

# John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



Master's Theme: "Come as you are"

MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD

January 2024

Chartered February 11, 1925

# FROM THE EAST: BRO. MORGAN TOLLIVER

Happy New Year brethren! As the new Worshipful Master my theme is *Come As You Are* much like the Nirvana song. No brother should ever feel like the clothes he has on isn't good enough for lodge or they have to grab their Sunday best to feel like part of the lodge. I see our lodge getting more involved with the town of Quantico and its community. Our hats, gloves and scarf program has been successful as many homeless have something to keep themselves warm on those cold days. We are continuing to grow our number. Even with the strict requirements the Marine Corps puts on those visiting, we continue to grow—slowly but surely.

With new leadership, comes new expectations and I want our community involvement to highlight the beautiful craft we have by supporting the local community. Last year we helped with the Marine Corps walk/run event. This year we will continue that project by opening our lodge to the public again to help with this amazing event. Thanks to our latest Entered Apprentice Tai we have another opportunity to help the community by helping to construct wheel chair ramps for those with disabilities. Everyone has something they can offer the lodge to help with the work we will need to be doing.

Aside from the work we will be planning this year, there will be times of refreshment too. Our annual baseball game at the Fred Nats will continue to be a fixture in our lodge as it will help to bring our families together. Having served in the military, I want to focus on the economy of time. We as masons have commitments to the lodge and each other. Sometimes it seem like families don't get the time needed. I would like to change that by economizing the time we have to conduct business. I am not one for extraneous meetings so I will work to economize time, which will

enable us to focus on our ritual, presence in the community but more importantly time with our families which empower us to accomplish the work we have to do.

We will have some projects coming up. I look to a joyous and prosperous year thanks to all the hard work we will put into our lodge and more importantly the community we have within the town of Quantico and with the Commonwealth of Virginia as well. I look forward to working with every brother in our lodge and with other lodges too to bring together the most impact we can for the greater good.

This is to let you know that Occoquan Lodge Ritual school will be held on Thursday, 4 January. The topic for this school will be "Reception of the District Deputy Grand Master on the occasion of his Official Visit." School starts promptly at 1900. I recommend that the officers of each lodge review this ceremony which appears in the Presentation Volume, beginning on Page 183, prior to the school. Our lodge will also have a practice on Monday, 29 January at 1830.

I leave you with a quote from Benjamin Franklin, Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1760, wrote: "Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another. Sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Worshipful Brother Morgan Tolliver



## FROM THE WEST: BRO. BRIAN POTVIN

### JAL #350's 100th Anniversary – A Call to Arms!

Brethren, for those of you who don't know, February 2025 is the 100th anniversary of the signing of our Lodge Charter. It's going to be here before we know it, so time is of the essence! Our Junior Warden and I are co-chairing the planning committee for the events that will surround our centennial celebration.

At this time, we've begun the initial planning stages for a Table Lodge to be held on 15 Feb. 2025, with more details to follow in the near future. We're also planning on inviting the Lejeune descendants to take part in some of our festivities. Now is the time for you all to step up and volunteer to be a part of these events, and to bring forth your opinions on what we should do to honor this gigantic milestone for our lodge in particular and for Freemasonry in general.

Brother Terry and I will be speaking about this at our next Stated Communication (15 Jan. 2024), but we really need to get the wheels spinning as soon as possible. If you'd like to volunteer your ideas or your time and effort toward this anniversary celebration, please reach out to me at [brianpotvin@yahoo.com](mailto:brianpotvin@yahoo.com), call me at (703) 855-2058, or see me at the next Stated. The more of you who volunteer to work on this with Terry and I, the better our anniversary will be. Thanks so much for your time, and I am proud to call you all my brothers!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother Brian Potvin

## FROM THE SOUTH: BRO. TERRY JONES

As we embark upon this next Masonic year under our new Worshipful Master's leadership, it is imperative for us all remember what once brought us to Masonry and what we are obligated to continue. As we conduct ourself inside or outside of the Lodge, based on the tenants of Freemasonry. The beauty of light we all have the capability to share during the course of a day, week or year... in small or great ways. If we share this beautiful light our works will continue once we are unable to spread the light ourselves. I will close by a quote from an unknown author and sincerely look forward to continuing our works as a collective as well as individual Masons.

“If one were asked to sum up the meaning of Masonry in one word, the only word equal to

the task is - light! From its first lesson to its last lecture, in every degree and every symbol, the mission of Masonry is to bring the light of God into the life of man. It has no other aim, knowing that when the light shines the truth will be revealed. A Lodge of Masons is a House of Light. Symbolically it has no roof but the sky, open to all the light of nature and of grace. All the work of the Lodge is done under the eye and in the name of God, obeying Him who made the great lights, whose mercy endures forever”.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother Terry Jones



# 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**

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, 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 2024



**Worshipful Master**  
WB Morgan Tolliver

**Senior Warden**  
Bro. Brian Potvin

**Junior Warden**  
Bro. Terrell Jones

**Treasurer**  
Bro. Harvey Miller

**Secretary**  
WB Randall Arnold, PM

**Senior Deacon**  
Bro. Willie Woodson

**Junior Deacon**  
Bro. Dalton Greever

**Chaplain**  
WB Barry Mensh, PM

**Senior Steward**  
Bro. Aaron Duncan

**Junior Steward**  
Bro. Jim Richey

**Marshal**  
Bro. Ian McIntyre

**Tiler**  
WB Jim Solomon, PM

## APPENDANT BODIES

**Order of the Eastern Star**  
**Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter 81**  
Worthy Matron Frances Childers

**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**  
WB Brandon Bateman

**Shriners**

To be assigned

**Sojourners Chapter 44**

Randall Arnold

**York Rite**

To be assigned



## Living Past Masters

1976 Donald Ritenour	2000 Emory Kelley
1980 Eddie Sykes	2002/2018 Jim Solomon
1982/2010 Rex Rockhill	2003/04 Kenneth Wrisley
1983 Richard Fravel*	2009 Donald Radeke
1985 Frank Harris III	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	2023 Brandon Bateman
1999 Jack Williams	* = 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

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

### Call us by extension:

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

## District Schools

Fellowship will go at 6:00 p.m. with the District Education Officer giving a short presentation at 7 p.m. 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.

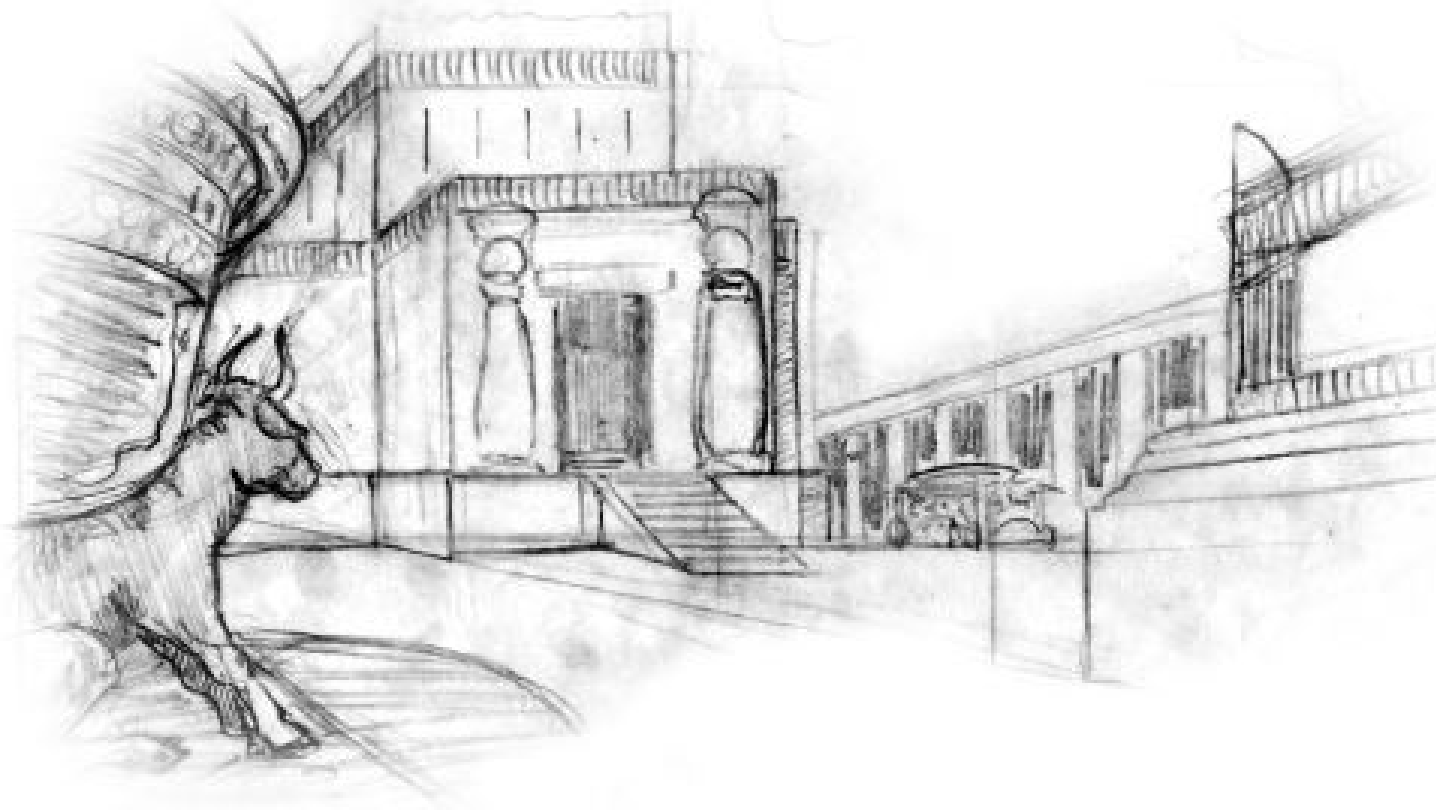
We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions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