

John A. Lejeune Lodge

No. 350 A.F. & A.M



Master's Theme: "Come as you are"

MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD

April 2024

Chartered February 11, 1925

FROM THE EAST: BRO. MORGAN TOLLIVER

Commitment to each other and our brothers is a fundamental aspect of fostering strong bonds and building a supportive community. When we commit to our relationships with family, friends, and colleagues, we demonstrate our dedication to their well-being, happiness, and success. By showing up for each other in times of need, lending a listening ear, offering a helping hand, and providing unwavering support, we create a network of trust, love, and understanding that forms the backbone of our social connections. This commitment to each other strengthens our relationships, deepens our connections, and enriches our lives with meaningful interactions and shared experiences.

Moreover, commitment to our brothers signifies a sense of loyalty, solidarity, and unity that transcends mere acquaintanceship. It involves standing by each other through thick and thin, celebrating each other's victories, and offering solace during times of adversity. This bond of brotherhood creates a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and mutual respect among individuals, fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels valued, understood, and accepted for who they are. Through this commitment to our brothers, we build a sense of community, forge lasting friendships, and create a support system that uplifts and empowers each member to thrive and succeed.

Furthermore, commitment to each other and our brothers cultivates empathy, compassion, and kindness in our interactions. When we prioritize the well-being and happiness of those around us, we create a culture of care, understanding, and mutual respect that enhances the quality of our relationships. By actively listening, offering encouragement, and showing empathy towards others, we foster a sense of connection and emotional intimacy that strengthens our bonds and fosters a sense of belonging.

This commitment to each other enables us to build meaningful relationships based on trust, authenticity, and genuine care for one another, creating a supportive community where everyone feels valued and appreciated.

In essence, commitment to each other and our brothers is essential for creating a harmonious, thriving community built on trust, respect, and mutual support. By prioritizing our relationships, standing by each other through challenges, and showing empathy and kindness in our interactions, we nurture a culture of care, understanding, and solidarity that enriches our lives and strengthens our connections. Through this commitment, we not only foster deep and meaningful relationships but also create a sense of belonging, unity, and shared purpose that uplifts and empowers each member to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives within our community and our lodge.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Worshipful Brother Morgan Tolliver



FROM THE WEST: BRO. BRIAN POTVIN



Freemasonry: A Labor of Love

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw wages in gold and 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.” - Benjamin Franklin

This is, in my humble opinion my brothers, one of the most accurate and beautiful quotes about what it means to be a Mason. If you became a Mason because you thought you'd gain some kind of power, or if you thought you'd be able to use your new Masonic connections to make more money in your usual vocation, then I say you became a Mason for all the wrong reasons. For me, being a Mason has solidified my belief that, as Grand Master Ben Franklin stated above, you'll get from Freemasonry what you put into it. When you're kind to others, others will be kind

to you. When we look out for a Brother in need, our Brothers will look out for us when we need help.

The same can be said of our need to perfect our ritual work in the lodge. Those of us in the progressive line, and those of us who strive to be in the line someday, need to dedicate the time necessary to not just learn the words for our current chair, but for the chair we'll hopefully be in next year or the year after that. Having a leadership role in our lodge requires a commitment above and beyond that of a Master Mason. I am proud to be a member of our great Lodge, and to have surrounded myself with great Brothers like yourselves.

See you all at the next Stated Communication!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother Brian Potvin

FROM THE SOUTH: BRO. TERRY JONES



As many of the brethren from our lodge are former and retired members of the military it reminds me of one of the reasons I was attracted to Freemasonry to begin with. Like minded individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives brought together by the beauty of the Craft. Additionally, it is important to note that just because we meet at one of the most unique towns around any military base being a Veteran or retiree is not a requirement to be a member of the lodge. Quite the contrary exists we encourage any interested man to join us if they meet the proper prerequisites. In the end it is quite possible that some of these prior service members regardless of branch may have encountered each other due to their chosen profession. However, being exposed to different ideologies and philosophies was attractive to me. Some of the most interesting and informed Brothers never spent a day in military service. Yet they continue to enlighten me in all my interactions.

Collectively the members of our lodge bring their individual backgrounds, ideas, and approaches to our lodge. The combination of Veterans/Non-Veterans, Civilians etcetera makes for some differing in opinion and different ways

of resolving issues and lodge business. Also, there is a fair share of jokes and good-hearted banter between our mix of Veterans. Each with their own set of loyalty to their respective branch of service. Ultimately leading to as my grandmother use to say a “Great Gumbo”. An excellent mix of ingredients ultimately defining our lodge.

Brother Brian our Senior Warden put it best at our March stated communication and I will attempt to paraphrase for those who were not present. The beauty of Masonry is not based on your station in life, how much you have in your bank account or the position you hold or used to hold in the organization that you work with. The beauty is not based on your race, creed, or the identity of your supreme being..... The beauty is the collection of good men trying to make themselves and their community better. I challenge you all to bring Light in and about Freemasonry in the beauty we are all attempting to achieve, individually or collectively.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brother Terry Jones

“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 Jean Wertman

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	2002/2018 Jim Solomon
1980 Eddie Sykes	2003/04 Kenneth Wrisley
1982/2010 Rex Rockhill	2009 Donald Radeke
1983 Richard Fravel*	2012 Jason Newcomer
1985 Frank Harris III	2013/2015 Robert Lane
1987 James Day*	2014 Carl DeSantis
1990 James Van Fleet	2019/20/21 Randall Arnold
1992 Thomas Blizzard*	2022 Barry Mensh
1994 David Ekren	2023 Brandon Bateman
1996 Ronald Bigger	* = Demitted
2000 Emory Kelley	



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.

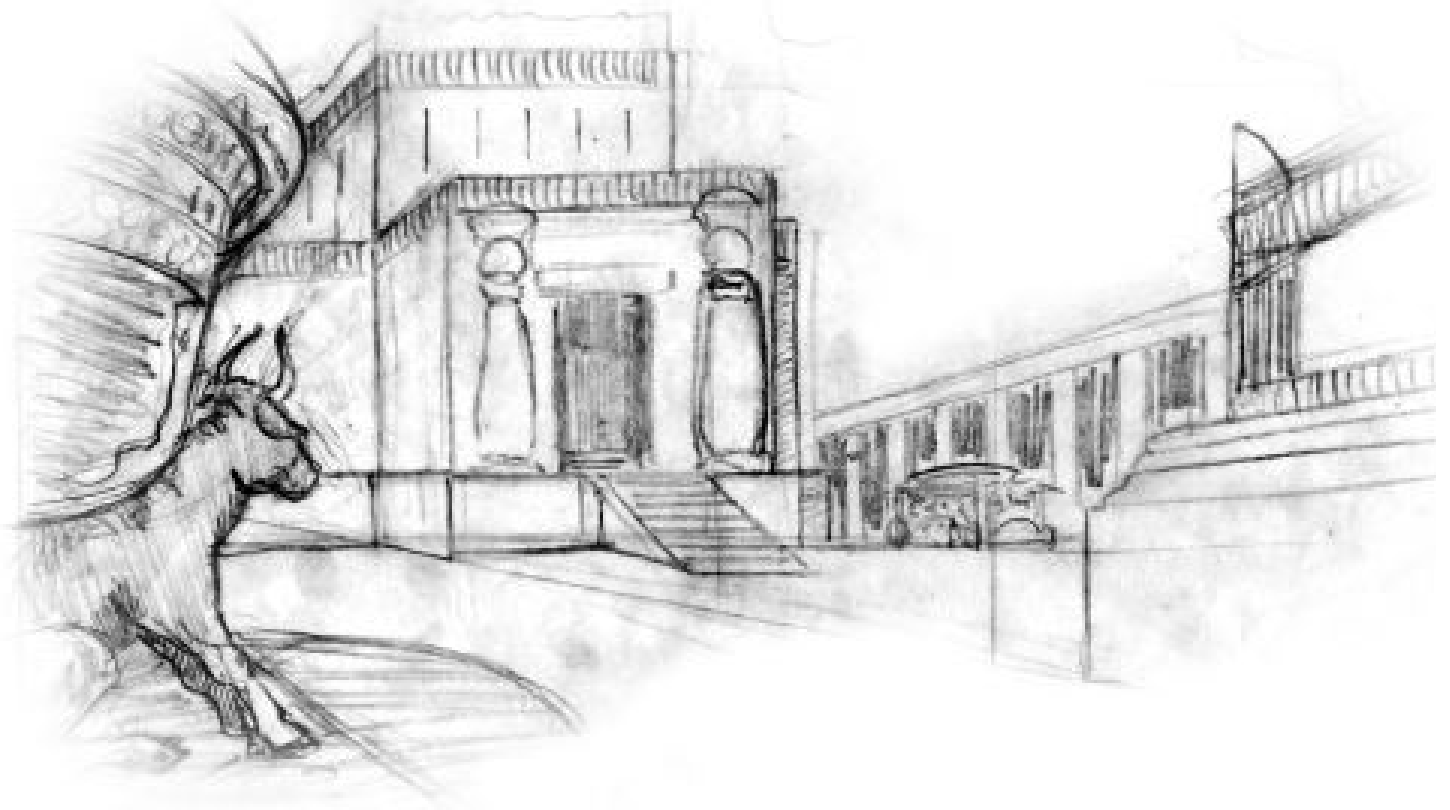
We have arrived at the dawning of a new year, decade, and century. The advancing ages of our older members will not permit the Lodge to grow as deaths, demits, and suspensions will take their respective tolls on our membership. We MUST continue concerted efforts to locate, inform, and provide petitions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