

Valley-Daylight Lodge, No. 511, F. &A.M.

STATED MEETINGS 2ND SATURDAY AT 10AM AND 4TH SATURDAY AT 6:30 PM
9619 Dixie Highway, Louisville, KY 40272
Visit our website at vdl511.org

July 6, 2020

Good news, Brothers! We are once again allowed to meet but only under certain restrictions. We must wear masks, maintain social distancing and temperatures will be taken. No Degree work will be performed until further notice. We will meet this coming Saturday with donuts and coffee before the meeting as usual but there will not be a lunch at Tumbleweed afterward. We will allow visitors and we will travel when we can. Please continue to check on those that are stuck at home or ill and let us know if there is anything that we can do to help. Please remember that things can always change one way or another so watch your email for updates.

Bro Don Dunlap is once again hosting the monthly breakfast but please note that the location has changed. It will be held at the Cracker Barrel on Dixie Highway from now on. The next breakfast will be Monday, July 27th @ 9 AM.

Fish Fry: every Friday from 11-8. CARRYOUT ONLY. The menu, for now, consists of fish, french fries and onion rings only. Call ahead 502-937-3978 or order at the back door.

Trowel Club: Every 4th Monday at 6 PM at the Lodge. It's open to all Valley-Daylight members and \$5 gets you a lifetime membership.

Education Committee: Meets every Monday except for the fourth Monday at 6 PM at the Lodge unless we have a visitation scheduled-see calendar to confirm. Let us know if you'd like to participate and we'll get you on the text reminder list.

July 11th: Stated meeting, opening at 10 AM with donuts and coffee at 9 AM. No Tumbleweed afterward.

July 25th: Stated meeting, eat at 5:30 PM and Lodge will open at 6:30 PM.

August 8th: Stated meeting, opening at 10 AM with donuts and coffee at 9 AM. No Tumbleweed as of now.

August 22nd: Stated meeting, eat at 5:30 PM and Lodge will open at 6:30 PM.

Also, please let us know if any of your contact information changes so we can stay updated.

From the Worshipful Master:

Most of you know my passion for history, especially pertaining to the Masonic Order. There has always been something special about having food and drink with a meeting. I have belonged to many different civic organizations over the years and the most successful ones are those that have food and drink during the meeting. Our lodges of old were no different and quite factually the "table lodge" is responsible for our very being. Please take time to read this article. This was written by H.L. Haywood, "More About Masonry" (Chicago Masonic History Co. 1948), 202-203 and I thought it worth repeating.

The tradition of Freemasons dining together may be as old as operative masonry itself. We can well imagine that the craftsmen, who worked together on a cathedral, church, palace or any other structure for that matter, dined together, just as today's coworkers. The communal meal and drink continues to foster relations and fellowship, and it is no wonder that meals and banquets continue to be held in connection with Masonic meetings.

Even prior to the organization of the premier grand lodge, i.e., the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster, on June 24, 1717, it was not uncommon for old lodges to meet in taverns. These were the social centers of the day, and the buildings often had rooms, or social halls, where lodges could hold their private meetings. The names of four of these old taverns are indelibly impressed on the memory of the fraternity: The Goose and Gridiron Ale House, The Crown Ale Tavern, The Apple Tree Tavern and the Rummer and Grapes Tavern. It was, in fact, at a meeting held on St. John the Evangelist Day, December 27, 1716, at the Apple Tree Tavern, that it was determined to organize and create the first “grand lodge” in the sense so understood today, when it was also decided to reinstitute the celebratory feasts.

From the fellowship and the meal developed two practices: the “Table Lodge” and the “festive board.” It’s not uncommon for both of these meals to be held around a U-shaped arrangement of tables, with officers seated at prescribed stations. The table is “tiled”-only Masons may be present- as it includes ritual language, as well as a meal punctuated by a series of “healths” (toasts), followed by a response. The toasts are given with “firing glasses” which have especially thick bases, and which are slammed on the table in “good fire” after the toast. The festive board, on the other hand, is generally a banquet which follows the tiled meeting. At some meals a variety of songs were sung, the most enduring of which was “The Enter’d Prentices Song”, usually attributed to the Bro. Matthew Birkhead, and printed in James Anderson’s “Constitutions of the Free-Masons” (1723).

Brother H.L. Haywood reminds us of these earlier days, when the plate and goblet were as important as the ritual in fostering fellowship, and he passionately pleads on behalf of the practice.

“In the Eighteenth Century Lodges the feast bulked so large in the life of the Lodge that in many of them the members were seated at the table when the Lodges were opened and remained at it throughout the Communication, even when the Degrees were conferred. The result was that Masonic fellowship was good fellowship; in it, as in a warm and fruitful soil, as acquaintanceship, friendship, and affection could flourish-there was no grim and silent on a bench, staring across at a wall. Out of this festal spirit flowered the love which Masons had for their Lodge. They brought gifts to it, and only by reading of the inventories can any present-day Mason measure the extent of that love; there were gifts of chairs, tables, altars, pedestals, tapestries, silver, candle-sticks, oil paintings, libraries, Bibles, mementos, curios, regalia and portraits. The Lodge was a home, warm, comfortable, luxurious, full of memories and tokens and affection and even if a member dies his presence was never wholly absent; to such a Lodge no member went grudgingly, nor had to be coaxed, nor was moved by that ghastly, cold thing called “a sense of duty,” but went as if drawn by a magnet, and counted the days until he could go.....

A Lodge needs a fire lighted in it, and the only way to have that warmth is to restore the Lodge feast, because when it is restored good fellowship and brotherly love will follow, and where good fellowship is, members will fill up an empty Lodge room not only with themselves but also with their gifts.”

Fraternally,

Jeff Fitzpatrick, PM
Assistant Secretary