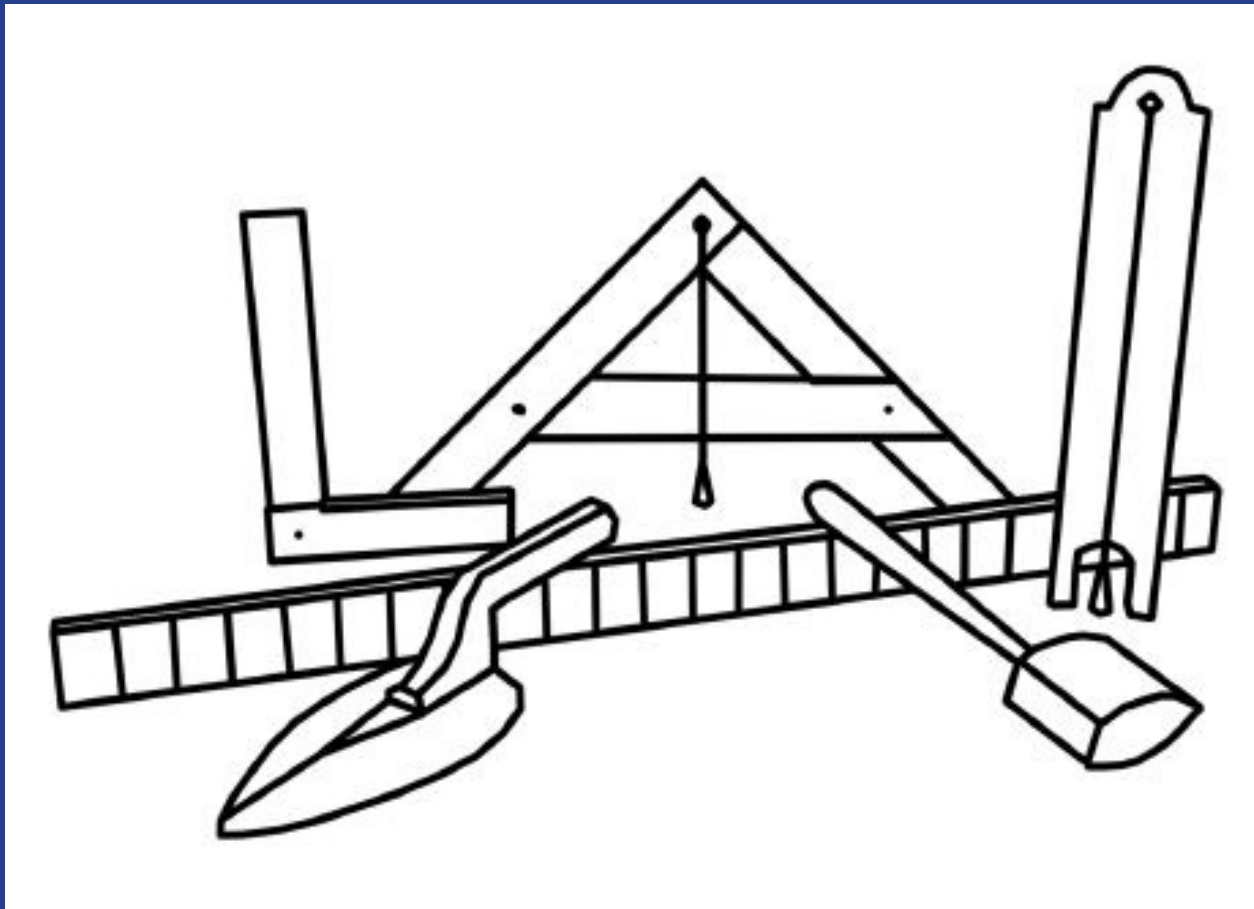


# John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



**Master's Theme: "Earn the title... Every Day!"**

**MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD**

**January 2023**

Chartered February 11, 1925

## FROM THE EAST: WB BRANDON BATEMAN

*JANUARY IS HERE, WITH EYES THAT KEENLY GLOW – a FROST-MAILED WARRIOR STRIDING a SHADOWY STEED OF SNOW.*

- Edgar Fawcett, American Poet (1847–1904)

Brethren all,

A simple heartfelt thank you is in order. Thank you - for your special *trust* and confidence in me as a worthy Brother Master Mason, to serve this outstanding lodge as Worshipful Master for 2023. The honor is entirely mine, and my heart swells with gratitude and brotherly love. Know this; I am the most fortunate of all of us, as Master, for one monumental reason: I am amongst thee!

It will be a busy year, indeed. To set the pace and tone, our January stated communication will have many very important articles of business to which we must attend, as well as a few programmatic pieces and a very fun surprise segment of Masonic Education – one that, to my knowledge, has never been done in the Lodge. It will be one for the ages!

We have four interested petitioners, two more awaiting their initiation, and five Entered Apprentices, all of whom are making steady progress in their work toward their next degree. All that to say; we will have a lot of degree work coming up! Please monitor communications and try your best to show your support to these new Candidates and the Lodge by attending the

upcoming degree work. We will no doubt need the help.

January is the line of demarcation for renewal. We *trust* that renewed vigor will guide our consciences in our labors. We *trust* in one another that what is said will be done. We *trust* in our candidates that their intentions are pure, and the West Gate is properly guarded. We *trust* in our own hearts that our perseverance in our labors will be put well to use.

As we strive to carry out our mission to ‘*Earn the Title, Every Day*’ – by together conforming to the precepts of the institution - let us be reminded of that inherent attachment, which as necessary to the proper function of the Lodge, we produce in the form of becoming worthy of the *trust* so reposed by ourselves, our fellow Brethren, and all whom we serve.

I hope to see you all at Stated Communication on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of January. Fellowship and dinner will commence at 1800hrs with our meeting to follow, commencing at 1900hrs. Please join us, if within the length.

Sincerely and Fraternaly Yours,  
Brother Brandon C. Bateman  
WM - 2023

## FROM THE WEST: BRO. MORGAN TOLLIVER

It takes trust for a lot of things in this world. Whether in a job or within relationships. It was Nicholas cage in Con Air who said “I trust two people in this world, one of them is me and the other ain’t you.” As a young man I loved it. It sounded so cool. As an older man, I think what a shame. A person who trust really no one. Trust requires some level of vulnerability (active trust). Can I trust you with my fears or struggles. Passive trust requires no vulnerability (car on the highway not smashing into your car or the

doctor’s office when you trust what the doctors tells you). In freemasonry, there is both active and passive trust. We trust that masonry won’t let us down and masonry trusts we won’t let it down. We need to risk vulnerability to have a deeper level of trust. We say on the square yet by the time it is said and done that square is larger than Texas. This year let each man nay each mason develop a deeper level of trust—not just passively sitting and hoping but taking a risk to understand the depths of people and of masons.

## FROM THE SOUTH: BRO. BRIAN POTVIN

### “Making Good Men Better...to What Aim?”

We all know one of our unofficial mottos as Freemasons is “Making Good Men Better”. That really has a nice ring to it, doesn’t it? However, more study is necessary to understand the true meaning of that motto.

Let’s first attempt to define what a Freemason is. One of our most famous authors, Manly P. Hall, defined a Mason as “a man who in this heart has been duly and truly prepared, has been found worthy and well qualified, has been admitted to the fraternity of builders, been invested with certain passwords and signs by which he may be enabled to work and receive wages as a Master Mason, and travel in foreign lands in search of that which was lost – The Word.”

All of this due and true preparation what we go through; all of these passwords and signs with which we have been entrusted; all of these allegorical lessons we are taught to memorize and internalize...what is their purpose?

Getting back to “Making Good Men Better”, let’s ask ourselves this question: for what purpose? Why do you want to be a better man? Did you become a Mason so you could look at other men and say to yourself or out loud, “I’m better than you now”? I sincerely hope not. Let’s ask ourselves one more question: Did you become a Mason to be the best version of yourself? Most of you would probably say yes. But again... why? Why do you want to be the best version of yourself?

Let me give you my perspective on what our answer to that question should be. It is my belief that something inside us drove us to become Freemasons so that we can be better husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, and human beings. We should serve as pillars of our families and communities. Section 4 of the Constitution of Masonry tells us that Masons “should be good husbands, good parents, good sons, and good neighbors, not staying too long from home, avoiding all excess injurious to themselves or families, and wise as to all affairs, both of their own household and of the Lodge...” Therefore, our ultimate goal as Masons should be to learn the lessons taught in our rituals and lessons, internalize them, and put them in practice in our roles as men, husbands, fathers, sons, and neighbors.”

I’ll finish this article with a quote from quite possible the most famous American Mason, WB George Washington, on his thoughts regarding why men become Masons: “To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Upcoming Events:

### JANUARY

13<sup>th</sup> at 1930hrs: “Garodge” Work & Instruction at one of the WB’s residence.  
FXBG Location TBA (Monitor GroupMe app)

15<sup>th</sup> at 1400hrs: Rainbow Quantico-Freedom Assembly, Officers Installation  
235 Potomac Avenue, Quantico VA

16<sup>th</sup> at 1800hrs: John A. Lejeune Lodge 350 Dinner & Stated Communication  
235 Potomac Avenue, Quantico VA

20<sup>th</sup> at 1930hrs: “Garodge” Work & Instruction at one of the WB’s residence.  
FXBG Location TBA (Monitor GroupMe app)

27<sup>th</sup> at 1930hrs: “Garodge” Work & Instruction at one of the WB’s residence.  
FXBG Location TBA (Monitor GroupMe app)

### FEBUARY – (Future Ops Planning)

11<sup>th</sup> at 0930hrs – Division Leadership Conference, Alexandria SR Temple  
1430 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA

20<sup>th</sup> at 1530hrs – Cornerstone Laying Reenactment at George Washington National Masonic Memorial

## Significant Dates:

15 JAN (16<sup>th</sup> Observed) - Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. - 1929

17 JAN – Birthday of Rite Worshipful Brother Benjamin Franklin – 1706

22 JAN – Lunar New Year

25 JAN – Birthday of Brother Robert Burns – 1759

27 JAN – Birthday of Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - 1756

# FROM THE TREASURER’S DESK

All Brethren are reminded that our 2023 budget will be presented for review and approval at the 23 January Stated Communication. A budget is simply a plan, and like all plans based on assumptions, to use financial resources to accomplish required and desired tasks that support our goals and objectives. For John A. Lejeune Lodge #350, we have both an Operating Budget and a Capital Budget.

Our Operating Budget supports both our Strategic and Annual Operating Plan goals and objectives through funding of five major functional areas / categories: 1) Operations; 2) Office Administration; 3) Grand Lodge requirements; 4) Donations; and 5) Fundraising. Examples of our challenges include that 72% of our projected total Operating Budget expenses are generated from just two sources – utilities and Lodge insurance – while our fundraising function to generate revenue is essentially dormant and needs a major review this year [expect major discussions on Fundraising throughout 2023]. On-going inflationary pressures have also been a major challenge. Our Operating Budget is executed via our checking account. For the first time we plan to establish a checking account minimum using best business practice metrics of at least three to six months of annual run rate.

Our capital budget is designed to resolve the long-standing backlog of maintenance, modernization, and repair of our building. We just completed our first year of a Trustees-approved five-year \$125,000, \$25,000/year, effort. One of the planning challenges for our capital budget will be project selection. To date 13 potential projects have been identified. Project selection will be guided by safety requirements, cost constraints, impact on other costs (such as utilities), security, and public presentation of our building. Our Capital Budget for 2023 will now be executed solely from our Money Market Account, which also serves as our designated management reserve. We also plan to set minimum balances for our Money Market Account.

Our investment accounts serve as our strategic reserve and should only be sourced on review by our Trustees. Our FY23 investment strategy is to ride out the current down market to return to January 2022 fund levels by the end of this fiscal year (30 November) by reinvesting dividends and capturing capital gains while avoiding any withdrawal, which of course would lock-in market downturns.

There’s much to be done...looking forward to seeing you on the 23rd of January!

# FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

Brethren,

Some weeks ago, dues notices were mailed out. So far to date, we have received over 30 payments by mail and at least eight or so through the Grand Lodge Grandview site.

This is good progress on everyone’s part and benefits the Lodge immeasurably as it contributes to the operating budget of the Lodge for maintaining the normal monthly

expenditures and also aids the ongoing efforts to effect necessary repairs to the building at large. Windows, roof, foundation, the eventual kitchen renovation and also the projected renovation of the fellowship hall and all flooring.

This should be a good year for the Lodge overall as we continue to progress toward our 100th anniversary.





## “Ye Aforementioned Team Names...Hear Ye, Hear Ye”

As we are still in the process of forming and filling our Teams this Masonic Year, PLEASE read this Trestleboard, volunteer to join ANY Team, *and* let me know which one you want to be a part of, send me an e-mail message indicating such, and help JAL 350 to *Be the Difference!!!* I'll publicize the Team Members in the February Trestleboard as an ongoing TEAM(We're hoping for **at least 3** team-members per team, some will have more, out of necessity, such as JAL's FINANCE TEAM, e.g.

### **LODGE EDUCATIONAL OFFICER**

WB Barry Mensh LEO, WB Brandon Bateman,  
Bro. Bill Smith

### **LODGE INSTRUCTOR OF WORK**

WB Jim Solomon LIW, WB Barry Mensh,  
Bro. Morgan Tolliver

### **MASONIC WELLNESS/PEACE & HARMONY**

WB Leo Powell, Bro. Terry Jones, Bro. Bill Stevenson,

### **MEMBERSHIP & MEDIA, A.K.A., MASONIC VISIBILITY!**

Bro. Brian Potvin, Bro. Stefan Walter,  
WB Jim Solomon, Bro. Brandon Bateman,  
Bro. Morgan Tolliver, Bro. Kalil DeBerry,

### **FROM THE WEST GATE**

*No one left at the brow of the hill*

Bro. Brian Potvin, is the team leader, Bro. Stefan  
Walter, Junior Deacon, Bro. Morgan Tolliver

### **FINANCE**

WB Randall Arnold, WB Jim Solomon\*,  
Bro. Bill Smith\*, RW Rex Rockhill\*(Emeritus)

### **EXPLORATION & ORIENTATION**

*“Guarding the West Gate”*

We'll have “3-brother teams” Chaired by our Wardens,  
Bro. Brandon Bateman\*, and Bro. Morgan Tolliver\*,  
with other members added as needed, including WB  
Jim Solomon, Bro. Terry Jones, WB Barry Mensh, and  
others welcome!

### **APPENDANT BODIES & FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

Bro. Bill Stevenson, WB Leo Powell,  
Bro. Ian McIntyre,

### **JAL LODGE MASONIC HOME AMBASSADOR**

WB Barry Mensh

### **JAL LODGE BLOOD COORDINATOR**

WB Barry Mensh

*\*Drives involve the entire JAL Brethren!*



### **Worshipful Master**

Bro. Brandon Cashon Bateman

### **Secretary**

WB Randall Arnold, PM

### **Senior Steward**

To be appointed

### **Senior Warden**

Bro. Morgan Adam Tolliver

### **Senior Deacon**

Bro. Terrell Lee Jones

### **Junior Steward**

Bro. William Mathew Stevenson

### **Junior Warden**

Bro. Brian Thomas Potvin

### **Junior Deacon**

Bro. Willie David Woodson

### **Marshal**

Bro. Ian Hall McIntyre

### **Treasurer**

Bro. William Lee Smith

### **Chaplain**

WB Barry Alan Mensh, PM

### **Tiler**

WB James Anthony Solomon, PM

## APPENDANT BODIES

### **Order of the Eastern Star**

**Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter 81**

Worthy Matron Laurianne Murphy

### **International Order of the Rainbow For Girls**

**Quantico-Freedom Assembly No. 6**

Mother Advisor Ange Malmquist

### **Order of the Amaranth**

RW Rex Rockhill

### **Scottish Rite**

Jim Solomon

### **Shriners**

To be assigned

### **Sojourners Chapter 44**

Randall Arnold

### **York Rite**

Leo Powell





## Living Past Masters

1976 Donald Ritenour	1999 Jack Williams
1980 Eddie Sykes	2000 Emory Kelley
1982/2010 Rex Rockhill	2002/2018 Jim Solomon
1983 Richard Fravel*	2003/04 Kenneth Wrisley
1985 Frank Harris III	2009 Donald Radeke
86/07/16/17 Harold Leo Powell, Jr.	2012 Jason Newcomer
1987 James Day*	2013/2015 Robert Lane
1990 James Van Fleet	2014 Carl DeSantis
1992 Thomas Blizzard*	2019/20/21 Randall Arnold
1994 David Ekren	2022 Barry Mensh
1996 Ronald Bigger	* = Demitted



## 50+ Year Members

### 80-Year Member

Donald E. Martin

### 70-Year Member

Richard T. Spooner

### 60-Year Members

Frank W. Harris III

Donald R. Briner

Victor D. Freudenberger

Donald L. Meek

Donald F. Ritenhour

### 50-Year Members

Joseph Brooks

John R Covington Jr.

James D. Delp

John A. Jones

Harold R. Knowles

John C. Kriska

Lloyd L. Loy

Thomas A. McNight

Harold L. Powell Jr.

Donald E. Schneider

Jack Williams

## Teams

Brethren, we value your opinions, so please let the Worshipful Master know if you would like to head up a team or start a new one. Do you see something missing in what we as a lodge are accomplishing? Do you want to see us more visible in the community and know of a great way to accomplish this? We are open for suggestions. Several of our teams are transient and change from year to year. Many of these would benefit from a stable person heading up the team year-after-year. If you have some time and would like to make a difference, let us know.

### Do you have e-mail?

If so please let the secretary know. You can add your email on the Lodge contact page, that way it goes to both Randall and Jim for receiving the Trestleboard. Also, If you have noticed that you do not receive the Trestleboard any more, please check the email you sent us. If we get an address kicked back to us more than three times, we will delete it.

E-mail will give us the ability to send to you short notices, effective and timely communications, including reminders of meetings and activities. Please remember that failure to let the secretary know of address changes costs the lodge money and it delays any correspondence we would like to send out.

### Volunteers needed

**Lawn:** If you have the time and don't mind sweating a little bit, there are times that the lawn needs to be mowed. We do not pay anyone to mow it. The mower, rake and gas are at the lodge, we just need the manpower to get it done as needed.

**Mentors:** Many of you remember spending lots of quality time working on the catechism with a coach or mentor whether at the lodge or in a more personal setting. Well it's time to pay it forward. We are always in need of some dedicated Brothers to teach our up-and-coming Brothers the finer arts of the catechism. No matter where you live or work, there is always a possibility that a new Mason may be in your area and open to meet with you more frequently than once a week.



## Stated Communications

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m., except December, when we meet on the second Monday. We start with Fellowship and food at 6:30 p.m. for those coming there without stopping at home first. We welcome all visiting recognized Masons.

### Physical Address:

235 Potomac Avenue  
Quantico, Virginia

### Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 214 Quantico, Virginia 22134  
703-640-7350 (call or text)

### Call us by extension:

703-718-5204  
Secretary Ext. 201  
Treasurer Ext. 206  
Webmaster Ext. 203

## District Schools 2022

Fellowship will go at 6:00 p.m. with the District Education Officer giving a short presentation at 7:00 pm and the school beginning at 7:30 sharp. Keep an eye out for this year's schools.

## Staying Connected

In the past, you wanted to become a Mason. You asked a Mason to join their lodge as a Mason. They accepted you with open arms as a brother. Brethren, do you remember that point in your life when three distinguished men came to visit your home or place of work and discussed with you your interest in Freemasonry? Many of you were excited to become Masons and informed the investigation committee just how much you wanted to be involved in the lodge as well as in Freemasonry. I have sat on many committees and have heard those words spoken by many of our members.

Well, that time has come. You took the time to learn the catechism or book method with your coaches and mentors, but it shouldn't stop there. There is so much more you can do to make YOUR Lodge successful. Being a Mason is not about having a card with your name on it. It's about attending your lodge before you no longer have a lodge to attend. It's about socializing with your brethren inside as well as outside the lodge. It's about taking a role in your lodge. I am not talking about feeling forced to take an officers position. I am talking about showing your Worshipful Master support by attending lodge, volunteering to help with Lodge events, or being on a committee (or forming a committee) to further the communities we live in. We should be pillars of our communities as many Masons in the past.

Becoming a Master Mason is a great milestone in all of our lives. And now it's time to live that enlightened life. The Worshipful Master this year has taken several initiatives to try and keep the members active. There are numerous community activities that we could participate in, even at our very own home, no matter where we live. We just need more good men to head up the groups. One small group of men can't do it all.

<http://www.jal350afam.org/calendar/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JohnALejeune350/>

GroupMe App: John A Lejeune 350 AF.AM.

Ask an officer and we'll add you.







Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was established in Quantico, Virginia in February 1925. The lodge is named in honor of Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, U.S. Marine Corps. General Lejeune was an exemplary Marine having led combat forces in WWI, guided the establishment of schools at Quantico, and later served as the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps. After the war while still deployed, General Lejeune was made a Master Mason in a lodge in Coblenz, Germany and became a devoted member of our Masonic fraternity.

On July 2, 1924, twenty-four Masons signed a petition to the Grand Lodge of Virginia to grant a charter to establish Quantico Lodge No. 350. On March 6, 1925, a Provisional Lodge was opened for the installation of the first officers. Major General Lejeune, an attendee, was introduced

by Most Worshipful (MW) Callahan, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. General Lejeune spoke about the characteristics of Freemasonry – tolerance, brotherly love, obedience to both human and Divine laws, and democracy. The Bible used to open the Provisional Lodge was provided by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, the same Bible used by George Washington. The first stated communication with the newly installed officers was held on March 11, 1925, during which both MW Callahan and General Lejeune were elected to honorary membership in the Lodge.

At the stated communication of July 20, 1927, the Lodge not having a permanent meeting place, Brother Zalanka recommended that the Marine Memorial Church in Quantico would be fitting and a building fund was established with members initially assessed \$1.00 per month, and later raised to \$10.00 per month for a period of five years. Brother F.P. Moncure was authorized to consummate the purchase of the Marine Memorial M.E. Church as the permanent home for \$5,000.00 and purchase the adjoining lots for \$500 each.

The cornerstone of our Lodge was laid on June 4, 1934 in a ceremony led by the grand Master of Virginia, W.M. Brown. The cornerstone contains many items to include the traditional vials of corn, wine, and oil, a Lodge roster, an 1816 copper penny; an Indian arrowhead; a civil war bullet, and a picture of the officers of this Lodge for 1934. On May 24, 1940, the Lodge held a mortgage burning ceremony and a changed our By-Laws to re-set dues at 75 cents per month.

From the first petitioners on July 16, 1925, Earl J. Zalanka, James H. Spalding, Ernest W. Beck (the first raised to Master Mason in our Lodge), Thomas D. Collins, and Cyrus A. Gould, and the first Masons to affiliate with the Lodge, many Masons have called John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 as their Lodge. Because of our unique location within Marine Corps Base Quantico, many notable Marines have also called John A. Lodge No. 350 their Lodge, these include:

- LtGen John A. Lejeune
- MajGen Randolph C. Berkley
- BGen Merritt A. Edson
- MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.
- LtGen Merwin W. Silverthorn
- Maj Calvin A. Lloyd

But the affiliation of Marines with the Masonic fraternity is not without precedence. Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Corps on 10 November 1775, was at the time an active Masonic Lodge with membership that included not only Benjamin Franklin but Samuel Nicholas, the first commissioned Marine Officer and the first Commandant of the Marines.

As the Masons of John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 reach our 100th anniversary as part of the Quantico community and as members of one of the world's oldest Fraternities, we remain dedicated to the legacy of our namesake and the Masonic concepts of faith, hope, and charity.

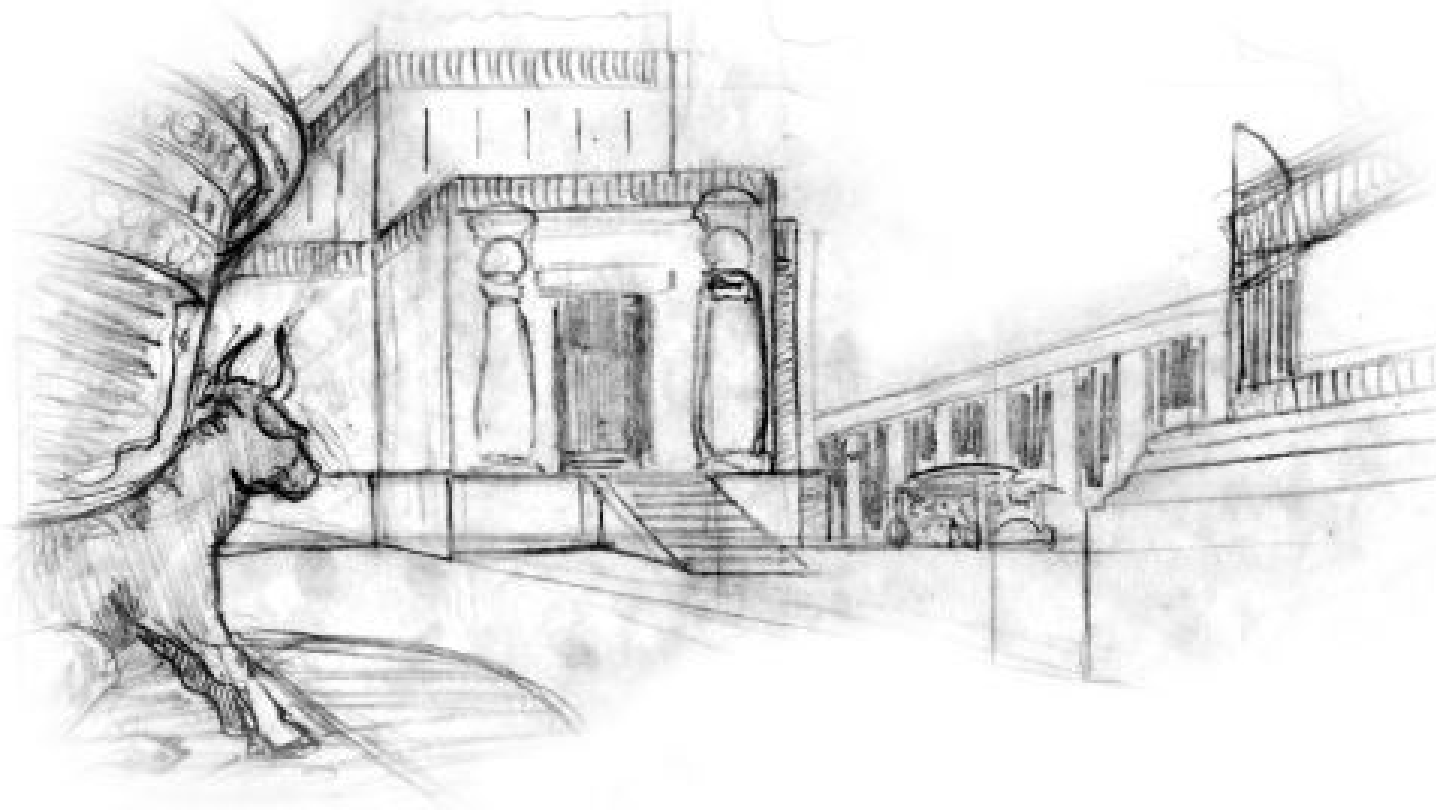
We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions to prospective men of good report; the future is up to YOU..

### Mission Statement of Freemasonry:

To promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences; by teaching the great principles of *Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth*; and, by the outward expression of these through its fellowship, to find ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self.

**In John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350**, our passion is to strive to inculcate and nurture in our members a sense of *empathy and belonging* by promoting Masonic teachings and practice through the Ritualistic, Educational, Esoteric, Charitable, and Fellowship-Oriented realms in an affable environment that focuses and regards the *INTERNAL*, and not the *EXTERNAL* qualifications of our Brethren.





*“... a temple of living stones, among whom no contention should ever exist, save that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.”*