

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF DARLINGTON, MARYLAND

# STEPHENSON LODGE

No. 135

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER FOR 144 YEARS



VOLUME 145 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2013



*Worshipful Master Bill Bridges, Sr. welcomes the guests to the first Valentine Dinner held at Stephenson Lodge. From left to right are Paul and Stacey Sedesse, who will later talk about the Maryland Masonic Homes, Brother Mike Fiore, who graciously provided four varieties of his special wines for the evening. Winston Arnold, as waiter, endeavoring to open a bottle of wine and Joanne Boyle, our Treasurer's wife, who is listening to what the Worshipful Master has to say in his introduction.*

## **Stephenson Lodge celebrates Valentine Day with a Sit-down Dinner**

We had our first Lodge dinner for 2013 by celebrating Valentine Day on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> with a full Italian dinner of salad, spaghetti with meatballs, and lasagna all catered from New England Pizza on Rt 1 in Darlington. Along with the entrees, were Italian bread, butter, and a special valentine cake for dessert. Each lady received a small heart shaped box of candy. We filled six tables of six, with one reserved table for any last minute arrivals. The tables were decked out in white, pink and red, with floral pieces from Fawn Grove Florist. There was a drawing after the dinner and seven ladies were able to take home the centerpieces. Before the dinner, Brother Mike Fiore gave a short talk on the wines and after dinner, Stacey Sedesse gave a presentation on the Maryland Masonic Homes. Our Chaplain perform the duties of Mast of Ceremonies for the evening.

**INSIDE: Current Events for Stephenson Lodge. The New Susquehanna Valley. Phoenix Royal Arch. & more**



# STEPHENSON LODGE

Line Officers for 2013

Worshipful Master ..... William A. Bridges, Sr.  
 Senior Warden ..... J. Courtney Hart  
 Junior Warden ..... Richard E. Dolly, Jr.  
 Secretary ..... Jerry R. Arnold, PM  
 Treasurer ..... Thomas J. Boyle, PM  
 Senior Deacon ..... Keith Thompson, Sr., PM  
 Junior Deacon ..... Andrew Kucharek  
 Senior Steward ..... Mark Alexander  
 Junior Steward ..... William Bridges, Jr.  
 Tyler ..... Frank W. Fowler, HPM  
 Chaplain ..... Mickey Hoffman  
 Musician ..... Vernon K. Stearn, PM  
 Marshal ..... Duane A. Duncan, PM  
 Ritualist ..... Duane A. Duncan, PM  
 Grand Inspector ..... Kevin Emery PM, GI

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

William A. Bridges, Sr.  
 3637 Anderson Lane  
 Jarrettsville, MD 21084  
 410-935-3278

### SECRETARY

Jerry R. Arnold, PM  
 3110 Tucker Road  
 Street, MD 21154  
 443-528-7895

A MESSAGE FROM

## Our Worshipful Master

Brethren one and all,  
 Winter can be a hard and difficult time. This winter has cast its shadow on some of our brothers. Our sick list has lengthened and I pray that God will comfort and heal all that are ill. Please remember to pray for the sick. And as we all know, "be not slow to visit the sick, for that shall make thee to be beloved". But there is light. Winter will soon be gone. The sun's rays are being cast farther to the North every day now. The cold is turning to warmth, the shorter, darker days are becoming longer, lighter ones. And as for prayers, there is no better place to find them, than in one of our great Masonic lights, the Holy Bible. God is all powerful, He is the comforter, and gives us joy, blessings, rest, peace and hope. Here is a great Bible Verse that can uplift our spirits and comfort us in sickness and in health. Put your faith in God and watch Him be your guiding light.



*Psalm 103:2- God is the healer of our diseases  
 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

Fraternally Yours,  
 Sincerely, William A. Bridges, Sr.,  
 Worshipful Master, 2013

APPLICATION FOR THE DEGREES OF MASONRY

## Petition for Masonry

We have a petition for the degrees of Masonry from Mr. Brandon Michael Caldwell, of Belcamp, Maryland. Mr. Caldwell is Brother Bill Sr.'s grandson and Brother Bill Jr.'s son. He is 31 and is employed as an electrician at Exelon. He has recommended by Brother Clinton Adams, HPM and Past Master Bruce Flaughter. The investigation committee has been assigned and will return with their finds to the Lodge for balloting on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

A MESSAGE FROM

## Our Deputy Grand Lecturer

County school will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 10AM at Aberdeen Lodge #176 in Aberdeen We will be reviewing the Master Mason Degree. Officers are requested to attend. All Master Masons are welcome. Please spread the word. I look forward to another nice attendance.

Sincerely and Fraternally, Bill Richard, DGL



## A Special Thanks

The officers and Brothers of Stephenson Lodge wish to extend a special thanks to Mr. Richard Herring for his efforts in creating the atmosphere, handling, managing and serving at our Valentine Dinner.

### THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP

You should have your **2012 Dues Card**

**Stephenson Lodges Annual Dues ..... \$48.<sup>00</sup>**  
**Affiliated Member Annual Dues ..... \$25.<sup>50</sup>**  
**Petition ..... \$205.<sup>00</sup>**

You should have your 2013 card by now. Those behind with only 2012 cards need to submit their dues as soon as possible..



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

## March Masonic Birthdays

Arthur H. Crouse, PM..... MAR 5, 1958..... 55 yrs  
 William M. Cadwell, Sr. .... MAR 15, 1961 ..... 52 yrs  
 Rex. E. Leftridge, PM ..... MAR 17, 1965 ..... 48 yrs  
 Jerry Fields, PM ..... MAR 4, 1967..... 46 yrs  
 C. Dayton Miller, PM ..... MAR 4, 1970..... 43 yrs  
 Roland W. Knight, Jr..... MAR 20, 1974 ..... 39 yrs  
 Berlin O. Wright ..... MAR 4, 1981..... 32 yrs  
 Clarence A. Standiford, Jr... MAR 3, 1982..... 31 yrs  
 Glen E. Montgomery ..... MAR 17, 1982 ..... 31 yrs  
 C. Robert Johnson ..... MAR 5, 1986..... 27 yrs  
 Keith J. Thompson, PM..... MAR 7, 2001..... 12 yrs  
 Bradley P. Lankford ..... MAR 1, 2006..... 7 yrs



**ABERDEEN LODGE**  
**REGULAR CONVOCATION**  
 Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm  
**Election of officers**  
**Most Excellent Master Degree**  
*Henry C. McDonald, Jr* Presiding  
**Refreshments** – Lou Bandell

RECOGNIZED AT LAST

## Stephenson Lodge's Refreshment Halls Recognized and Named

Many years ago, and some brothers still remember this, the downstairs refreshment hall was dedicated to Past Master Robert R. Miller for all of the work he performed as a contractor on the building. No real indication was ever made to the fact and as time went by, and new members who joined after Brother's Miller's passing were unaware of the fact. As we all know, Past Master Keith J. Thompson, Sr. has done amazing things to the Lodge building over the past couple years. The brothers felt it only proper to name the newly created back refreshment hall and kitchen after him for his dedication and hard work. So it's now official, the front room is the Robert R. Miller, Sr. Hall and the back room and kitchen is the Keith J. Thompson Hall. To commemorate the dedication, two new plaques have been installed in each the respective halls.



FROM OUR SECRETARY

## Sad State of Affairs

When I was Junior Warden back in 1986, I had the responsibility for Perry Point Escort Service, which all Junior Wardens handled. At that time, Stephenson Lodge received a letter in December from Perry Point Veteran Hospital informing us of our dates to attend. Four times a year we would gather as a small group of five to ten brothers and travel to the McDonalds in Havre de Grace fro a quick breakfast before crossing the river.

Typically, once we arrived there we were greeted by Brother Pierce, who was the Chaplain, in his office. He would have a typewritten page with each building

and the names of the patients wishing to attend that morning's service. He would tell us about each patient, a short history, what branch of service he or she came from and any issues we needed to be aware of. We would then break into smaller groups and head out to the different buildings, some being quite a distance away. We travel through long hallways and various buildings, and sometimes outside to get to the various buildings. There was always a brother that knew the way who would take the newbies along. At the nurses' station, the veterans would be in their wheelchairs,

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2013

- Stephenson Lodge Events
- County Lodges Events
- Grand Lodges Events
- Susquehanna Valley Lodge of Perfection (Mt. Ararat Lodge)
- Phoenix Royal Arch (Aberdeen Lodge)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4 Aberdeen Lodge No. 187 (starts at 7:30PM) Aberdeen, MD	5 Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44 (starts at 7:00PM) Bel Air, MD	6 Stephenson Lodge No. 135 (starts at 7:30PM) Darlington, MD	7	8	9
10	11	12 Susquehanna Lodge No. 130 (starts at 7:30PM) Havre de Grace, MD	13	14 Esdraelon Lodge No. 176 (starts at 7:30PM) Cardiff, MD	15	16 School of Instruction Mt. Ararat Lodge 8:00 AM Bel Air, MD
17	18 Aberdeen Lodge No. 187 (starts at 7:30PM) Aberdeen, MD	19 Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44 (starts at 7:00) Bel Air, MD	20 Stephenson Lodge No. 135 (starts at 7:30PM) Darlington, MD	21 Susquehanna Valley Lodge of Perfection Mt. Ararat Lodge Bel Air, MD	22	23
24	25	26 Susquehanna Lodge No. 130 (starts at 7:30PM) Havre de Grace, MD	27 Phoenix Royal Arch Chapter 7 (starts at 7:30PM) Aberdeen, MD	28 Esdraelon Lodge No. 176 (starts at 7:30PM) Cardiff, MD	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

## HARFORD COUNTY MASONIC LODGES ADDRESSES & MEETING NIGHTS



**Mt. Ararat** no.44  
136 East Gordon St.  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

Pete Hicks, II, WM  
James W. Davidson, Sec



**Susquehanna** no.130  
215 North Washington St.  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Mark Fayer, WM  
John Ford, Sec



**Esdraelon** no.176  
304 Main St.  
Cardiff, MD 21024  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Josh Mattlin, WM  
G. Wilson Tharpe, Sec



**Aberdeen** no.187  
20 North Howard St.  
Aberdeen, MD 21001  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

Dustin C. Casteel, WM  
Ralph L. Perry, Sec

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STEPHENSON LODGE

## March Communications

### FIRST COMMUNICATION

**MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> (WEDNESDAY)**

*Short Business Meeting*

### SECOND COMMUNICATION

**MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> (WEDNESDAY)**

*Balloting on Mr. Brandon Caldwell*

*Short Business Meeting*

*Short meeting of Holding Company prior to Communication*

*continued from page 3*

dressed for the season, ready to go. Often there were three or four ready to travel to Church. We'd carry on a short conversation with them armed with the information provided by Brother Pierce. Once at the chapel, we lined the wheelchairs in front and took our seats as a group in the pews. After the service, we'd take our respective patients back to their room, where they would thank us for assisting them. We'd be back home before lunch, feeling like we had done a service to our veterans.

A few years ago things changed there for us. When we arrived, the office that had always been open for us to sign in and meet with the chaplain was locked. We waited around until the time was getting so close to the service that we traveled to the closest buildings to see if any veterans were ready and wanted to go. At each building, we heard the same response; no one was ready or prepared to go. The nurses asked a few patients, but you could tell, they were not ready and the time was too short. So we all returned back to the chapel. A few minutes prior to the service, we saw a young African American zoom into the parking lot. After getting out of his car, we watched him as he tied his necktie crossing the parking lot headed our way. You can imagine our surprise to find out he was the chaplain. The service started as soon as he unlocked the doors. We had brought no veterans with us, so we sat together for the quick service.

We returned for two or three more times, but each time it was the same, the office was locked and no one was ready. Brother Kermit Olinger, HPM contacted the office multiple times, each with the promise that the office would be ready, and we would have patients to escort. It never happened. Last year and this year, we haven't gotten a schedule from for Perry Point Veteran Hospital.

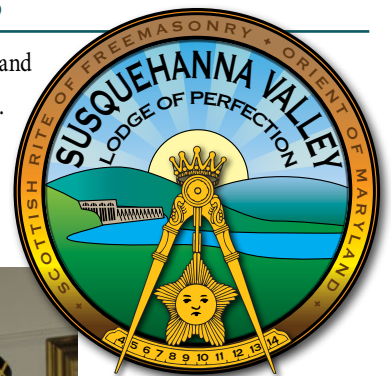


Brother Olinger finally gave up after repeatedly getting the red tape and empty promises.

I see in the recent Sun Paper that the Baltimore area Veteran Office is listed as the worst run one in the States. Veterans are waiting years, and some are dying without getting disability claims handled. We, as a nation claim to support and honor our veterans, but it seems that the Federal workforce that are hired to help them, fail in that task. Seeing what has happened at the Perry Point Veteran Hospital Escort Service has driven the point home. Although the brothers of Stephenson Lodge volunteered their Sunday mornings by providing a free method of getting veterans wanting to attend their chapel's service, the workers there can not even take the time to provide us with dates, or be there on time to give the names and buildings of those men and women who served their country. Right now, we don't provide the service and haven't for the past two years. Perhaps sometime in the future, we'll return to help out again.

## Newly formed Susquehanna Valley in Harford and Cecil Counties

On February 21 the Letters Temporary for the new Scottish Rite **Susquehanna Valley** were signed by the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronald A. Seale, 33°, the Grand Executive Director, William G. Sizemore, 33°, The Grand Master, Gerald E. Piepiora, 33°, The Sovereign Grand Inspector General Marlin L. Mills, 33°, The Personal Representative, Ralph L. Perry, 33°, and the Venerable Master, Pete M. Hick, II, 32°. We had a pretty good representatives from Stephenson Lodge, including Jerry R. Arnold, PM, Secretary, Duane Duncan, Marshal, PM, Charles D. Miller, PM, Dave Kraus, PM, Dean Alban, PM, Omar Duncan, PM, Mickey Hoffman, Chaplain, and Jim Chason.



*Left to right, Past Master Omar Duncan excited to witness a part of history, Mickey Hoffman sits with Past Master Omar, Jerry Arnold appointed and installed as secretary of the new Valley. Check our calendar to see when the new Valley meets.*