



George Washington's Lodge  
**Fredericksburg**  
— Lodge No. 4 —

# July 2026 Trestle Board

W.:M.: Seth Roderick  
*Magnanimity - Fidelity - Honor*

First Recorded Meeting - September 1, 1752

Scottish Charter - July 21, 1758

Virginia Charter - January 30, 1787

Ill. Bro. George Washington

Initiated November 4, 1752

Passed March 3, 1753

Raised August 4, 1753

803 Princess Anne Street  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

# July 2026 Events

## FredNats Concession Stands

Help volunteer to raise funds for the historic preservation of our 1816 Lodge! [Sign up here.](#)

|           |           |                                                     |                                                               |                                                                   |                                                                      |                                                  |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|           |           |                                                     | <b>1</b><br>Work Night<br>7:00 PM                             | <b>2</b>                                                          | <b>3</b>                                                             | <b>4</b>                                         |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                                            | <b>8</b><br>EA Degree<br>Practice<br>7:00 PM                  | <b>9</b><br>Lafayette<br>Lecture by<br>David Durham<br>7 PM       | <b>10</b><br>Dinner<br>6:30 PM<br>Stated<br>Communication<br>7:30 PM | <b>11</b>                                        |
| <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b>                                           | <b>15</b><br>Called<br>Communication:<br>EA Degree<br>7:00 PM | <b>16</b>                                                         | <b>17</b>                                                            | <b>18</b><br>FredNats<br>Concessions<br>4 - 9 PM |
| <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                           | <b>22</b><br>Called<br>Communication:<br>EA Degree<br>7:00 PM | <b>23</b><br>Benjamin Day<br>Lecture by<br>Wor. Mike Dove<br>7 PM | <b>24</b>                                                            | <b>25</b><br>FredNats<br>Concessions<br>4 - 9 PM |
| <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>District 8<br>Ritual School<br>7:00 PM | <b>29</b><br>Called<br>Communication:<br>FC Degree<br>7:00 PM | <b>30</b>                                                         | <b>31</b>                                                            |                                                  |

## Masonic Anniversaries

|                               |         |                         |    |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|----|
| Bro. William D. Erickson, Jr. | 44 yrs. | Bro. Victor R. Carreno  | 16 |
| Bro. Kent G. Sands            | 37      | Bro. Ryan H. Carton     | 9  |
| Bro. Danny R. Fields          | 36      | Bro. Richard J. Sabando | 9  |
| Bro. Gregory E. Armstrong     | 35      | Bro. Mason L. DePeal    | 4  |

## Master's Message

*State of the Lodge,  
June 2026*

Seth Roderick, WM

Brethren,

Summertime has arrived at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4; white dinner jackets and long days. We had the pleasure of passing a Brother to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and many of our Brethren have continued in advancing their ritual practice. The slow down this month in degree work has given us room to sharpen our work and strengthen our confidence.

We made a fraternal visit to Independent Orange Lodge in Orange, Virginia, where we witnessed a fine example of degree work in the back-to-back Raising of two Master Masons. Such visits remind us that the Lodge is strengthened by fellowship beyond our own walls, and that good ritual has power to instruct and impress.

Within our own Temple, much needed practical work has been done. The alley wall and door were cleaned and painted after graffiti had appeared there. Wor. Jamie, Bro. Ken, and Bro. John gave many hours to laying new flooring on the Mezzanine level. Bro. Brian continued his hard work in the Baker Room, installing the organizer wall and helping bring better order and use to that space. These Brothers have given freely of their time and strength, and the Lodge owes them sincere gratitude for their combined efforts.

Our America250 Revolutionary War Heroes Lecture Series continued with two insightful evenings. The lecture on Bro. Hugh Mercer was well received, and our own Bro. Charles McDaniel drew the largest attendance yet with his splendid and candid talk on his own kinsman, Bro. George Weedon. The series continues to remind the public, and ourselves, that the history of this Lodge is closely joined to the history of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and the American Revolution itself.

We were also privileged to hear Bro. Bob Melvin, our Lodge Education Officer, give a stirring recitation of his "I Stand" program. His remarks were thoughtful and inspiring. I encourage the Brethren, and the friends of the Lodge, to [listen to our Lodge podcast](#), produced by Bro. Justin, where more of Bro. Melvin's lectures and reflections may be heard.

The Lodge also partnered with the Fredericksburg Area Museum for a program highlighting many of our historic and historically valuable artifacts, items in our possession and some from FAM with Lodge ties, bringing them to rare public view. These occasions help us remember that our archives and collections are more than curiosities kept for their own sake.

As summer settles in, I wish every Brother and every family of the Lodge a safe, joyful, and restful season. Take time with your family, attend to your health, enjoy the long evenings, and load up on your vitamin C and vitamin D. May we return from the summer months refreshed in body, steady in purpose, and ready for the good work still before us.

Please remember to check in on Brothers and Widows during these days of high heat. If you know of a Brother or Widow who is shut in, please inform the Worshipful Master.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Seth Roderick, WM

### **Reminders**

- The District Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Virginia remind all Lodges to update members addresses and contact information when they change or move. Brethren, please update the Secretary of any address changes, contact information changes, and emergency contact changes so the Lodge and Grand Lodge have your most current information.
- This is subscription dues review season for Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. Please check that you have a 2026 dues card if you pay annually. If you have not received one because you owe dues, please pay them promptly. If you have questions about your dues, please contact the Secretary. The Lodge must report delinquent members to the Grand Lodge soon.
- If you have experience with magazine publishing and would like to support the Grand Lodge, please let the Worshipful Master know and I'll get you in contact with the DDGM.
- Order is beginning to take shape in the Baker room. Pardon our mess as we continue finishing up the storage area project. As the west wall portion of the room has been reorganized, we ask that tables and folding chairs be replaced on the rack and rack be placed back in the storage area after every event. The Lodge is identifying opportunities to rent the Baker room space, which will in turn fund improvements to the space and bathrooms, which will be cause for more rental income to support upkeep and improvement of the Temple. It's a bit of a catch-22: we need to raise funds to improve the space to increase rentals, which will in-turn fund the improvements to make it a more desirable rental space.
- Bathrooms: If you are at the Temple for ritual practice or attending an Appendant Body, please do a quick check of bathrooms and trash cans. We are all Stewards.

*Fredericksburg's Revolutionary War  
Heroes Lecture Series*

## Marquis de Lafayette

1776 2026



David Durham, Co-Chair  
Fredericksburg Lafayette Bicentennial

7:00 PM Thursday, July 9  
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 | FREE

 **FREDERICKSBURG  
VA250**  **Historic  
Fredericksburg**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

*Fredericksburg's Revolutionary War  
Heroes Lecture Series*

## Maj. Benjamin Day

1776 2026

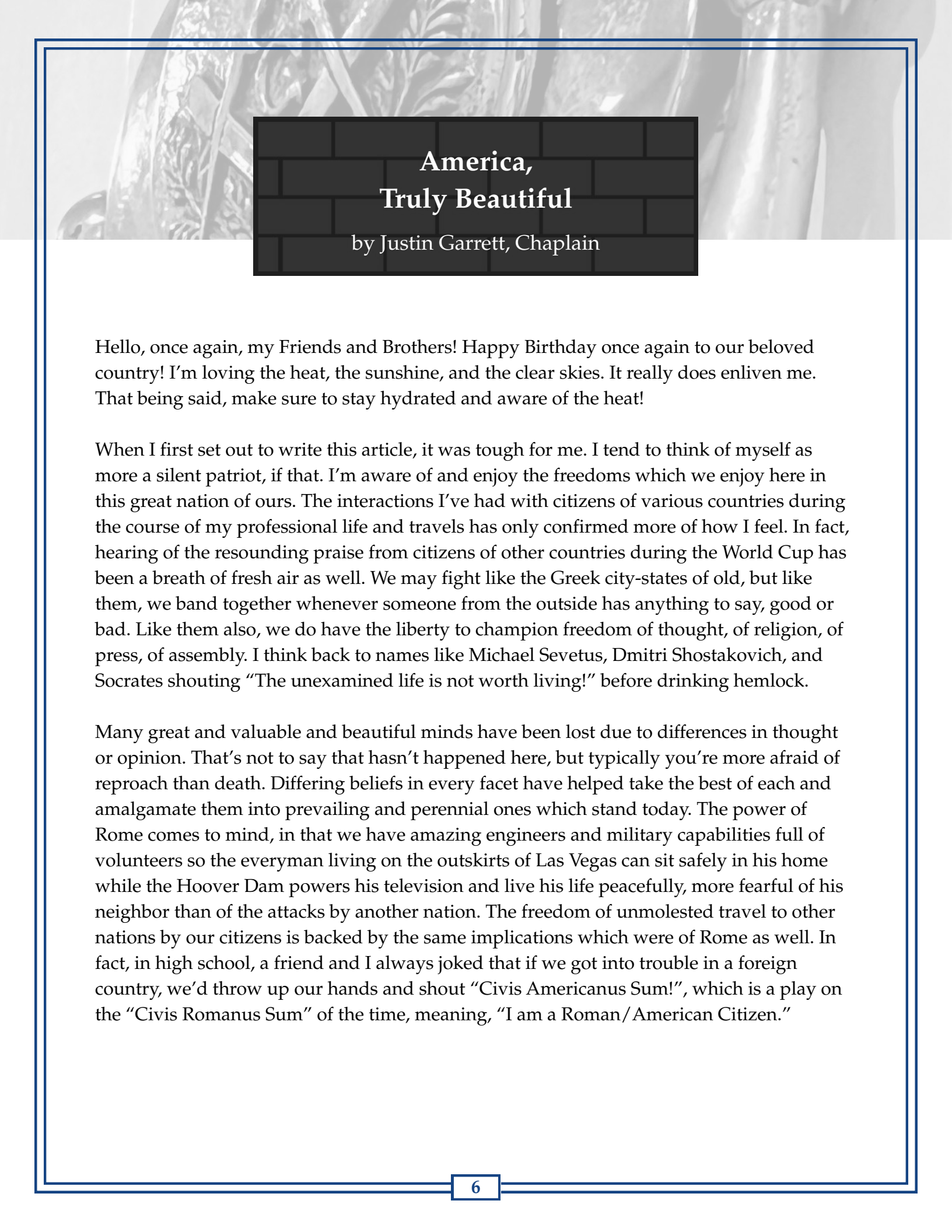


W.B. Michael Dove  
Archivist & Past Master, Lodge No. 4

7:00 PM Thursday, July 23  
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 | FREE

 **FREDERICKSBURG  
VA250**  **Historic  
Fredericksburg**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

*[Learn More About the Series](#)*



## America, Truly Beautiful

by Justin Garrett, Chaplain

Hello, once again, my Friends and Brothers! Happy Birthday once again to our beloved country! I'm loving the heat, the sunshine, and the clear skies. It really does enliven me. That being said, make sure to stay hydrated and aware of the heat!

When I first set out to write this article, it was tough for me. I tend to think of myself as more a silent patriot, if that. I'm aware of and enjoy the freedoms which we enjoy here in this great nation of ours. The interactions I've had with citizens of various countries during the course of my professional life and travels has only confirmed more of how I feel. In fact, hearing of the resounding praise from citizens of other countries during the World Cup has been a breath of fresh air as well. We may fight like the Greek city-states of old, but like them, we band together whenever someone from the outside has anything to say, good or bad. Like them also, we do have the liberty to champion freedom of thought, of religion, of press, of assembly. I think back to names like Michael Sevetus, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Socrates shouting "The unexamined life is not worth living!" before drinking hemlock.

Many great and valuable and beautiful minds have been lost due to differences in thought or opinion. That's not to say that hasn't happened here, but typically you're more afraid of reproach than death. Differing beliefs in every facet have helped take the best of each and amalgamate them into prevailing and perennial ones which stand today. The power of Rome comes to mind, in that we have amazing engineers and military capabilities full of volunteers so the everyman living on the outskirts of Las Vegas can sit safely in his home while the Hoover Dam powers his television and live his life peacefully, more fearful of his neighbor than of the attacks by another nation. The freedom of unmolested travel to other nations by our citizens is backed by the same implications which were of Rome as well. In fact, in high school, a friend and I always joked that if we got into trouble in a foreign country, we'd throw up our hands and shout "Civis Americanus Sum!", which is a play on the "Civis Romanus Sum" of the time, meaning, "I am a Roman/American Citizen."

I have met people who have stories you'd never want to hear, how they scratched and clawed their way to get to this country to begin with, how they faced death several times over to be here. I've seen them cry profound tears over what we have to offer, and what so many of us take for granted. I need not, and will not now repeat them; you only need to listen to the countless stories that are out there and hear for yourself the cost of coming here and how they'd gladly do so again. Perhaps you have such a story, or someone close to you does.

I think of the Pledge of Allegiance, in that you might pledge your allegiance to the flag and the republic for which it stands, but not to congress, not to a president, not to a governor. You're free to criticize them and scrutinize every breath they take. You pledge your allegiance to a higher ideal of a nation and its values than of its leaders.

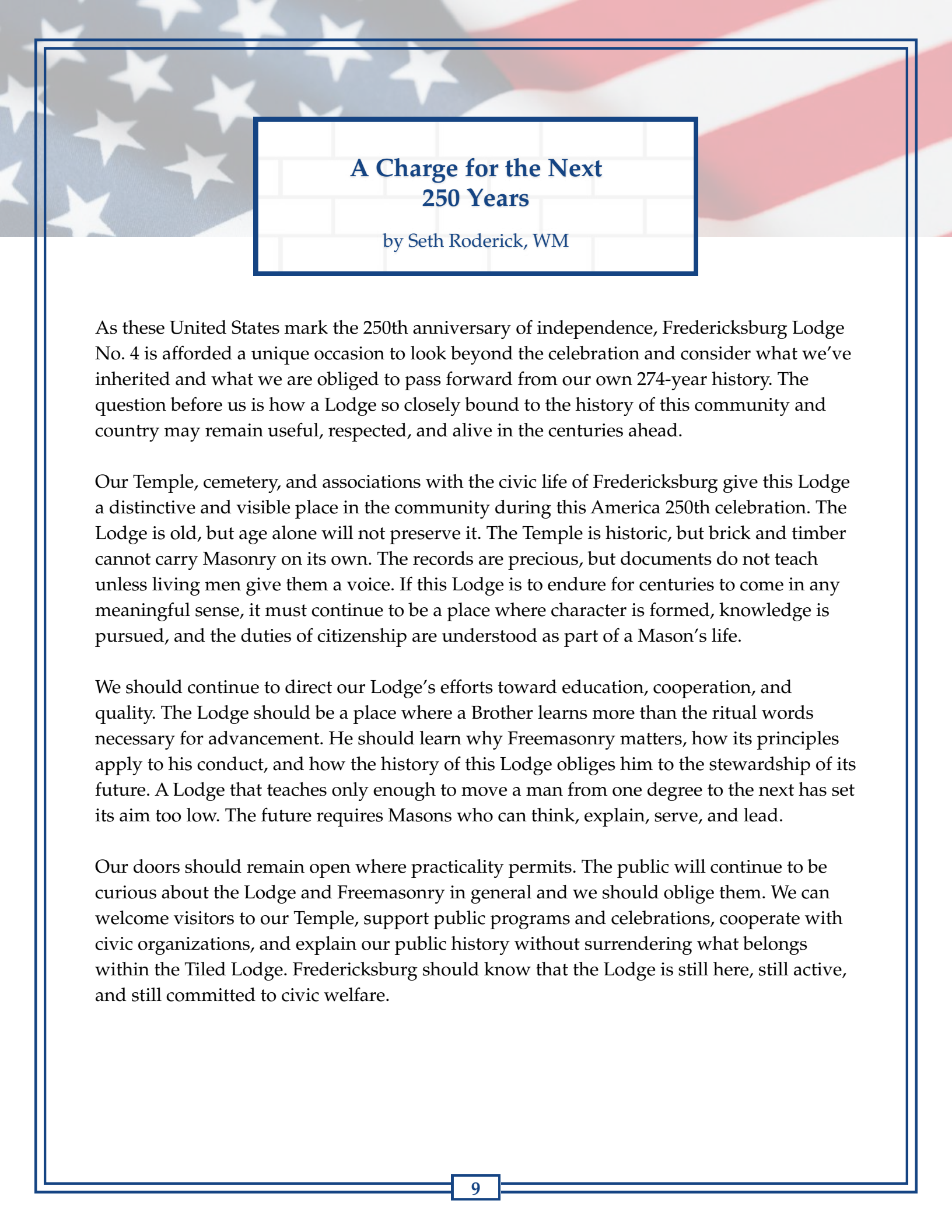
I truly have been from sea to shining sea in my lifetime. I was born in Washington State. One of my first memories was riding a ferry in the Puget Sound and my mother holding me and pointing to the orca whales swimming and jumping out of the water parallel to the ferry. I saw the sound again as an adult and couldn't help but marvel at the beauty. I lived in Guam, which was where my family's path to citizenship started. A beautiful island in the middle of nowhere in the Pacific. I've seen our deserts and mountains and called them home. I still miss the beautiful landscape and scenery of the Sonoran Desert in Arizona. I've been to the Midwest and visited family in Illinois, where the corn and beans grow as far as the horizon. I've lived in Florida and seen the old structures of St. Augustine, rode the roller coasters in Orlando, and tested my luck a few times with the gators. I've been all over Texas, seen the beauty of El Paso, the height of the Guadalupe mountains, the hills of San Antonio, the sprawl of Dallas, the humidity of Houston, and the remoteness of Waco. I've found a little town in Virginia with a big history and truly called it home. It's always amazing to see the vastness of our great nation and the people in it who all have a stake to claim in raising our star-spangled banner.

Speaking of which, I think of Francis Scott Key, putting into words what he saw that night he saw our flag still waving defiantly in the wind. How strong in resolve those men must have been to sign their own death warrants and band together, lest they fail. The men of the Alamo, in fighting tooth and nail to the bitter end, "To the triarii," since I've been talking about Rome so much in this paper. The Army chaplains aboard the USS Dorchester comforting people and handing out life preservers before holding hands and singing hymns as their ship sank to the depths of a freezing Atlantic. I think of Camp McCoy and how they treated their POWs in an article I wrote earlier this year. I think of the statue in Gettysburg entitled "Friend to Friend," reminding us that both our fraternity and our nation were never truly divided.

So what will America look like in another 250 years? "A republic, if you can keep it," Brother Benjamin Franklin said, as do I. The rights, privileges, benefits, and freedoms of our society depend on duties and responsibilities incumbent on everyone of which it is composed. As the poster of Uncle Sam says, "I want YOU" to do something to enrich what those before us have laid down. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," as Kennedy said. Let us continue the work which was laid down 250 years ago for our benefit, and which was continually improved by experience and time until we got to where we are now. In 2076, what will they say about us in 2026? What do we have to say about those in 1976? What will they say about us as a nation in 2276? In the year 2526, if Man is still alive? In the words of songwriter Craig Owens, "I'll keep dreaming . . . Nothing is perfect, but it has to be someday." And so, it is with you, my Friends and Brothers.

From the Brightest Seat in the House,

Bro. Justin C. G. Garrett  
Chaplain & Catechism Chair  
Fredericksburg No. 4 AF&AM

The background of the page is a faded American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. A blue rectangular border frames the central text area.

## A Charge for the Next 250 Years

by Seth Roderick, WM

As these United States mark the 250th anniversary of independence, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 is afforded a unique occasion to look beyond the celebration and consider what we've inherited and what we are obliged to pass forward from our own 274-year history. The question before us is how a Lodge so closely bound to the history of this community and country may remain useful, respected, and alive in the centuries ahead.

Our Temple, cemetery, and associations with the civic life of Fredericksburg give this Lodge a distinctive and visible place in the community during this America 250th celebration. The Lodge is old, but age alone will not preserve it. The Temple is historic, but brick and timber cannot carry Masonry on its own. The records are precious, but documents do not teach unless living men give them a voice. If this Lodge is to endure for centuries to come in any meaningful sense, it must continue to be a place where character is formed, knowledge is pursued, and the duties of citizenship are understood as part of a Mason's life.

We should continue to direct our Lodge's efforts toward education, cooperation, and quality. The Lodge should be a place where a Brother learns more than the ritual words necessary for advancement. He should learn why Freemasonry matters, how its principles apply to his conduct, and how the history of this Lodge obliges him to the stewardship of its future. A Lodge that teaches only enough to move a man from one degree to the next has set its aim too low. The future requires Masons who can think, explain, serve, and lead.

Our doors should remain open where practicality permits. The public will continue to be curious about the Lodge and Freemasonry in general and we should oblige them. We can welcome visitors to our Temple, support public programs and celebrations, cooperate with civic organizations, and explain our public history without surrendering what belongs within the Tiled Lodge. Fredericksburg should know that the Lodge is still here, still active, and still committed to civic welfare.

The Lodge should reinforce its practice of service as a Lodge, but more importantly, as a member of this Lodge. The work of Masonry cannot be measured only by Stated meetings and degrees conferred. Those things are necessary, but they are not the whole object. The instruction received in Lodge should be carried into families, neighborhoods, workplaces, churches, charities, schools, youth organizations, and civic life. The Lodge is strongest when its Brethren are known as men of magnanimity, honor, charity, learning, and civic spirit.

We should think carefully about the men who will carry the Lodge forward. The future of Fredericksburg Lodge will depend upon the quality of its Brethren more than the number of its Brethren. We should welcome good men, mentor them well, and help them understand that Freemasonry is a lifelong undertaking. A good man should find in this Lodge exemplars of the four cardinal virtues. Likewise, we should be careful of the men we admit. There is no rush week in Freemasonry.

The care of our widows, our sick and distressed Brethren, and the families connected to this Lodge must remain central to our identity. No public program, historic commemoration, or civic engagement can excuse neglect of those nearest to us. A Lodge that remembers its dead must also remember the living who grieve them. A Lodge that speaks of Brotherly Love must practice it.

As with civil governance, the next 250 years in this Lodge will require prudent administration. A historic Lodge cannot live on memory while neglecting budgets, maintenance, records, and long-range planning. They are the means by which a Lodge remains viable. Good administration is good stewardship, and it is a duty to posterity.

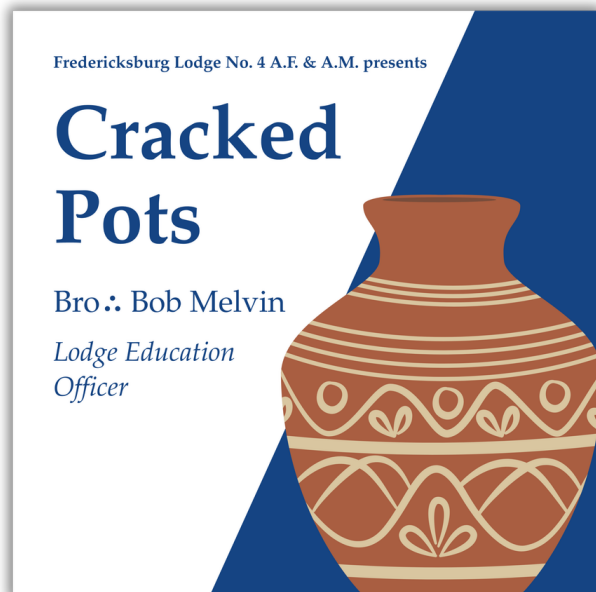
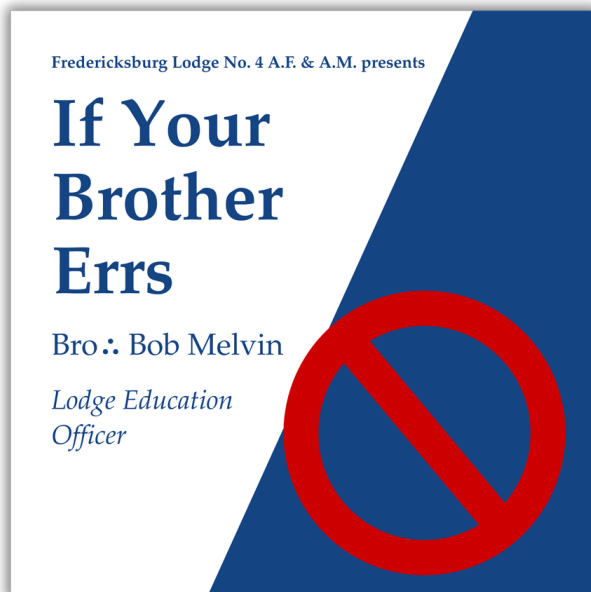
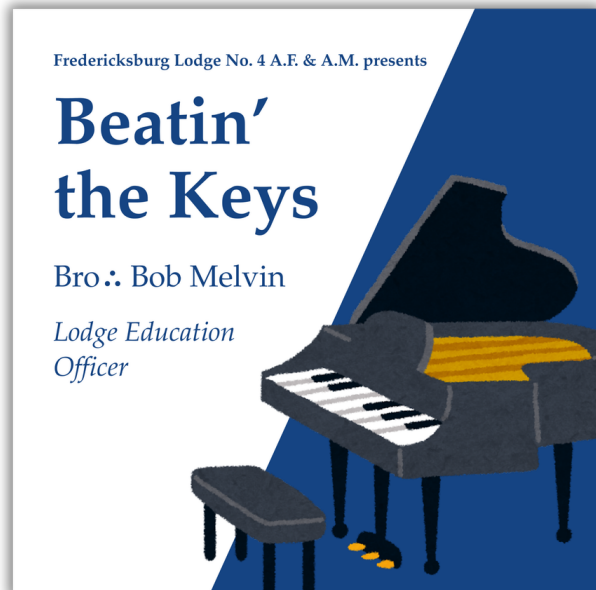
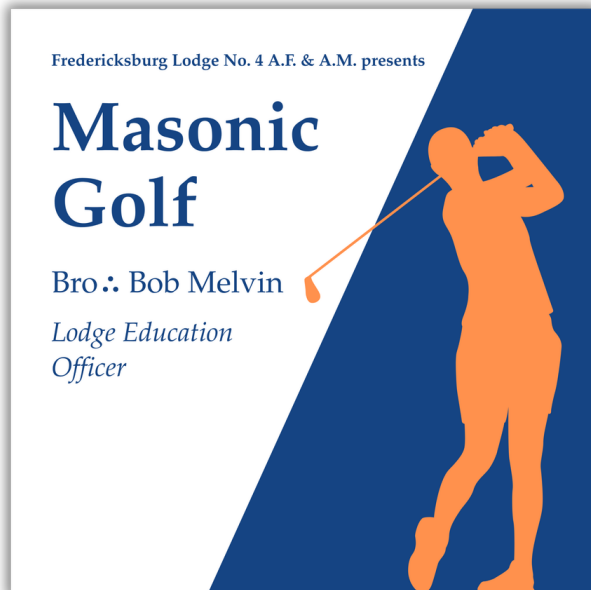
As America begins her next quarter-millennium, the Brethren of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 should seize this moment of joyous civic reflection and set a clear fraternal course for those who come after us. Those Freemasons yet to be born or yet to enter the bonds of Brotherhood should receive more than a venerable name and an old address when they are initiated. They should receive a Lodge still devoted to enlightenment, civic welfare, brotherly love, relief and truth.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Libertas et Patria,

Seth Roderick, WM

# Four New Education Pieces by Bro. Bob Melvin



**Listen Now on the Lodge 4-Cast**  
**available on Spotify, Apple,**  
**YouTube and Buzzsprout!**

## Support the Preservation of Our Historic 1816 Lodge Building

Just one gift can contribute toward another 200 years of Freemasonry in Fredericksburg, and earn you a brick on the Baker Room wall!

Visit [BricksRUs.com/DonorSite/FXBG4](http://BricksRUs.com/DonorSite/FXBG4) to donate.



## Visit Our Online Store

Commemorate 250 years of American independence with this limited edition coin—a meaningful symbol of patriotism, brotherhood, and the enduring principles shared by Freemasonry and the founding of our nation. Collect your serialized one of only 250 coins minted!

Visit the [Lodge 4 Store](http://Lodge4Store) to order now!



## Advertise With Lodge No. 4

Reach hundreds of our Trestle Board readers! We accept appropriate advertisements, payable in advance. We reserve the right to refuse any ads that do not meet our standards. Please contact us at [Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org](mailto:Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org) for details.

- Quarter-page ads \$150 (12 months)
- Half-page ads \$250 (12 months)
- Full-page ads \$400 (12 months)

*Your  
Ad  
Here*

# 2026 Lodge Officers

To reach a lodge officer, please contact [Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org](mailto:Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org)  
to request their contact information.

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Worshipful Master</b>   | Seth Roderick          |
| <b>Senior Warden</b>       | John Lapke             |
| <b>Junior Warden</b>       | Michael Dove, PM       |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | James Snyder, PM       |
| <b>Secretary</b>           | Christopher Tripp, PM  |
| <b>Senior Deacon</b>       | Joshua Miller          |
| <b>Junior Deacon</b>       | George Dunlap          |
| <b>Chaplain</b>            | Justin Garrett         |
| <b>Marshal</b>             | Kenneth Carey          |
| <b>Tiler</b>               | Shelby Chandler, PDDGM |
| <b>Senior Steward</b>      | Michael Scullin        |
| <b>Junior Steward</b>      | Brian Hesler           |
| <b>Assistant Treasurer</b> | Thomas Baker           |
| <b>Assistant Secretary</b> | Ethan Burgess          |

## Lodge Program Officers

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Lodge Blood Drive Coordinator</b> | Jeff Adams            |
| <b>Lodge Instructor of Work</b>      | Christopher Tripp, PM |
| <b>Lodge Education Officer</b>       | Bob Melvin            |
| <b>Masonic Home Ambassador</b>       | Joseph Ilk            |
| <b>Lodge Catechism Chair</b>         | Justin Garrett        |

## Committee Chairs

|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Funeral Committee</b>          | Justin Garrett        |
| <b>Website &amp; Social Media</b> | Ethan Burgess         |
| <b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>    | Rand Sompayrac        |
| <b>Finance</b>                    | Robert Brammer, PDDGM |
| <b>Sick &amp; Widows</b>          | Patrick McConnell, PM |
| <b>Archives</b>                   | Mike Dove, PM         |

## Trustees

R.W. Dennis Berry, PDDGM - 2026  
Wor. Chris Decker, PM - 2027  
Wor. Dan Goodwin, PM - 2028  
Wor. Chris Tripp, PM - 2029  
Wor. Pat McConnell, PM - 2030

# Living Past Masters

|                          |      |                            |      |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Wor. Carter. G. Wells    | 1963 | Wor. Anthony L Rudder      | 2007 |
| Wor. Rudolph E. Griffith | 1974 | R.W. Jeffrey D. St. Onge   | 2009 |
| Wor. Henry W. Baker      | 1975 | Wor. Shelton S. Mackey     | 2010 |
| Wor. Edward L. Donalson  | 1983 | R.W. Shelby L. Chandler    | 2011 |
| R.W. Dennis W. Berry     | 1986 | Wor. Christopher J. Decker | 2012 |
| Wor. Thomas C Shelton    | 1988 | Wor. Christopher R. Wilson | 2013 |
| Wor. William J. White    | 1989 | Wor. Jeffrey L. Mitchell   | 2014 |
| Wor. Michael J. McCray   | 1995 | Wor. 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 |
| R.W. Steven W. Sanford   | 2005 | Wor. Patrick F. McConnell  | 2024 |
| Wor. Richard D. Dey      | 2006 | Wor. Michael J. Dove       | 2025 |