



Freedom Lodge No. 118

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia

<http://FreedomLodge118.org>

The Southern Least Lodge in Virginia

Stated Communication – First Friday

Dinner at 7:00p, Lodge at 8:00p

JANUARY 2023

VOLUME 2023, NUMBER 1

2023 Officers

Worshipful Master

Philip Brooks
405 Greear Place
Herndon, VA 20170
BrooksPJBE@aol.com

Senior Warden

Matthew Duley

Junior Warden

Wes Hirschhorn

Treasurer

Dave Kirk

Secretary

Mark Canter

Senior Deacon

Bill Hohl

Junior Deacon

Brad Westerman

Chaplain

Harris McGarrah

Tiler

Greg Valker

*Freedom Lodge
P.O. Box 293
Lovettsville, VA 2180*

From the East

Greetings Brethren:

Welcome everyone to a new Masonic Year. Donald E. Strehle was installed as the 177th Grand Master of Virginia at the Grand Annual Communication in Richmond. There is plenty to be read from and about MW Don in the latest edition of *"The Masonic Herald"*.

At Freedom, we've had a changing of the guard ourselves. RW George Shoemaker stepped down as Secretary after serving for 11 years. RW George, we thank you wholeheartedly for all your time and devotion to keep our records with Grand Lodge square and your counsel from the Secretary's chair. Brothers Ray Mauk and Dick Bond stepped from Chaplin and Tiler respectively. Each Brother severed Freedom in some officer capacity for the last decade and we thank them for their dedication to Masonry in general and their unwavering support of Freedom in particular and hope to see both back in Lodge soon.

I'll thank those Brothers in advance who have stepped up to fill the void created by these departures. WB Canter will tackle the Secretary's position and the new Grand View portal. RW McGarrah is already locked down a good portion of the Chaplin's lines. RW Valker has moved from being the "D2 Tiler" to full time at that position for Freedom. Brother Brad Westerman has stepped in at the Jr Deacon's chair for what I hope will be a tour that ends with him presiding in the East someday. These Brothers will need YOUR support as they handle their new duties for Freedom Lodge. Please do ask how you can help.

For 2023, I look to build upon the charity work supported by WB Matt Duley. The Toys for Tots collection was a huge success. WB Duley needed 2 large bags to get the donations over to the collection point. **Thank you** everyone for your support of this worthy cause. We'll look to do this again in the coming year. With the help of Brother Fred George, we'll roll up our sleeves to continue Freedom's support of the blood drives at the Game Club. We'll also continue to donate to the local food pantry to aide those that are in need of a hand up to get back on their feet. Thank you RW Harris McGarrah for leading this effort. There is also the RW Larry Frye awards to be handed out at Lovettsville Elementary at the end of the school year. All these works of charity are part of the bedrock of Masonry. Let us continue to look for other venues to help those in need in our community.

Freedom will have plenty of degree work in 2023. There are now three men working through their EA catechisms and another should be ready to present his FC return by our January Stated. That means plenty of degree work to go around for everyone. I'd ask you to think back to when you were advancing through the degrees – the support the Brethren showed you by learning and performing their parts or just by being on the sidelines to be there to support you. I'm guessing you know the best way to repay that kindness – by participating yourself. There are Brothers willing to teach the various parts and a monthly Lodge school to practice your upcoming role in a degree. Just step forward to volunteer.

On the social side of Lodge, WB Wes is setting up a Sweetheart's Brunch for February 19 – more information will be sent out once the details are firmed up. WB Matt is laying the groundwork for a Lodge picnic on June 17 – this will be held at a venue in Berryville. I'd like to do more with our families this year. Just need a volunteer to step forward...

Administrative notes:

2023 Annual Assessment in the amount of \$155 is now due from all regular members. LMIP, 50 year Masonic veterans, and honorary members are exempt from annual dues.

I hope to see each of you at Lodge soon.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Philip Brooks

Worshipful Master, Freedom No. 118

<p><u>January Masonic Birthdays</u> Ray Mauk - 2011</p>	<p><u>Mark Your Calendar</u> Jan 6 – Lodge Stated Jan 16 – FV to Herndon Lodge Jan 18 – Freedom School Feb 3 – Freedom Stated Feb 10 – DLC Manassas 6:30p Feb 11- DLC Alexandria 9:30a Feb 19 – Sweetheart Brunch Feb 20 – GW Memorial Cornerstone Mar 3 – Freedom Stated Apr 7 – Freedom Stated Apr 21 – Freedom Called Apr 29 – One Day Conferral May 5 – Freedom Stated May 18 – Grand Master’s OV to D2 Jun 17 – Lodge Picnic Jul 1 – Reid Simmons Academy Sep 9 – Ken Shelton Area School</p>	 <p>Most Worshipful Donald E. Strehle Grand Master Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M. https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org</p>
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January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 FREEDOM STATED	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 FV to HERNDON Dinner 6:30 Lodge 7:30	17	18 FREEDOM SCHOOL	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 FEB			

More Info at <http://freedonlodge118.org/>

