

John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



Master's Theme: "Come as you are"

MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD

February 2024

Chartered February 11, 1925

FROM THE EAST: BRO. MORGAN TOLLIVER

Winter came and winter went with little fan fare. We hunkered down and ran to the store to grab all the milk, bread and eggs as we could. Some stated communications had to be rescheduled and schools had to close. The snow we got was promised but not the ice and wintery mix. Under all the beautiful white lay something far more dangerous. That got me thinking as masons we sometimes gloss over things we shouldn't (e.g. you hear a brother say it's all good when maybe they aren't). We don't address it and then the conditions are perfect for something dangerous to happen—we lose a brother to miscommunication or worse a personal affront. For some the winter was a welcomed respite for others a cold reality. As we move towards warmer weather, let us move Masonically in a direction that ensures our communications and our actions build stronger bonds of brotherhood. The first branch I served in was the United States Army. My unit's motto was Audacia (by daring

deeds). As Masons we must be audacious so we don't lose brothers. It is more than simply asking if a brother is good. It is taking a bold risk of asking the follow up questions. In the Marine Corps, we used the motto Semper Fidelis—always faithful. We owe it to each brother to faithfully take that bold risk to ensure we are truly square. Take the time to know your brother. Take the time to understand your fellowman. I am no weatherman but I do know when winter shows the bonds forged will ensure those conditions aren't perfect for a catastrophic event. Communication will be clear and slippery conditions will be avoided. As we move into February let us strengthen our bonds and be ready for when winter truly comes whether it is literal or metaphorical.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Brother Morgan Tolliver

FROM THE SOUTH: BRO. TERRY JONES

Beauty Defined

After being initiated into Freemasonry, I was asked....so what did you think? My first one-word response was **Beautiful**. Beauty is an excellent example of an arbitrary word. You may ask why, well arbitrary defined means; based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.

Beauty or beautiful is generally applied to describe something that is esthetically appealing to our eyes. Biblically in Samuel 16:7, is more aligned with what I was referring to when asked about Freemasonry. "But the LORD said unto Samuel, look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; **for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**"

Beauty is as the Sun in the South or as it sets in the West and less, we never forget as it rises in the East. Esthetically pleasing, yet the reason that my initiation was described as beautiful was more influenced not by what I visually witnessed but primarily by how it impacted my heart.

As we practice the tenants of Freemasonry and our craft albeit inside or outside the lodge. I challenge all Masons to find the beauty in not prejudging and finding fault in people, places and things. Rather, we attempt to enrich our hearts and find the beauty in everyday life, and practice friendship, morality, and brotherly love towards all.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Terry Jones

FROM THE WEST: BRO. BRIAN POTVIN

Freemasons Are Investors

In my short few years as a Freemason, I've come to quickly realize that one of the most important leadership lessons I learned while serving in our military is also true of all good Freemasons: Freemasons are investors. Here's what I mean by that, Brothers: we as Freemasons need to invest our time, energy, and attention into being the best Freemasons, and thereby, the best men, we can be. Here's how we can all strive to increase our Masonic investments:

Invest Your Time: Ritual takes time, doesn't it? Just trying to dedicate to memory the words to serve as an officer in our progressive line, or to learn how to Open and close a lodge, confer a degree, or to participate in a Masonic funeral takes a MASSIVE amount of time. However, in my humble opinion, simply committing the words we learn to memory is not NEARLY enough. We've got to inculcate those words and lessons into our everyday lives. We've got to know the allegory of the lessons and know how to apply it to our lives. Work hard to avoid being a "parrot Mason" who just learns the words but never takes the time to understand what those words mean.

Invest Your Energy: It takes energy to be an active Freemason. Not just the energy to go to each Stated or Called Communication, but the energy it takes to be passionate about other Masons. One of my favorite leadership coaches, John Maxwell, loves to say, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." By dedicating your time to

helping each other get better at ritual, and by participating in other lodge's events, you'll be showing them how much you care about them and our beloved fraternity.

Invest Your Attention: I am as guilty of this as the next man. How many of you check your phones during Stated? I know I do...constantly. There is nothing that will show people you don't REALLY care less than to put your attention on something OTHER than them, right? Give the lodge your attention when you're there. Not just the building, but the men who make up the lodge.

Brothers, I beg you to give our beloved fraternity, and each other, your time, energy, and attention. When was the last time you were at a Stated? When was the last time you were at Garage Lodge on Friday evenings? When was the last time you picked up the phone and called one of our Brothers? I promise you that if you increase your investment in our lodge, that investment will be multiplied many times over. I hope to see you all at the lodge soon!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Brian Potvin



“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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

District Leadership Conferences: February 9 Kena Shrine center, Manassas starts at 6:30-8:30 p.m. and
February 10 Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple Alexandria 9:30-11:39 a.m. dark suit for either

District Deputy official visit to John A. Lejeune February 19 7 p.m.

Polar Plunge event on March 16, 2024, contact an officer to volunteer to help at the event or sign up to
participate: <https://fb.me/e/1PFM8rgod>
<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Quantico/QuanticoPotomacPlunge>

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!*



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 Radeke

Donald E. Schneider

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 6:00 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.

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.

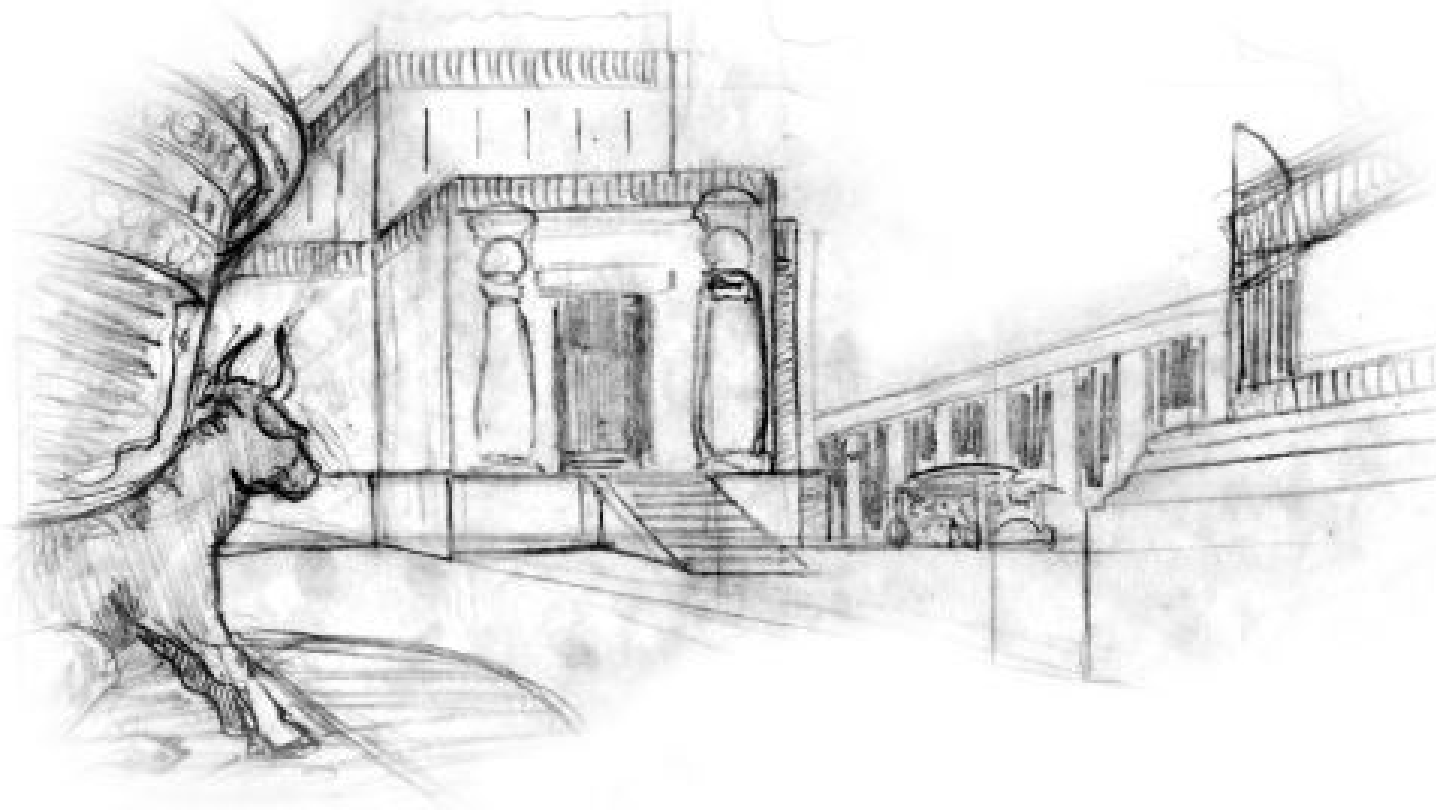
We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions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