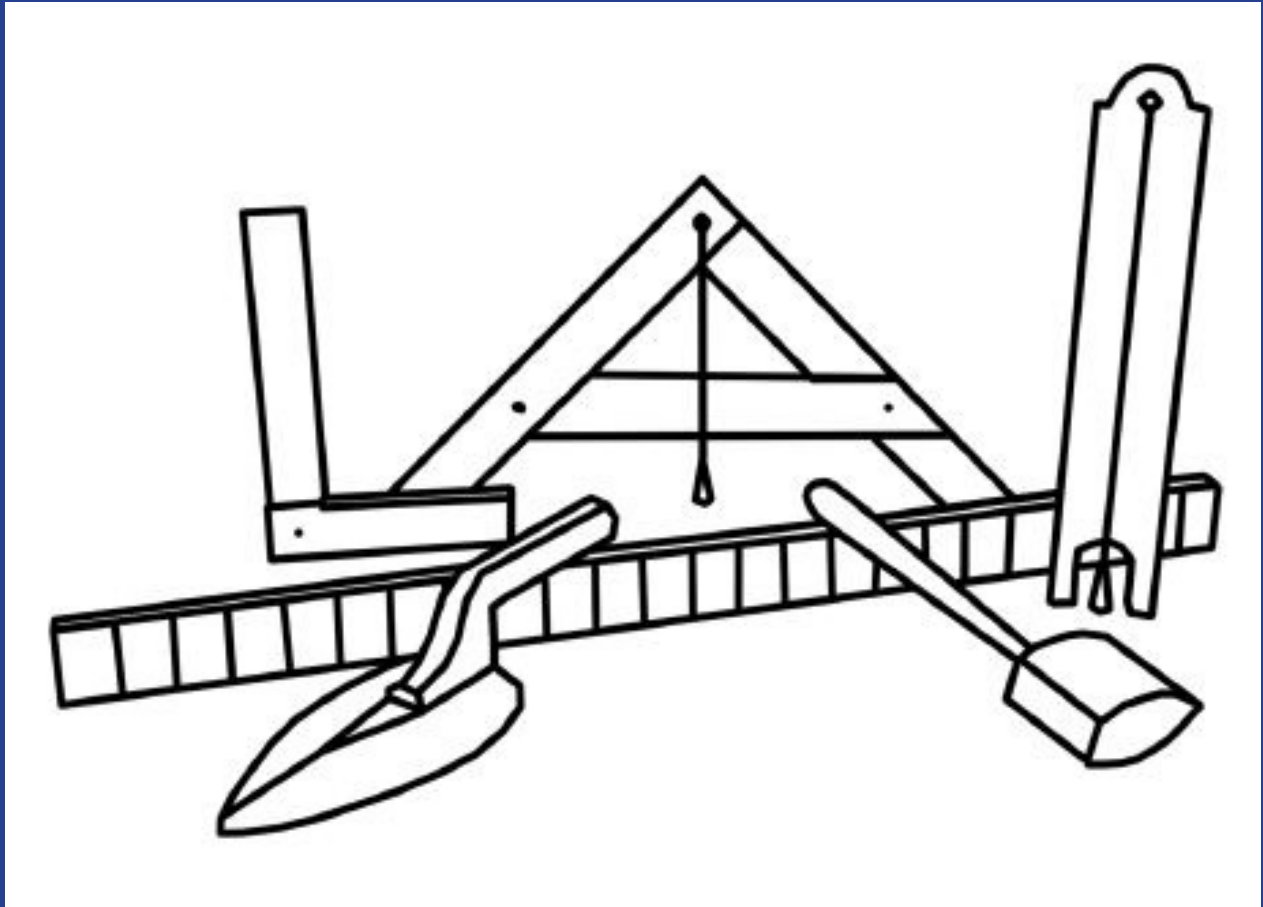


John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



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

MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD

February 2023

Chartered February 11, 1925

FROM THE EAST: WB BRANDON BATEMAN



Brethren all,

In this, our February – of the Latin, *Februa*, meaning ‘to cleanse’, we celebrate the birth of Brother George Washington – the Father of our United States. By our Craft, thus set to work into this year, should be paid that due homage for the many services rendered and sacrifices made in the formation and preservation of our Country. Brother G.W. exemplified a certain *loyalty* to the idea of that supreme-good, which came to inform our democratic framework. He knew very well that the winning of independence was, in fact, the easiest part; that maintaining it would be the challenge. He knew that a dull citizenry leads to the fall of States.

In his farewell address, Bro G.W. wrote: “Promote then, as an object of *primary importance*, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.”

In the same document, Bro George went on to write about the ominous echoes from examples, both ancient and modern, demonstrating how

a dull citizenry leads to divisive party loyalties – and – that mass loyalty to party, over mass loyalty to country, is the beginning of the end for every failed-state.

In this month of ‘cleansing’, as we pay that due homage, let us be reminded to ever-promote the ‘general diffusion of knowledge’, and encourage others – by our word and by our deed - to do the same. History has shown us that *loyalty* to an *idea* is inevitably more powerful than subversion. Let us be inspired by the vision of Bro G.W. – and reaffirm our own *loyalty* to the idea of our United States. In the scales of justice hangs the universal balance, which so perfectly demonstrates the beauty of the same.

This past month, in our efforts to ‘*Earn the Title, Every Day*’, we passed two Brothers to the Degree of Fellowcraft. I suspect that we will have two MM degrees coming up very shortly. Please start working on your respective parts! We also have two petitions for first reading at Stated. So, there will be much more upcoming degree work to do. Catechism coaching is ongoing.

I hope to see you all at Stated Communication on Monday, 20th of February. 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

Loyalty—it is a fleeting commodity these days. What determines loyalty? Merriam Websters defines it as, “...a strong feeling of support or allegiance.” This definition can be applied to many groups or organizations (Boy Scouts, military, masonry). Even the media showcases the value of loyalty—watch any gangster type film. With so many organizations and examples in everyday life (wearing a name brand or shopping at one store for groceries), why is loyalty becoming a scarce commodity? It boils down to the sharing of adversity. Loyalty is found in the presence of adversity and is solidified by the accomplishment of the mission or task. Last month we touched on trust. Trust and loyalty go hand in hand. Can I trust that when the storm hits we can weather it together? Loyalty is the repetition of overcoming adversity

together. When I was in the military I had an allegiance to my country, to the men I served with and the belief in my own faith. However it wasn't until combat where the loyalty factor came in (there is no atheist in foxholes). I discovered the more I trusted my brothers, the easier it was to be loyal to our cause because we shared the burden. As we continue to work this year, let us put our trust in each other and with the fraternity and projects we strengthen our bonds of loyalty to each other and the craft. The bonds we have formed shape our loyalties to each other, and ultimately the craft. Loyalty doesn't come from words spoken but action set into motion. This month let our loyalties be forged as we accomplish our tasks and understand each other.

FROM THE SOUTH: BRO. BRIAN POTVIN

SO MOTE IT BE

What does it mean? Even if you never look into it deeper, you can probably figure out that it basically means “Amen”. It's nice to know that, but let's dig a little deeper, shall we?

The word “mote” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “motan”, which loosely translates into “may” or “might”. Most interestingly, the phrase goes all the way back to the oldest document of our Craft, the Regius Poem. Every time we utter that phrase, we are continuing a tradition that every single Freemason has followed. Every. Single. One. Isn't that awesome? To think that Mozart, Washington, Pike Kipling, and Lindbergh all uttered those same words before they ate a meal with their Brothers or prayed in their lodges.

No true Mason starts any great or important task without first invoking the blessing of Deity, with the closing phrase of “so mote it be”. Think of it another way: whenever we use the phrase, we're saying “the will of God be done” or “so be it... because it is wise and right”. It is yet another way for Masons to be constantly reminded that we are subject to the will of Deity.

I am proud to call each of you Brother. It is my wish that we all continue to grow together in Masonry. That we all continue to bring light to each other and to the world. So Mote It Be.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events:

FEBRUARY

17th at 1730: “Garodge” Work & Instruction at one of the WB’s residence.
FXBG Location TBA (Monitor GroupMe app)

17th at 1800: WB Barry Mensh to speak at Dale City Lodge 319 (Recommend fraternal visit, for those able to attend). 4001 Prince William Parkway Suite 202 Woodbridge, VA 22192

19th at 1600: Rainbow Quantico-Freedom Assembly, Meeting
235 Potomac Avenue, Quantico VA

20th at 1500: Cornerstone Laying Reenactment at GWMNM, Alexandria

20th at 1800: John A. Lejeune Lodge 350 Dinner & Stated Communication
235 Potomac Avenue, Quantico VA

22nd at 1800: District (1B) School – Location TBA

24th at 1930: “Garodge” Work & Instruction at one of the WB’s residence.
FXBG Location TBA (Monitor GroupMe app)

MARCH – (Future Ops Planning)

2nd at 1930: Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter 81 of the Eastern Star, 1830 dinner

03rd at 1930: “Garodge” Work & Instruction at one of the WB’s residence.
FXBG Location TBA (Monitor GroupMe app)

20th at 1800: DDGM Official Visit to John A. Lejeune Lodge 350
Dinner & Stated Communication 7pm
235 Potomac Avenue, Quantico VA

Significant Dates:

22 FEB - Birthday of Brother George Washington – 1732
(February 11, 1731 Julian Calendar)

20 FEB – Presidents’ Day



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

CY23 Operating and Capital Budgets approved. At the January Stated our overall CY23 budget was approved. This consists of our annual operating budget and our capital budget. The operating budget, which is executed through our checking account, includes our lodge's administrative / office expenses, routine operating costs such as utilities and insurance, and our charitable contributions. Our capital budget is a Trustees-approved, five-year budget, which is now executed through our money market account, designed to resolve our long-standing backlog of maintenance, modernization, and repair of our facility. We are in the second year of our five-year capital budget and made significant progress last year. During CY22 we repaired the roof, completed phase I of the windows replacement project, upgraded our security, trimmed trees, removed a gas leak, and maintained our HVAC.

CY23 Capital Budget Projects. For CY23, we have selected six capital projects from the 13 identified. Projects selected for CY23 include: 1) completing phase II of the windows replacement project; 2) upgrading our kitchen; 3) updating

and/or replacing signage; 4) repairing and / or replacing the front door; 5) repairing the lower entrance; and 6) painting the fire escape. All projects will require significant effort and oversight to complete.

Transitioning to an Annual Capital Budget. Once we complete the remaining years of our capital improvement plan, to avoid the future accumulation of repairs, we plan to transition to an annual, sustainable capital budget. This will require a significant increase in our current investment portfolio and near-term innovative changes to our approach to fundraising. To meet this challenge, a new Fundraising Policy and Plans committee has been established as a special committee and is tasked with completing its work and providing innovative recommendations to the Brethren by the September Stated. This committee will also be providing monthly updates.

There's much to be done...if you have any questions, please let me know.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Brethren,

Some of you will be receiving emails from Grand Lodge advising you of your annual dues that are due to the Lodge. As we received many payments by mail and at least eight or so through the Grand Lodge Grandview site, there are still 27 Brothers that have yet to remit their payments.

As I stated in last month's note, 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. This is our home lodge and we do need to do all we can to keep it in good repair.

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



TEAMS

“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!*



OFFICERS 2022



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

Scottish Rite

Jim Solomon

Shriners

To be assigned

International Order of the Rainbow For Girls

Quantico-Freedom Assembly No. 6

Mother Advisor Ange Malmquist

Sojourners Chapter 44

Randall Arnold

Order of the Amaranth

RW Rex Rockhill

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.



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.

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.





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.

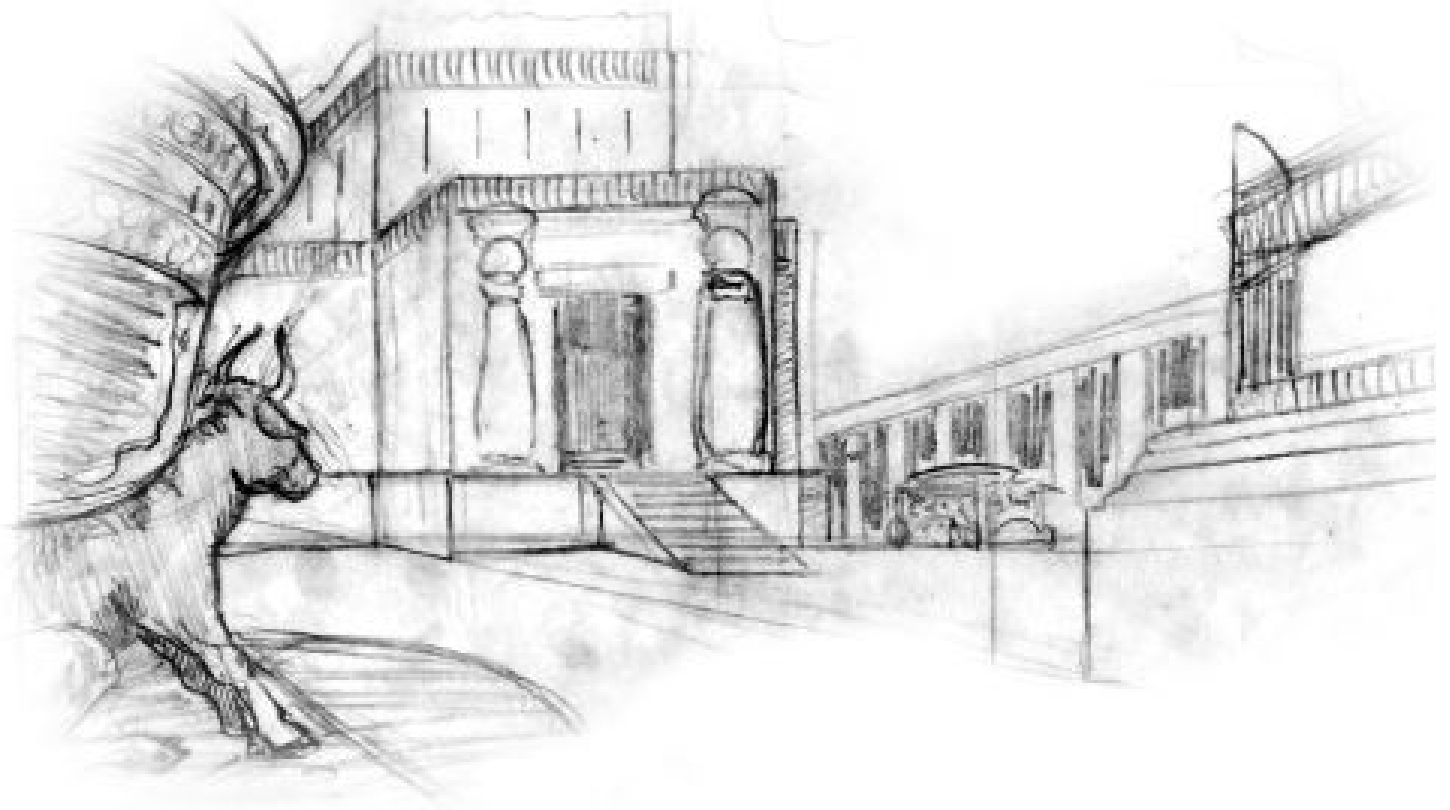
We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions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