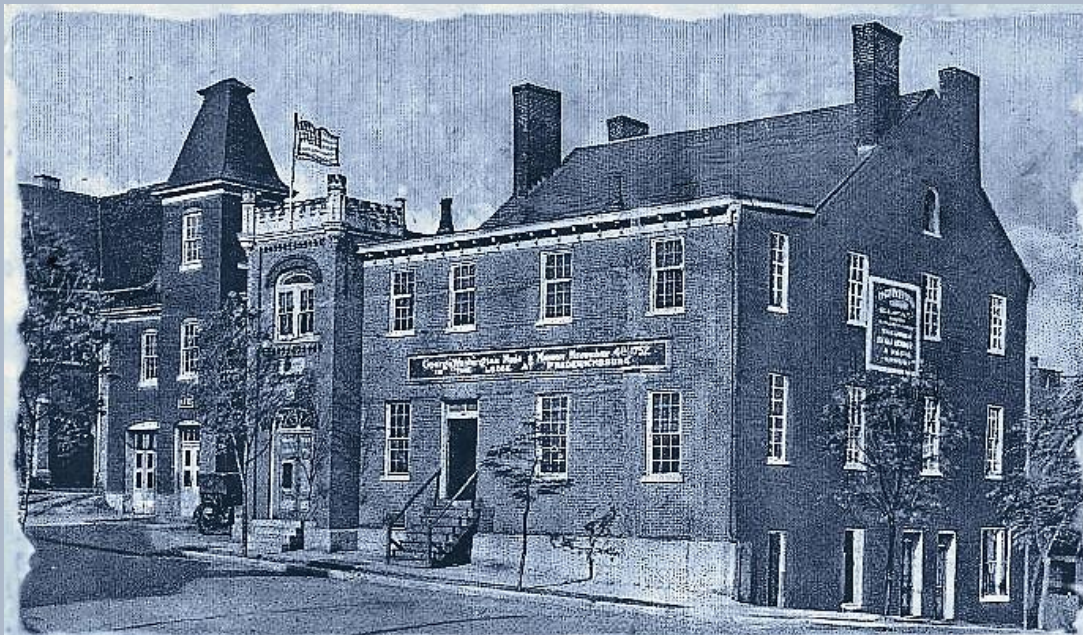


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



TRESTLE BOARD

FIRST RECORDED MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1, 1752

SCOTTISH CHARTER - JULY 21, 1758

VIRGINIA CHARTER - JANUARY 30, 1787

MOTHER LODGE OF ILL.: BRO.: GEORGE WASHINGTON

803 Princess Anne St.
Fredericksburg,
VA 22401

Masoniclodge4.org

INITIATED NOVEMBER 4, 1752

PASSED MARCH 3, 1753

RAISED AUGUST 4, 1753

Stated Meeting
Second Fridays
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

'FREEMASONRY: THE BEST WORK OF LIFE'

Degree Work
Wednesdays 7pm
(check calendar)

AUGUST 2024

AUGUST 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Pancake Breakfast 8 am to 10 am
4	5	6	7 Degree or Practice	8	9 Dinner 6:30 pm Stated Communication 7:30 pm	10
11	12	13 Second Tuesday Community Meal 4 pm	14 Degree or Practice	15	16	17 Subordinate Lodge Officer Training - 9 am
18	19	20	21 Degree or Practice	22	23	24
25	26	27 District Ritual School 7 pm	28 Degree or Practice	29	30	31

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for August

Bro. Carlos Melendez	49 yrs.	Bro. George Nowacek	16
M.W. Jeffery Hodges	39	Wor. Alexander VanCuren	13
Wor. Kenneth Elliott III	33	Bro. Luiz Hernandez	13
Bro. Jose Dus	25	Bro. Brendan Klei	13
Bro. Christopher Aleo	24	Bro. Andrew Sanger	13
Wor. Jeremy Utt	24	Bro. Thomas Callahan	9
Bro. Kenneth Crampton	21	Bro. Paul Dooley	9
Bro. Peter Klei	19	Bro. James DuBois	9
Bro. Henry Knauf	19	Bro. Kevin Holyfield	9
Bro. Dennis Lindsay	19	Bro. Christopher Zimmerman	9
Bro. Frederick Lentz	18	Wor. Daniel Linnabary	8
Bro. David Pompilio	18	Bro. Michael Almassy	6
Bro. Bob Melvin Jr.	16	Bro. Jeffrey Harvey	6
Bro. Timothy Bettendorf	16	Bro. Ian Nunya-Smith	6

Bro. Richard Blumling	16	Bro. Donald Powell Jr.	6
Bro. John Corderman	16	Bro. Karl Erikson Jr.	6
Bro. Timothy Gilbert	16	Bro. Paul Chewning	6
Bro. William Gray II	16	Bro. Michael Spellman II	5
Wor. Richard Klehm	16	Bro. Bruce Gilkerson	3
Bro. George Knauf	16	Bro. Kyle Bockwoldt	1
Bro. George W. Langford	16		

Master's Moment

Facebook can flood its users with a firehose of information, pictures, memes, quirky videos, stories, advertisements, and on and on. But every once in a while, I come across something Masonic-related on Facebook that piques my interest. One time I came across a list of thoughts regarding “How to Grow and Strengthen Your Lodge”. Whether your home is Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 or elsewhere, I hope you find these thought provoking:

- Attend as many meetings and functions as possible.
- Show up early; stay late.
- Support & participate.
- Read. Study. Learn. Drill. Discuss. Teach. Grow. Improve.
- Strengthen the chain. Commit to improving the lives of every officer and brother you meet.
- Live Masonry inside and outside the lodge, 24/7.
- Accept an office. Take a role. Volunteer. Do your best.
- Roll up your sleeves. Help out. Stay humble. Give back.
- Abandon all ego and foolish pride.
- Invite and involve candidates and brethren alike. Encourage them to take ownership of the lodge and their journey.
- Avoid the “rumor mill”. Avoid gossip.
- Build on the strengths of others. Encourage passion and new ideas.
- All hands on deck! Many hands make light work.
- Treat each other like family, with the highest regards, esteem, and respect.
- Plan, practice, prepare, persevere.
- Honor the past. Preserve the traditions and culture of the lodge.
- Lead by example. Be the change you wish to see in the lodge.
- Ask not what Freemasonry can do for you, but what you can do for Freemasonry.
- Follow the code: The Great Lights, the Obligations, the Charges, the Old Charges, the Ancient Landmarks, the Trial Code, the Grand Lodge Code, the By-laws, the Monitors, the ceremonies, the lectures, and the several rituals of

Freemasonry should be your guide. If you disagree, study the code and take the proper steps within the proper venue to change them.

- BE POSITIVE. Never see a situation as impossible. Accept the challenge, overcome every obstacle, and produce positive results that benefit EVERYONE.
- Embody due order and decorum. Follow proper protocol and etiquette. Avoid private conversations during meetings and degrees.
- Never harbor piques or quarrels against another brother. Go to him. Solve the issue. Make amends. Heal all wounds. Strengthen the bond.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Pat McConnell
(540) 809-1311
patmccnll@gmail.com

Secretary's Corner

Brethren, this is where I'd normally be expected to gently pester you to pay your dues, etc., etc. However, it is my great pleasure to report that this year we have *no* Brethren at risk of being suspended for nonpayment! This is largely due to the diligent efforts of our Master in contacting those who were in arrears as well as the efforts of our previous Master and Secretary last year.

Last month I remarked on the short list of anniversaries; this month, we have a very long one. I think it is due to many One-Day Classes being scheduled in August, as we have a bumper crop of 16-year-old Masons, as well as several 9-year-old and 6-year-old Masons. If we checked, I would bet we had One-Day Conferrals on August 16, 2008 and August 29, 2015. My part in pulling together the Trestle Board is easy, as Worshipful does most of the work. The most time consuming part is assembling the anniversary list. Grand View almost generates this automatically, but I do agonize over how to present their names—do I use their short names we all know from Lodge or how they're listed in Grand View? I have decided the later option is safer. Then they get sorted by length of service, after which I go back to make sure we use their proper Masonic titles. While it is said the greatest title one can receive is 'Brother' and the lambskin or white leather apron is more honorable than anything else that can be conferred upon a man, we Masons revere service, hard work, diligence, and decorum. As it says in the Charge to the Junior Warden at his installation, the time will come when all distinctions but those of merit and goodness shall cease. So we try to render every Brother his due and if there is any lapse, ask your indulgence.

Trying to come up with something other than the usual boring secretarial stuff is the next hardest thing...so in these 'dog days' of August (see next article), let's ponder for a minute the duties of the Secretary. He is charged carefully to observe the proceedings of the Lodge, and to *keep a fair record of all things proper to be written*...we're not just talking about the Minutes of the Lodge, but we have a weighty duty to preserve the Lodge's history for future generations. A '*fair record*'...to be objective and impartial in assisting in the administration of the Lodge and dealing with our Brethren; '*proper to be written*'...to be discreet and circumspect in our communications...not just talking about the Secretary anymore. This is a sobering reminder to me that, although not everything that takes place within our walls finds itself recorded in our Minutes, or should be discussed outside those walls, every word and deed of ours—the good, the bad, and the ugly—is indelibly engraved in the Great Book of the Supreme Architect's Trestle Board. So should we all strive to be fair, objective, impartial, discreet, and circumspect in our dealings with each other.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher S. Tripp

The Craft (and a dog) in Community

By Worshipful Jamie Snyder

You never know where life will lead you. After I retired two years ago, we decided to get a dog to keep our empty nest not quite so empty. Sophie is a Berndedoodle (a combination of the Bernese Mountain Dog and the Poodle) and is a joy to have. To make sure she would be socialized, I would take her to the dog park almost every day, which quickly became part of my daily routine. While there, she would go to each person to check on them and give some puppy love. It was suggested she would make a wonderful therapy dog and at that we were off. I researched the required training and selected a trainer to send her to, where she stayed for two weeks (not required but I would recommend it). When Sophie returned, she was well behaved and we continued working with her on our own, in addition to weekly group sessions. I am proud of where she is.



The lodge has been a large part of Sophie's journey to becoming a therapy dog. During her training, I would bring her to any event or meeting I could. She has been a regular member of Daylight Lodge, Wednesday meetings, pancake breakfasts, Job's Daughters and Tuesday homeless meals. I also had two candidates during this time and she and I listened to all the catechism (and is probably better than I am at it now). All this helped to shape us as a team, meeting and interacting with people in different situations, ages and distractions. The homeless meal was difficult at first, with all the food about.

Where are we now: Sophie has her AKC Canine Good Citizens Certificate, certified therapy dog with K-9 Caring Angels and Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We have been working as a therapy team since February and have visited special needs classes, elementary, middle and high schools, a juvenile detention center and a memory center. The original group I joined is centered in northern Virginia and I recently found Blue Gray Therapy Dogs, which is local and we have joined their organization. Through them, I am now working on getting access to Mary Washington Health Care, to include both Fredericksburg and Stafford hospitals. Blue Gray Therapy Dogs have a major reading program at libraries and schools where the kids read to the dogs. I have also volunteered to pick up a middle school, and we will be their primary therapy team with weekly visits for reading or therapy but also, if there is an incident or situation at the school, and they would like support, we will be there.

If you have the time, this is an amazing way to invest your time. To see the kids/people light up when you walk in the door with your friend is just amazing.

Get Your Hot Dogs Here!

Got snacks? Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 is staffing the Mess Hall concession stand for 12 FedNats Saturday night home games this summer. Our efforts resulted in a fantastic fundraiser for the Lodge last season. As we head into August, there are three Saturday dates left: 8/10, 8/17, and 9/7. We need eight people to adequately staff the stand for about 3 to 4 hours each night. Masons, family, and friends are welcome to join us. Contact Worshipful Jamie Snyder (jamie-snyder@usa.net) or visit <https://signup.com/go/FFUwFND>.

Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge 4 and Friends: Afternoon Axes!



Saturday, August 24th

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Prompt Ax Throwing Time)

FXBG AXES

514 Lansdowne Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Come join us for a fun outing with your brethren, spouses, and any prospective men interested in Masonry at FXBG Axes!

We will throw axes beginning promptly at 2pm – 3pm!

The Lodge is covering cost of throwing!

Refreshments and food will be available for independent purchase!

We have allocated 20 slots as this time, so please follow the links below and complete your online waiver and for any intended guests, so we can track numbers for event!

Event Name: Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge 4 and Friends

Online Waiver link:

<https://www.vantora.com/e/fxgb/waiver/default.asp?ev=812285838>

Group reservation details and filled out waivers

[View My Reservation](#)

The Rest of the Year - Mark Your Calendars Now

August

August 3 – Pancake Breakfast – 8 am to 10 am

August 9 – Stated Communication

Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Menu

Roasted Pork Loin w/ Pineapple Habanero Chutney

Potato Salad

Corn on the Cob

Fresh Fruit Platter

Hawaiian Rolls

Pineapple Upside Cake

Meeting @ 7:30

Past Masters Night!

Hawaiian Shirt Night!

***August 9 – Second Tuesday Community Meal with
Oak Grove Baptist Church***

Volunteers should arrive at the Baker Room by 4 pm.

August 17 – Subordinate Lodge Officer Training

9 am to 11 am

August 24 – Mason Event

Fredericksburg Axes
2 pm

August 27 – District Ritual School – 7 pm

September

September 7 – Pancake Breakfast – 8 am to 10 am

September 10 – Second Tuesday Community Meal with
Oak Grove Baptist Church

Volunteers should arrive at the Baker Room by 4 pm.

September 13 – Stated Communication

Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Menu

Bruschetta Chicken

Pesto Tortellini

Roasted Seasonal Vegetables

Fresh Garden Salad

Garlic Bread

Tiramisu

Meeting @ 7:30

October

Pancake Breakfast, **October 5**, 8 am

Family Day at MAHOVA, **October 5**

Grand Lodge Lafayette Gala, **October 5**

2nd Tuesday Community Meal, **October 8**, 4 pm

Stated Communication, **October 11**

Dinner Menu, 6:30 pm

Pork Schnitzel
German Potato Salad
Corn
Garden Salad
Blueberry Pie

Meeting, 7:30 pm
Officer Move Up Night!

Lodge Family Picnic, Spotsylvania Izaak Walton League, *October 13*, 12 pm

5th Tuesday Community Meal, *October 29*, 4 pm

November

Pancake Breakfast, *November 2*, 8 am

Stated Communication/GRAND MASTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT, *November 4*

Dinner Menu, 6:30 pm

Sliced Spiral Ham
Carved Roasted Turkey w/Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Bean Casserole
Cornbread Dressing
Salad w/Spinach, Romaine, Dried Cranberries, Feta & Almonds
Parker House Rolls
Sweet Potato Pie

Meeting, 7:30 pm

GRAND MASTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT

2nd Tuesday Community Meal, *November 12*, 4 pm

Lafayette Commemoration Weekend; *November 23 and November 24*

Reception of General Lafayette, *November 24*, 10:30 am.

Brother Chris Ruli's book lecture on Brother Lafayette, *November 24*, 2 pm

December

Pancake Breakfast, *December 7*, 8 am

Fredericksburg Christmas Parade, *December 7*, Time TBD

Stated Communication/ELECTIONS FOR 2025 Officers, *December 13*

Dinner Menu, 6:30 pm

Meatloaf

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Country Style Green Beans

Caesar Salad

Parker House Rolls

Apple Pie

Meeting, 7:30

ELECTIONS FOR 2025 OFFICERS

Officer Installation, *TBD*

5th Tuesday Community Meal, *December 31*, 4 pm

Now on sale! Our Lafayette challenge coin to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to our Lodge in November of 1824. This unique coin is \$20 with proceeds going to Lodge improvements and community projects. Coins are on sale at our Stated Communication dinners or reach out to our Treasurer Worshipful Jamie Snyder at jamie-snyder@usa.net for ordering/shipping information.



Purchase a brick through BricksRUs to help maintain our Historic Home!

[Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #4 Friends of Fredericksburg Donor Site \(bricksrus.com\)](http://FredericksburgMasonicLodge#4FriendsOfFredericksburgDonorSite)



Jim Ridenhour
(757) 714-5806
Smithfield, VA

PinDads@Outlook.Com

2024 LODGE OFFICERS

Patrick McConnell	patmccnll@gmail.com	(540) 809-1311	Worshipful Master
Michael Dove	Michaeldove79@gmail.com	(540) 388-1001	Senior Warden
Ken Carey	buddy79@comcast.net	(540) 226-7122	Junior Warden
James Snyder, PM	Jamie-snyder@usa.net	(540) 903-2937	Treasurer
Christopher Tripp, PM	secretarylodge4va@gmail.com	(540) 424-5767	Secretary
Seth Roderick	sethroderick@protonmail.com		Senior Deacon
Jeff Adams, Sr.	jadams@rosendin.com		Junior Deacon
Troy Blanchard	cajnboy24@gmail.com		Senior Steward
John Lapke	Lapke.j@gmail.com		Junior Steward
Justin Garrett	jaygarrett0214@gmail.com		Chaplain
Robert Breitenbach	robertjbreitenbach@icloud.com		Marshal
Kevin Valentine	vak242@yahoo.com		Tiler

TRUSTEES

Charles Cooper, PM – 2024	Dennis David – 2025	Dennis Berry, PDDGM – 2026
Chris Decker, PM – 2027	Dan Goodwin, PM - 2028	

PROGRAM OFFICERS

Lodge Blood Coordinator Jeff Adams	Lodge Instructor of Work Christopher Tripp, PM	Lodge Education Officer Bob Melvin
Masonic Home Ambassador Joseph Ilk	Lodge Catechism Chair Justin Garrett	Widows Program Coordinator Kyle Olesevich
	Lodge Scholarship Coordinator David Smith	

LIVING PAST MASTERS

Wor.: Carter. G. Wells.....	1963	R.: W.: Steven W. Sanford.....	2005
Wor.: Rudolph E. Griffith.....	1974	Wor.: Richard D. Dey.....	2006
Wor.: Henry W. Baker.....	1975	Wor.: Anthony L Rudder.....	2007
Wor.: Edward L. Donalson.....	1983	R.: W.: Jeffrey D. St. Onge.....	2009
R.: W.: Dennis W. Berry.....	1986	Wor.: Shelton S. Mackey.....	2010
Wor.: Thomas C Shelton.....	1988	R.: W.: Shelby L. Chandler.....	2011
Wor.: William J. White.....	1989	Wor.: Christopher J. Decker.....	2012
Wor.: James R. Adams.....	1992	Wor.: Christopher R. Wilson.....	2013
Wor.: Robert W. Benish.....	1993	Wor.: Jeffrey L. Mitchell.....	2014
Wor.: Michael J. McCray.....	1995	M.: W.: Jeffrey P. VanCuren.....	2015
Wor.: Steven M. Gallahan.....	1996	Wor.: James L. Ragsdale.....	2016
Wor.: Charles B. Pasto.....	1998	Wor.: Michael T. Moses.....	2017
Wor.: J. Travis Walker.....	2000	Wor.: Daniel T. Goodwin.....	2018
R.: W.: Daniel W. Thompson.....	2001	Wor.: James M. Snyder.....	2019
R.: W.: W. Robert Brammer.....	2002	Wor.: Stanley R. Kennedy.....	2020
Wor.: Sheridan G. Harrod.....	2003	Wor.: Christopher S. Tripp.....	2021
Wor.: Jene G. Parrotte.....	2004	Wor.: Joseph K. Gilkerson.....	2023