelter** in **Fairfax**. The Lodge donated a mix of \$25 and \$50 gift cards (15 total) which will go straight to helping families cover immediate needs. The shelter supports families going through tough times by providing emergency housing, rapid rehousing help, case management, rental assistance, domestic violence emergency services, and prevention programs to help families and Veterans avoid homelessness. They also offer supportive housing and family-focused programs that help build long-term stability and independence.



The donation was presented during a relaxed pizza dinner at the Lodge. Together with three young men (and parents) from our affiliate Woodlawn Chapter of DeMolay, six Brothers including the Worshipful Master Jason Dillon, Kris Bough, Halim Ezzedine, Ryan Cvik, Mario Ulysses-Clanor, and Owen Bliss attended. It was a great night of fellowship and service, bringing together Brothers, DeMolay, and parents for a good cause.

During the evening, we also had the chance to meet and talk with the shelter's Community Coordinator and Project Manager, who shared insight into the growing challenges faced by families experiencing hardships, homelessness, or escaping domestic violence. Hearing firsthand about the impact of their work drove home how important our support for the community can be. Thank you kindly to all the Brethren for your generosity – these donations helped to make a difference for several local families this holiday season.

Wreaths Out 2026 at Arlington National Cemetery

On January 10, a dedicated group of brothers and family members returned to **Arlington National Cemetery** to participate in the "Wreaths Out" event. Just as we did in December, our volunteers joined hundreds of others to assist in the respectful removal and retirement of the wreaths placed during the holiday season.



We had a fantastic turnout, with a similar number of brothers and friends showing up to finish the work we started last month. It was a brisk and rainy morning, but the shared sense of duty made for a meaningful experience. Participating in the full cycle of this tradition – from the solemn placement of the wreaths to their careful removal – ensures

that the hallowed grounds of Arlington are maintained with the dignity our veterans deserve.

Thank you to every brother and family member who braved the January chill to help us conclude this act of remembrance. Your labor is a testament to the "Guiding Light" we strive to project in our community.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Pancake Breakfast

On **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, Springfield Lodge hosted an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Pancake Breakfast**. This was a truly open event, and it was awesome to see the Lodge full of brothers from throughout District 1B, families, spouses, and friends of all ages. It served as our first real opportunity of the year to bring our Lodge families together... and it certainly won't be the last!

Between helpings of pancakes, eggs, hash browns, and plenty of bacon, our **Junior Warden, Bro. Mike Beck**, led a fantastic session on the practical uses of AI. Rather than a formal lecture, it was a genuine exchange where

brothers and their families asked great questions and shared thoughts on how this technology is impacting our lives today.

A huge thank you to Bro. Mike for leading the discussion, and to the kitchen crew (WB Peter Terrill, Bro. Erick Vargas, WB Sam Flores, Bro. Marlon Breboneria) who kept the griddles hot. Seeing the Fellowship Hall buzzing with activity from both our members and their loved ones was the perfect way to kick off our 2026 social calendar.



Relief in Action: Supporting Brother Gary Binge

One of the most meaningful moments of this past month happened away from the Lodge room and out in the freezing cold. When word reached us through the Grand Master of Virginia, Most Worshipful Matt Szramoski, that Brother Gary Binge, a fellow Mason and Senior DeMolay, was in need of assistance clearing his driveway after the recent snow and ice, the Brethren of Springfield Lodge didn't hesitate.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to the men who traded their Saturday morning warmth for shovels and a snowblower. Stepping up to support Brother Gary at his home is exactly what we mean when we talk about our theme, "**Guiding Light.**" It is about being there for one another when the path is difficult to see or walk.

This simple act of manpower was a powerful reminder that the length of our Cable Tow is measured by our actions and not just our words. Thank you to everyone who showed up to clear the way for a Brother in need. Furthermore, please let this serve as a reminder that **we are here for one another**. If any Brother finds himself in need of assistance with snow removal, ice, or any other hardship, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Secretary, Brother Sam Flores. We stand ready to assist.



The GWOT 100 Fitness Challenge

As part of our commitment to fostering connection and camaraderie, I encourage all brothers to join us in the Global War On Terrorism 100-mile (GWOT 100) challenge this February. This national event honors those who served during the Global War on Terror and is open to everyone. The goal is simple: complete 100 miles of intentional movement, such as running, walking, rucking, or cycling, by the end of the month.

Event Details:

- **Cost:** Participation is 100% free. There is optional merchandise for purchase.
- **Format:** This is a virtual event where you track your exercise and enter distances manually on the website.
- **What Counts:** Intentional exercise (walking the dog, gym sessions, etc.) counts, but daily step accumulation from chores like grocery shopping does not.

How to Join Our Group:

1. **Register:** Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=191108&eventId=1049113>.
2. **Join the Team:** During registration, select "Yes" to join a group. Search for group **CHALLENGED** and use password **SL217**.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Brother Ryan Cvik or Worshipful Brother Kris Bough. They have both participated in this event previously and can help you get started. Let's get moving together and show the strength of Springfield 217.

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren and Friends,

I'm writing this while stuck at home, watching the snow and ice we've experienced here in Springfield this past week. While the weather has kept us physically distanced (and, unfortunately cancelled our Rusty Nail Lodge), it has given me a great chance to reflect on the past month and continue planning for our year ahead.

Walking into the Lodge lately, I've been struck by a sense of community and energy that is truly palpable. We've reignited foundational efforts, including our weekly catechism practices, ensuring that our newer brothers have the mentorship they need to grow. January is often a month of transition, and for us, it was a time to reflect on the legacy of those who came before us while rolling up our sleeves for those beside us today.

I want to thank everyone who stepped up this past month; whether you helped a brother shovel his driveway, assisted in honoring our veterans at the "Wreaths Out" event, or helped with the cooking and set-up for our successful Artificial Intelligence (AI) Pancake Breakfast. This breakfast was one of our best-attended events in recent memory, and it was awesome to see such a lively exchange of questions and ideas over coffee, pancakes, and bacon. That collective effort is exactly what I mean when I talk about our Lodge being a **Guiding Light**. It isn't a grand, abstract idea; it's the practical way we look out for each other and make each other better, day by day.

Our History and Our Family

Our February Stated Communication is shaping up to be a full house. First, we are holding a **Roll of the Craft**. This is a great opportunity to take a moment to account for our members and reaffirm the bonds that keep us together. I ask that you make every reasonable effort to attend. Please know that you are a vital part of our Lodge and that a warm welcome awaits you at the door.

I'm also very pleased that we'll be hosting our **Widows' Night** during this meeting. It's important to me that the women who have supported our brothers over the decades know they always have a seat at our table. To make the evening even more special, **Worshipful Brother Barry Mensh** will give a presentation on the history of Springfield Lodge. WB Barry has a wealth of knowledge, and Springfield Lodge has been an ever-present fixture in his life. I, for one, am incredibly excited to learn more about our origins. Seeing where we've come from gives us a much clearer sense of where we're heading.

This presentation and Roll of the Craft coincides with our **Lodge's 68th year**. Since our charter was granted on February 12, 1958, we are now only two years away from our 70th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the generations of Masons who have kept our light burning. Planning for this significant event is already underway, and you will soon see various efforts around the Lodge as we prepare to celebrate seven decades of Masonry in Springfield Lodge.

Growing Together

Being a Mason means we're always a "work in progress." On **February 7**, we'll be heading to the **Division Education & Leadership Conference (DELC)**. I want to emphasize that this is an **open invitation to every Master Mason** in the Lodge, not just the officers. Whether you were raised fifty years ago or five months ago, these sessions are invaluable. You'll hear from some of the most engaging speakers in the state, pick up practical leadership skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the "how-to" of Masonry. It's a great chance to network with Brothers from across the Division and bring fresh ideas back to Springfield to help us grow. If you've ever wanted to see how the Craft functions on a larger scale, I'd love to see you there.

Closer to home, we're putting our values into practice on **February 21** with a day dedicated to service and stewardship. We have the unique opportunity to support our community and our Lodge home simultaneously.

First, we'll be hosting our first **Lodge Blood Drive** of the year, working alongside our brothers from **Dale City Lodge**. Giving blood is a literal gift of life for our neighbors here in Northern Virginia, and I would love to see Springfield Lodge lead the way in filling the appointment roster.

Concurrently, we will be holding a **Lodge Cleanup Day**. We're looking to invest some "sweat equity" into our building by sprucing up the Fellowship Hall and tackling the small projects that keep our home shining.

I have two specific calls to action for you that morning: **we need donors and we need hands**. Whether you are rolling up a sleeve to give blood or grabbing a paintbrush to polish our building, your presence makes a real difference. Even if you are unable to donate blood, I encourage you to come out for the fellowship and the shared labor. If you can spare just two or three hours, your contribution to our Lodge's "Guiding Light" would be greatly appreciated.

The Global War on Terror (GWOT) 100 Challenge

Finally, I want to invite you to join me in a Lodge fitness challenge for the month: the **GWOT 100**. The goal is to complete 100 miles of activity (walking, running, rucking, or biking) during February. Masonry is about more than just what happens in the Lodge room; it's about being the best versions of ourselves in all aspects of life. Let's keep each other accountable, get moving, and maybe shed a few of those holiday pounds together. More information to sign-up is available in the Around the Lodge section of this Trestleboard.

Lodge Updates & Calls to Action

1. **Modernizing Our Communications:** To ensure every Brother stays informed while reducing postage costs, we are updating our digital directory. Currently, only 110 of our 218 members are on our email list.

- **Action:** Please email WB Sam Flores (slsecretary@gmail.com) and myself (wmspringfield217@gmail.com) to confirm your current email address.
- **Join the “Lodge Lounge”:** We have launched a group chat on the Signal app for real-time updates. Reach out to any officer to be added.

2. **2026 Dues:** Dues notices have been sent. Please remit your payment to WB Sam Flores to receive your 2026 Dues Card and keep your standing current.
3. **Lodge Merchandise:** Bro. Mike Beck is leading the effort for new Lodge “swag” (including polos). Planning is underway, with a target order date of February 17.
4. **Website Refresh:** Our website (www.springfield217.org) is undergoing a total transformation. Look for the “New and Improved” site to go live in the coming months.

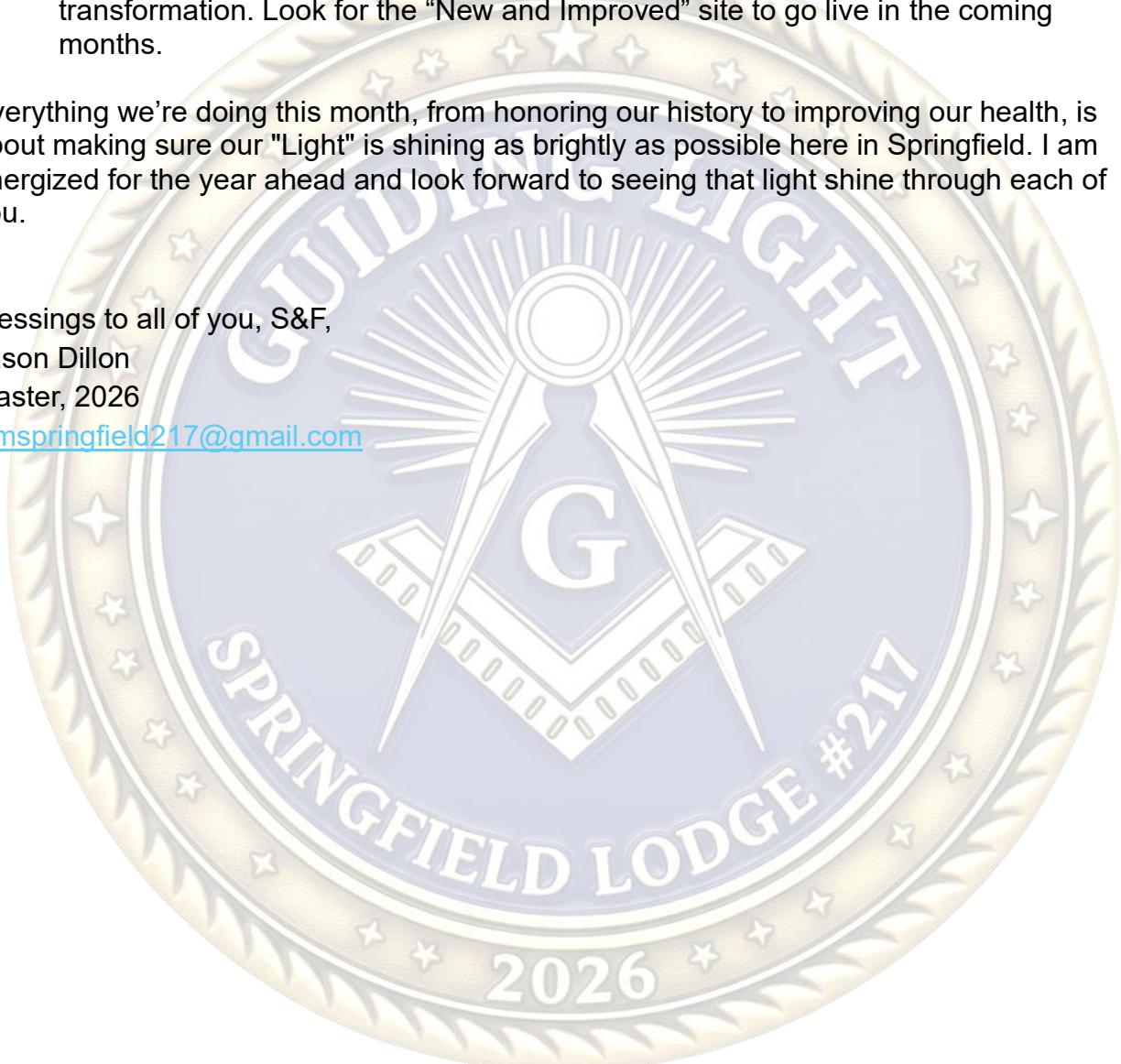
Everything we're doing this month, from honoring our history to improving our health, is about making sure our "Light" is shining as brightly as possible here in Springfield. I am energized for the year ahead and look forward to seeing that light shine through each of you.

Blessings to all of you, S&F,

Jason Dillon

Master, 2026

wmspringfield217@gmail.com



SECRETARY'S CORNER

February 2026

Dear Brethren:

Fraternal Greetings and Happy St. Valentine's Day!!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all the Brethren who have sent their dues payments for the year 2026, especially those making generous donations to our very own Springfield Lodge No. 217 and to the Masonic Home of Virginia. Your dedication and support mean a great deal to Freemasonry.

We are pleased to report that we have surpassed the 50% mark for 2026 dues payments. Please continue to send in your payments and thank you for your continued commitment to our Lodge.

Should your dues be current and you have not received your dues card, please reach out to me when you are able. It's possible we have an incorrect mailing address, and we would be happy to update our Lodge records.

Remember if you need anything from me, the secretary or our lodge please do not hesitate to contact me at (ssecretary217@gmail.com) or send me a text or call me at 202-641-0195

We are here for you, our dear brothers of Springfield Lodge. Simply reach out to your Lodge Brothers so we may be aware.

**Happy 68th Anniversary Springfield Lodge No. 217.
Springfield Lodge No. 217 was chartered on February 12, 1958.**

Take care, be safe and keep warm.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Bro. Sam Flores, PM
Secretary
ssecretary217@gmail.com
202-641-0195

THE WARDEN'S COLUMNS

From the West

ON THE LEVEL

Bro. Mario Clanor, Senior Warden



The Level is the official "jewel" or badge worn by the Senior Warden. He is charged with ensuring all members "meet on the level" and that harmony exists within the Lodge during its labor.

The Level remains one of the most vital symbolic tools in Freemasonry, primarily representing equality and moral equilibrium.

Physical Practice: To emphasize this principle, most Lodges end their meetings with all members standing on the same floor level in a circle or line, demonstrating that no one is exempt from standing "shoulder to shoulder" with their brothers.

Immovable Jewel: Along with the Square and Plumb, the Level is considered one of the

immovable jewels of the Lodge because it represents a fixed moral principle that must always be present when the Lodge is active.

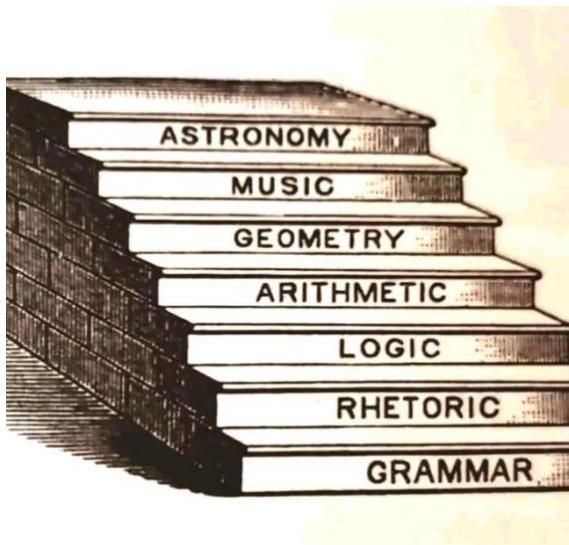
Ancient Duty of the Senior Warden: Historically, his role was to "pay the Craft their wages" and resolve disputes among workers. Today, this is interpreted symbolically as ensuring members are recognized for their service.

From the South

The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: A Masonic Introduction

Bro. Michael Beck, Junior Warden

“Wisdom has built herself a house, she hath hewn her out seven pillars” – Proverbs 9:1



Among the many symbols presented to us in Freemasonry, the **Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences** stand as a reminder that our labor includes the cultivation of the mind. Emerging gradually from Greek and Roman educational practices, these arts were considered essential for free individuals seeking to live thoughtfully and responsibly within society.

Freemasonry preserves these disciplines not as academic relics, but as symbolic guides for personal growth. They encourage clear thinking, disciplined speech, and an appreciation for order, harmony, and truth.

In the coming months I will explore each of these arts individually, examining their historical roots and symbolic meaning, with consideration to how they remain relevant to Masons today.

Traditionally the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences have been divided into two groups: the Trivium and the Quadrivium. This structure is often credited to Martianus Capella whose allegorical work *De Buptiis Philologiae et Mercurii* framed the seven arts as attendants of wisdom.

The Trivium (Grammar, Rhetoric, and Logic) focuses on the arts of the mind. Grammar teaches structure and understanding; Rhetoric refines our ability to express ideas with clarity and integrity; and Logic disciplines our reasoning, helping us distinguish truth from error.

The Quadrivium (Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy) turns our attention to number, proportion, and the natural order. Arithmetic concerns precision and balance; Geometry, held in special esteem within Masonry, reflects structure and design; Music represents harmony and proportion; and Astronomy lifts our gaze to the heavens, reminding us of our place within a greater creation.

Trivia Question:

Which one of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences was historically considered the bridge between the Trivium and the Quadrivium—and why?

I will reveal the answer in the next installment.

MASONIC EDUCATION

The Masonic Ballot: A Sacred Trust and Silent Sentinel

WB Peter Terrill, Lodge Education Officer (LEO)

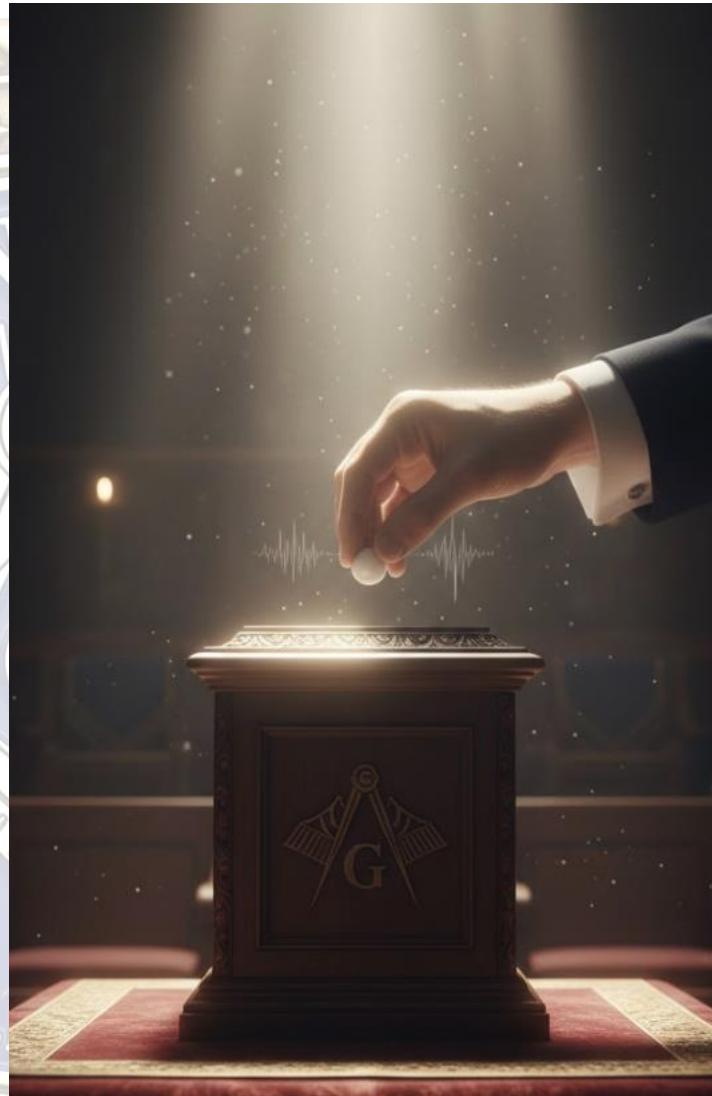
In Freemasonry, the act of balloting on a petitioner is one of the most solemn duties a member performs. It is defined by two primary characteristics: it is **sacred** and it is **secret**. No individual has the right to inquire how another voted, and disclosing one's own ballot - whether favorable or unfavorable - is considered an un-Masonic offense. This absolute privacy ensures that the lodge remains a sanctuary of peace and harmony.

The terminology of "spreading a ballot" finds its roots in Ancient Greece and Rome, where voters cast shells or pebbles into jars. Modern Masonry evolved this practice, transitioning from white and black balls to include black cubes. This change allows members to distinguish between a favorable and unfavorable vote by touch alone, thereby preventing accidental errors in the darkness of the lodge room.

Historically, practices differed significantly from modern standards. Early English lodges often required a roll call where each member advanced to the altar to vote. While the renowned Masonic jurist Albert Mackey advocated for these traditional methods, the growth of the fraternity made such practices impractical. Today, the ballot box is the universal standard in the United States, designed to conceal the voter's hand to maintain total ballot secrecy.

In the United States, jurisdictions generally require a **unanimous ballot** for admission. This high bar ensures that every current member is comfortable with the newcomer. Common practice allows for a "re-spread" of the ballot if only one or two negative votes appear, ensuring that no mistake was made before a petitioner is officially rejected.

While some argue that an unfavorable committee report should automatically disqualify a candidate, the ritual of the ballot remains the definitive act of the lodge. It serves as a "valve"

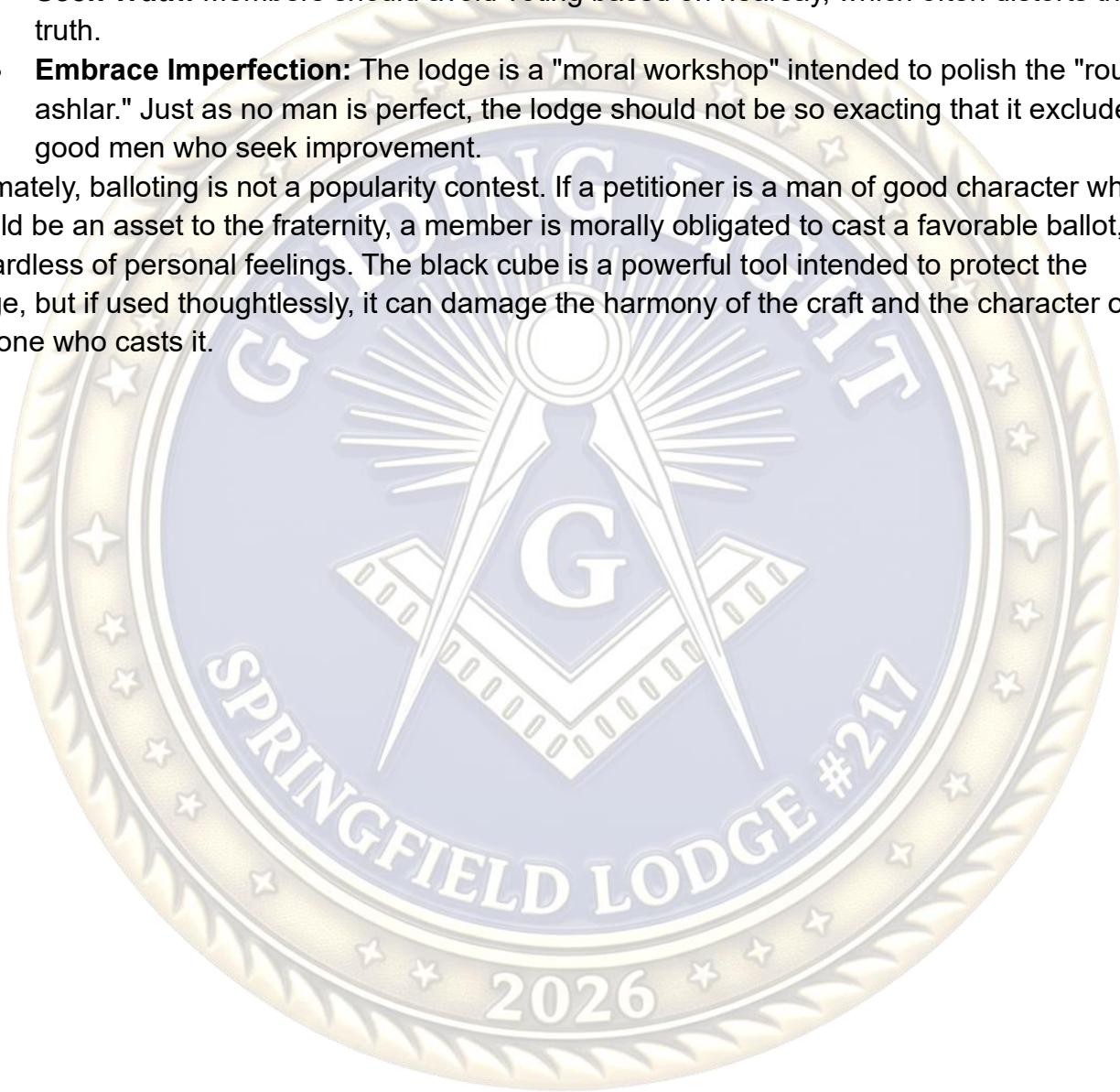


that controls the lifeblood of the fraternity, determining who will carry the craft's precepts into the future.

The act of voting takes place at the altar, the most sacred spot in the lodge. Positioned between the cardinal points of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, the altar reminds the Mason that he acts as both judge and jury. The summary of this responsibility is found in the motive behind the vote:

- **Avoid Malice:** It is a Masonic offense to use the ballot out of spite or personal dislike.
- **Seek Truth:** Members should avoid voting based on hearsay, which often distorts the truth.
- **Embrace Imperfection:** The lodge is a "moral workshop" intended to polish the "rough ashlar." Just as no man is perfect, the lodge should not be so exacting that it excludes good men who seek improvement.

Ultimately, balloting is not a popularity contest. If a petitioner is a man of good character who would be an asset to the fraternity, a member is morally obligated to cast a favorable ballot, regardless of personal feelings. The black cube is a powerful tool intended to protect the lodge, but if used thoughtlessly, it can damage the harmony of the craft and the character of the one who casts it.



BROTHER SPOTLIGHT: W B BARRY MENSH, PM 1987

My Start in Masonry

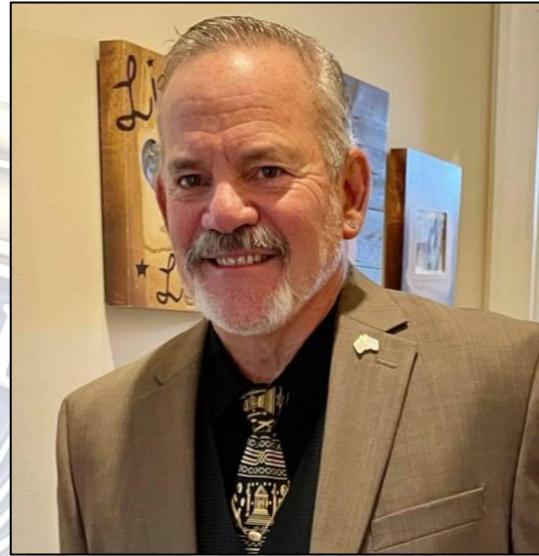
I was initiated in Springfield Lodge No. 217 on April 15, 1980, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on June 17, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on August 16 of that year. I spent most of my formative years literally inundated by Freemasonry. My late father, Harry Mensh, whom I affectionately called my "Brother-Father," was a Charter Member of Springfield Lodge and the first Captain of Kena Temple Shrine's Scooter Corps. I spent much of my young life at parades, oyster roasts, and the like.

I finally "knocked at the West Gate" after bugging my dad and his best friend and Brother, Joe Dillon, another Springfield Charter Member, incessantly for years. I would ask, "what do you guys actually DO in your meetings?" While driving to a fishing outing in Wachapreague, I finally asked "THE QUESTION," whereupon I was handed a Petition. The rest is, as they say, history; a beautiful history that I would not change for a millisecond.

My Masonic Path

I had the absolute honor of serving as Springfield's Worshipful Master in 1987, where my theme was "A.L.I.V.E.," an acronym I created for Attainment, Leadership, Involvement, Vision, and Enthusiasm. I try hard to inculcate those values to this day. I have served as a Lodge Instructor of Work for many years and was the District Educational Officer for District 1B as well. I am profoundly honored to be the current District Instructor of Work for District 1B.

I hold a Ritualistic Silver Card and love both our Masonic Ritual and the esoteric aspects of Masonic Education, finding them inseparable and interdependent. I have conducted twice-weekly Ritual Schools and Educational Workshops for many years. One of my favorite programs to present is the "Missing Link in Masonry," or Cleopatra's Needle, which I have shared up and down the East Coast. Nothing pleases me more than to share our Ritual, Education, and "Fellowshipping" with Brethren from other Lodges. I even host "Garodge-Lodges" at my home, where you are always welcome to join us to work on Ritual and Education in a social atmosphere.



Barry Alan Mensh
Past Master Springfield Lodge
No. 217 (1987)
Past Master John A. LeJeune Lodge
No. 350 (2021/2025)

Life Outside the Lodge

I am a 1975 graduate of Old Dominion University, where I majored in Biology and Secondary Education. I taught biology for 34 years in Fairfax County Public Schools and retired in 2011. I also coached cross-country and track during my teaching tenure. In my younger, pre-surgical years, I was a 2:46 marathoner. I often ran races with Right Worshipful John McIntyre, who wore a "Boaz" t-shirt with Springfield Lodge No. 217 on the back while I wore the same.

I hit the lottery and married an extraordinary lady from Berlin, Germany, Veronique Mensh, my soulmate, in 2021. I have two daughters, Kelsea, an infusion nurse with a Masters from Johns Hopkins, and Jessica, a mixologist and restauranteur in Manassas. I also have a son, Chris, whom I'll refer to as "Brother-Son," as he recently became a Master Mason in Florida. I am an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, weightlifting, and riding my motorcycle, when I'm not recovering from numerous orthopedic surgeries. I am also a fan of Washington Sports Teams, especially my beloved Redskins, or rather, Commanders, for now! Being a biologist and worshipper-in-reverence of Charles Darwin, I love animals. We have five dogs with names like Ozzy, Jethro, Lenny, Ziggy, and Marley, along with a 17-year-old Maine-Coon cat named Tux, and used to have a python named Coconut (who we just donated to our son, Chris, recently).

WB Barry Mensh

89 Newton Road

Fredericksburg, Virginia, 22405

darwinrocks212@gmail.com

703-981-2079



Photo at a recent INOVA Blood Drive

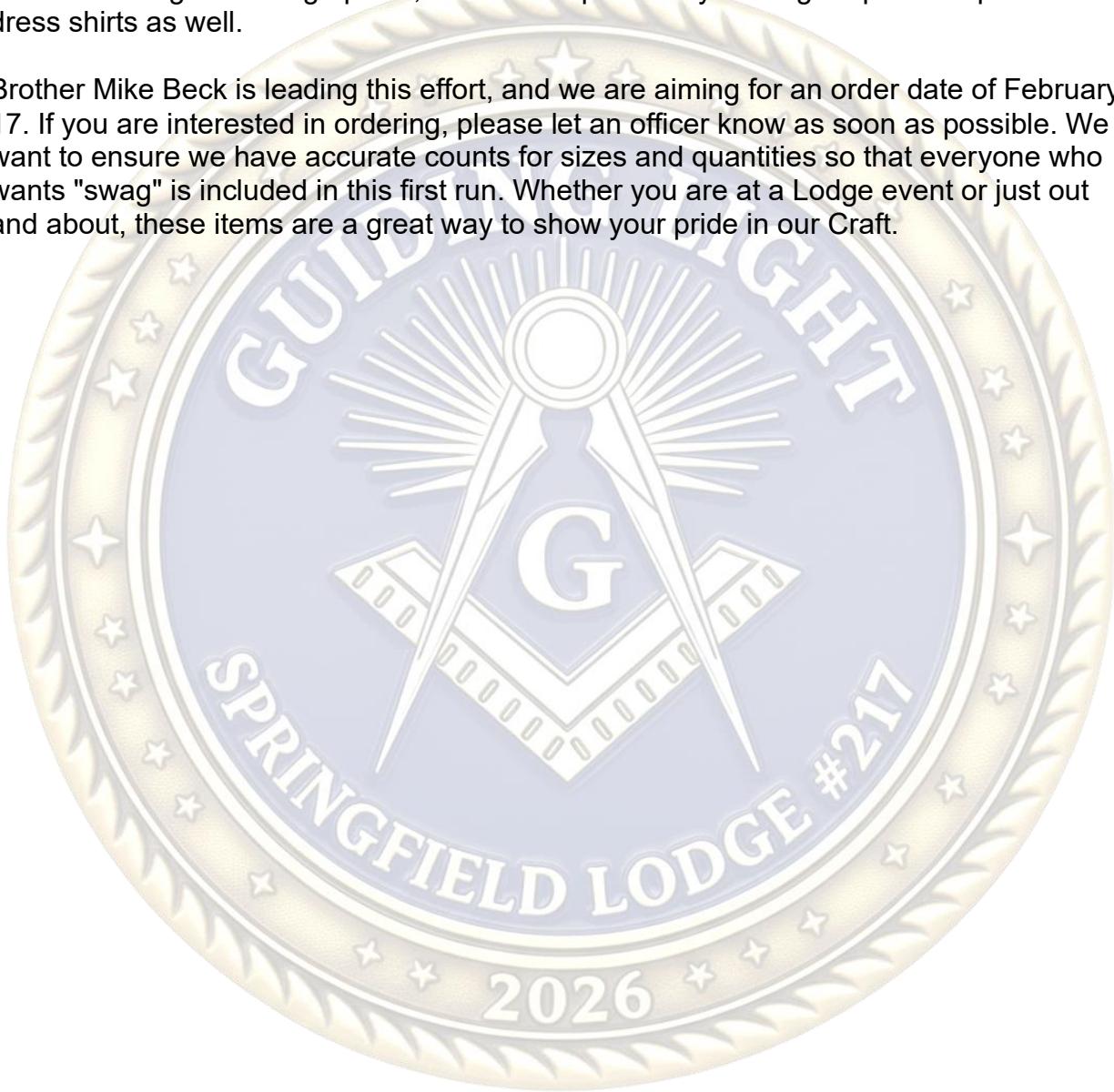
L to R: Barry, Esther (Barry's Mom), Chris (Brother-Son), and Veronique

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lodge Merchandise and Swag

We are in the process of finalizing new designs for our Lodge merchandise, and I am excited to see us representing Springfield 217 out in the community. At a minimum, we will be ordering new Lodge polos, and we are potentially looking at quarter-zips and dress shirts as well.

Brother Mike Beck is leading this effort, and we are aiming for an order date of February 17. If you are interested in ordering, please let an officer know as soon as possible. We want to ensure we have accurate counts for sizes and quantities so that everyone who wants "swag" is included in this first run. Whether you are at a Lodge event or just out and about, these items are a great way to show your pride in our Craft.



CONTACT INFO

2026 LODGE OFFICERS

Jason Dillon	wmspringfield217@gmail.com jasonydillon@gmail.com	(301) 980-0213	Worshipful Master
Mario Clanor	mclanor1@yahoo.com	(571) 224-3653	Senior Warden
Mike Beck	mike.w.beck@gmail.com	(314) 807-2719	Junior Warden
Kevin Torres	sltreasurer217@gmail.com	(917) 601-9337	Treasurer
Sam Flores	s1secretary217@gmail.com	(202) 641-0195	Secretary
Renz Tabil	trenzoliver@gmail.com	(202) 894-1649	Senior Deacon
Jared Nystrom	nystromjared@gmail.com	(520) 678-8203	Junior Deacon
Jeff Lavallee	Straygoose1@gmail.com	(703) 994-6504	Senior Steward
Matt Wall	mowall1876@gmail.com	(540) 717-7153	Junior Steward
Ryan Cvik	rgcvik@gmail.com	(571) 275-5145	Chaplain
Rick Tolentino	ricardotolentinojr@gmail.com	(619) 952-7694	Marshal
Mel Geminiano	mlgeminiano@yahoo.com	(904) 881-4579	Tiler

TRUSTEES

WB Dan Abarquez, PM

WB Kris Bough, PM

RW Romi Capuno, PDDGM

PROGRAM OFFICERS

Lodge Instructor of Work

WB Kris Bough, PM

Lodge Blood Coordinator

Bro. Jeff Lavallee

Lodge Education Officer

WB Peter Terrill, PM

MAHOVA Ambassador

Bro. Fernando Aquino

Lodge Catechism Chair

WB Ramon Llamas, PM

Lodge Scholarship Coordinator

WB Kris Bough, PM

Prospect Manager

Bro. Jared Nystrom

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee	Chair	Functions	Lead
Steering	Jason Dillon	Strategic Planning	Jason Dillon
		Finance & Investment	Kevin Torres
		Audit & Reporting	Mario Clanor
Membership	Mario Clanor	Candidates & New Members	Renz Tabil Jared Nystrom
		Investigative	Mario Clanor
		Philanthropy & Charity	Fernando Aquino
		Funeral Services	Alfred Tecson
Masonic Family	Mike Beck	Social & Refreshment	Jeff Lavallee Matt Wall
		Sunshine (Sickness & Distress)	Tyler Cousins
		Widow's	Halim Ezzedine
		Appendant Bodies & Youth	Sam Flores Jared Nystrom
Lodge Operations	Renz Tabil	Building & Grounds	Dan Abarquez
		Education & Ritual	Kris Bough Peter Terrill
		History & Archive	Renz Tabil

AFFILIATED BODIES

Fort Hunt-Skidmore Daytime Lodge #353	Ernesto Hernandez, III, WM	2 nd Wednesday of the Month at 11:00 am
Order of the Easter Star Nellie Custis Chapter #169	Susan Geisler, Worthy Matron	3 rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Order of DeMolay, Woodlawn Chapter	Esteban Aquino Isasi, Master Councilor	1 st and 3 rd Sundays at 3:00 pm
International Order of Rainbow Girls, Springfield Assembly #14	Abby Nystrom, Worthy Advisor	2 nd and 4 th Sundays at 5:00 pm

THANK YOU

Living Past Masters			
George Harry Chapin, PGM	1975	Guilford Christopher Kater	2013
Barry Alan Mensh	1987	Jay Jesus Zayas	2014
Lee Neal Schofield	1996	Daniel Cabayan Abarquez	2015
Larry Edwin Johnson	1998	Christian Bautista Alfonso	2016
Ernesto Cacal Apaga	2000	Walter Frank Thomas	2017
Sukhwinder Singh Rupral	2002	Samuel Abarquez Flores, Jr.	2018
Noe Rondina Poblete	2003	Fabio De Vera Crisostomo	2019
John Wesley Pearson	2004	Michael Patrick McGrath II	2020
Norberto Manimtim Chavez	2005	Kristopher John Bough	2021
Donald Joseph Ridley	2007	Kevin Edgar Torres	2022
Romulo Magnaye Capuno	2008	Tyler James Cousins	2023
Peter Edward Terrill	2010	Leomeldo Layag Geminiano	2024
Alfred Castro Tecson	2012	Thomas Francis Nance IV	2025

Legacy Members in Perpetuity	
Daniel C. Abarquez	Warren L. Henderson
James M. Alderson	Charles P. Hurley
Christian B. Alfonzo	Dwight G. Hutchinson, III
Michael T. Andrews	Larry E. Johnson
Ernesto C. Apaga	Guilford C. Kater
Stephen R. Autry	Charles A. Kimmey
Robert J. Bartruff, Sr.	Michael J. Kuhlmann
Michael W. Beck	Ramon M. Llamas
Walter P. Benesch	William U. MacBrayne
James S. Boren	Michael P. McGrath, II
Kristopher J. Bough	Barry A. Mensh
James A. Brown	Charles D. Mercer
Drew H. Buckley	Joshua A. Messersmith
Ronald D. Butler	Thomas M. Ogles, Jr.
Romula M. Capuno	Gerald C. Pate
George H Chapin, PGM	John W. Pearson
Norberto M. Chavez	Bayani E. Pioquinto
Paul F. Coles	Jesse H. Procter
Fabio D. Crisostomo	Sukhwinder S. Ruprai
Ryan G. Cvik	Sundeep S. Ruprai
David O. Doss	Lee N. Schofield
Roy A. Eller	Peter E. Terrill
Samuel A. Flores, Jr.	Walter F. Thomas

Jeffrey R. Fuller	James C. Vandenheuvel
Timothy R Gibbs	David K. Waller
Allen L. Gibson	Jacob B. Waltermire, Jr.
Matthew T. Gilchrist	Jeffery L. Westbrook
Mark A. Harford	William A. White
Jeffrey L. Harrison	Franklin R. Yarboro
Marcus A. Harrison, III	

