

Lodge Waikato 475

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED FREEMASONS

OCTOBER 2020



“ Oh, how happy we are to meet again. ”

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NOTICE PAPER



MASTER

WBro. Andre Schenk

11 Beaufort Place, Flagstaff, Hamilton.

Ph. 027 5784 060

SENIOR WARDEN

WBro. Alan Harrop

18 Cherrywood St.

Pukete, Hamilton

Ph 027 499 5733

JUNIOR WARDEN

WBro. Darryl Gray

3 Wymer Terrace,

Chartwell, Hamilton.

Ph 027 478 2574

TREASURER

V.WBro. Don Seath P.DGM

61b Dromara Drive

RD 9. Hamilton

Ph 027 497 5165

SECRETARY

Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon P.DivGM

114 Briarwood Drive,

Flagstaff, Hamilton.

Ph 027 4938 709

Dear Brother,

You are hereby summoned to attend the Regular Monthly Meeting of Lodge Waikato, to be held in the Hamilton East Masonic Centre, Grey St., Hamilton East , on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7:30pm.

Ceremony: - Lodge - Third degree working - Bro. Mark Bunting

- 1 Confirmation of Minutes
2. Accounts payable
3. Treasurer 's report
- 4 Correspondence
5. Almoners Report
- 6 Ballots
7. General Business
8. Notice of Motion -

Rt.WBro Gary Salmon - Hon Secretary

Officers of the Lodge

I.P.M.- WBro. Adrian de Bruin

Sen. Deacon - WBro. Steve Weller

Chaplain - WBro. John Dickson

Organist - Bro. Norm Weir **OSM**

Dir.of Cere - WBro. Kirk Spragg

Inner Guard - Bro. Mark Ashburner

Senior Steward - Bro. Mark Bunting

Dep.Master - WBro. Dennis Aplin **PGBB**

Jun. Deacon - Bro. Aaron Peters

Almoner - WBro. Wally Lee **PGS**

Ass Secretary - WBro. Richard Kyle

Ass. D.O.C. - WBro. Willy Willetts

Tyler - WBro. - Graham Hallam

Ass. Steward - Bro. Jacob Wallace

LODGE WAIKATO 475



To be Initiated - Mr Geralde Guinto.

To be Passed to the Second Degree - Bro. David Panirau.
Bro. Lowell Daquioag

To be Raised to the Third Degree - Bro. Mark Bunting, Bro. Greville Hartley.

Please contact the **Lodge Almoner**, - WBro. Wally Lee, in all cases of difficulty and where any help is needed. - ph **07 824 4862**. e-mail - wfnlee@gmail.com

Please contact the **secretary** to update any items. Rt.WBro. Gary Salmon,
027 4938 709 - e-mail - lodge.waikato@gmail.com

Chairman of Management Committee - WBro. Michael Tribe
Ph **027 249 8630** - e-mail - mtribe@xtra.co.nz

Editor of the Plumline - WBro. Graham Hallam.
Ph **027 855 5198**. e-mail - mallah@xtra.co.nz

Lodge Waikato Monthly Diary - October 2020

Thursday, 1st October at 7:00pm. Management meeting and practice

Thursday, 8th October at 7:00pm. Monthly practice

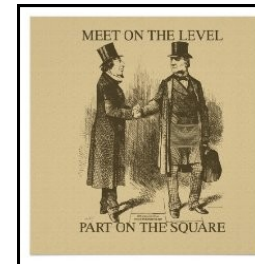
Thursday, 15th October at 7:30pm. Regular Monthly Lodge meeting.

Lodge Waikato Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in September and October 2020

John Peart - 28-9-1967 (53yrs)
Dick Morgan - 26-9-1968 (52yrs)
Norm Adams - 15-9-1983 (37yrs)
John Cook - 19-9-1991 (29yrs)
Darryl Gray - 17-9-1992 (28Yrs)
Trevor Service - 16-9-2004 (16yrs)
Ron Jackson - 5-9-2005 (15yrs)
Andre Schenk - 21-9-2006 (14yrs)

October -

Peter Kimber - 1-10-1986 (34yrs)
Brian Cowley - 15-10-2003 (17yrs)



Special Thanks —

Lodge Waikato 475 would like to thank most heartedly the following business for their continued support throughout the year

JAMES R. HILL

Master's Report October 2020

I start by saying a big thanks to all involved in the Installation. The work you all put in was much appreciated. I look forward to a busy and enjoyable year. Was it not good to have a meeting again, let 's hope that next meeting we can sit down and have something to eat again. In October it will be finally Mark Bunting 's turn to be raised to Master Mason.



Can 't wait to start visiting and we start with two First Degrees at Lodge Tawhiri on the 6th of October and Lodge Alpha on the 13th of October. And the Installation at Lodge Waipa on the 14th October where I might have some work to do. Brethren you can contact the JW or myself if you would like to accompany me and this would be much appreciated.

I hope we all realise how lucky we are that our Lodge has so many experienced Brethren that can do so many Charges. It makes life so much easier. November will see a First Degree of Mr Geralde Guinto. We all look forward to welcome a new Brother to the Lodge.

Brethren if possible I would like to have at least 2 practices, the first can be shorter after the standing committee and the second a full practice. This will be really good for the new Officers and myself.

There is nothing nicer than a smooth Ceremony and "practice does make perfect".

In December we get a real interesting speaker. Mr Peter Sergel. He designed the Picturesque Garden at the Hamilton Gardens and worked with three members of the Masonic community to research Masonic symbolism in 18th century gardens which are incorporated into the garden. Have a think of some questions you would like to ask Peter, he would love to answer these and it will add to the dialogue.

**Yours Fraternally,
Andre Schenk WM.**

' Lodge Waikato No 475 - Dues '

"The Lodge Waikato standard dues are set at \$300.00 per year.

Some Brethren pay reduced dues. All Brethren have been sent an account.

You may pay this half yearly - \$150.00 now and \$150.00 before 1 January 2021.

Or you may pay \$25 Monthly by Direct Credit. Direct Credit payments to Lodge Waikato Bank ANZ 06 0459 0989860 00 - Please include Surname and initials and the word Dues as reference. Cheques should be made payable to: -

The Treasurer Lodge Waikato No.475 - P.O. Box 9502, Waikato Mail Centre.

Thank you to all those Brethren who have paid promptly. -

You have made my job easier. - Don Seath Treasurer."

' Finally – a New Master '

Well, at last we have been able to have our Lodge Installation meeting, of which we did on Thursday 17th September.

Due to Covid 19 our Grand Lodge Master advised all Lodges in new Zealand to not have meetings these recent months, but it was a good opportunity to be able to meet again.

Our new Lodge Master WBro. Andre Schenk, was born in Holland and came to New Zealand in 1975, he has a twin brother and older sister.

After schooling Andre spent 4yrs at ' High Technical Training ' attaining the qualification as a Mariner Engineer. He arrived in Auckland and acquired work on the Auckland wharves, he also had several other jobs while living there.

During this time he met a lovely young lady by name of Patricia, and they eventually married in 1979. They have a son who lives in Melbourne and are expecting their first grandchild early in January 2021. Their daughter Sonya is also married and lives here in Hamilton.

As stated, Andre had a variety of jobs and became very interested in Baking, and they had a business at Kohimaramara in Auckland. To enhance his skills in this field, Andre went to UK especially to study and perfect his skills in the Chocolate and Baking profession. He has since become very accomplished in the computer world and has his own business of building computer companies and their requirements.

In 1984 Andre was introduced to Freemasonry through a working colleague who belonged to the Pakuranga Lodge. But it was about this time that Andre and Patricia decide to shift and to live in Tauranga. It was here he was introduced to The Tauranga Lodge and was initiated in year 2007. Andre proved a very keen Mason and each year went through most of the chairs becoming Master in 2011/12 and again in 2013/14.

It was now 2013 when Andre and Patricia shifted and moved to live at Flagstaff here in Hamilton. It was now that he joined Lodge Hillcrest where he instantly became involved in the Lodge and its workings. He progressed with the Lodge to join up with Lodge Waikato, where he has also continued to play his part. He has currently held the office of Senior Warden and now has this year, after waiting several months, due to Covid time, been placed in the Chair of King Solomon for the third time, as Master of this Lodge.

We congratulate you Andre, we wish you a very good year, whatever it may bring you, and ask you to be assured of your Lodge brethren who are right behind you to give you their 100% support.

We all wish you well.

Ed.

Correction / Apology —

Please note in the Masonic birthday notice of which is published in each Plumline on a monthly basis. September publication was not fully correct, so I apologise for the oversight, and publish this month the amended list.

Ed.

Report on Management Committee Meeting - Thursday 3rd September 2020

There were nineteen members present and four apologies.

The Master 's Report:

It was noted that the Waitomo Lodge installation was to proceed on the 10th of September 2020. The Master raised the the District Grand Masters request for assistance with the making of facemasks. This was followed by a brief discussion on the wearing of facemasks in the lodge rooms on a meeting night.

The key points from the June meeting include:

The Treasurer noted the account for the air conditioning units had not been paid and he was awaiting the final invoice. An amount of \$12,075 had already been approved and he requested approval to pay this amount once the invoice was received.

The Treasurer also noted, that we have three members, who after numerous attempts to get their dues paid are still in substantial arrears. Accordingly, he recommended the following members be struck off.

The Treasurer requested confirmation of a change in lodge signatories following the installation. After some discussion, it was agreed the following should be approved – The Treasurer, Secretary and Chair of the Management Committee. The Almoner reported that he had been making calls to those members on his list and most were in good health.

W Bro D McNaughton reported there had been a break in and a window had been broken.

After discussion it was agreed that he would oversee a review of the security of the building in general. The W Master Adrian de Bruin confirmed the damage has been repaired.

W Bro Harrop reported the tenants of the Ngaruawahia Lodge rooms want the long bench seats removed. It was noted the Rimu timber they are made of has some value and we should ask for a donation from anyone with an interest in removing them. It was agreed the master and W Bro Don McNaughton will make a visit to the lodge rooms and review. It also appears the gutters are blocked and causing a leak in the back wall. It was agreed that Kirk and Adrian will look into the problem. The organizational details for the installation were confirmed. The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and participation and the meeting was closed in Peace Love and Harmony at 8:15 pm.

Michael Tribe - Chairman - Management Committee

Almoner Report

It seems from the phoning of our own Lodge brethren most everyone is well and staying in their bubble and obeying the rules around Covid 19.

We do think of Murray Loft, Geoff Cooper, Dick Morgan, John Dickson, Alan Harrop, Paul Sutcliffe, Norm Weir and Tony Hilton, to name a few who are not at their best. We are sorry to get resignations from both Ivan Smith and Rod Harper. Both men have done great service to Freemasonry over the past many years and we are all grateful for that. It is obvious that these men will continue their Masonry by attending to the health and well-being of their ladies.

I 'm stepping aside from Almoning duties after many years in the position and pass the batton to Wally Lee, I/we offer him continued assistance if and when he may need it.

I 'm sure he will continue to have the help of all brethren as I have had over the years.

So, please keep in touch with Wally - 07 824 4862 for any future Almoning requirements.

Thanks to you all - Graham Hallam, Almoner (Retired)

' Address to Lodge Brethren'

Brethren, such is the nature of our Institution, and such of necessity the constitution of our several Lodges, that while some must teach and govern so others must learn and obey; humility and discretion on one side, obedience and forbearance on the other, are essentially necessary.

The Brethren who have been elected to preside over this Lodge are sufficiently acquainted with the laws of Freemasonry and with the rules of propriety to avoid exceeding the powers with which they have been invested; and we feel assured that you are all of too generous dispositions to envy them their preferment. Let us therefore hope that during the ensuing year all, both officers and brethren, will have but one end and aim and object in view, that of working together in love and harmony to promote the peace, the prosperity and the permanent welfare of the Lodge.

Finally my Brethren, as this Lodge has been formed and carried on hitherto in so much unanimity and concord, so may it long continue. May you enjoy every happiness which disinterested friendship can afford; may kindness and brotherly love distinguish your conduct as men and as Freemasons; both within and beyond these walls; may your children 's children, year by year, celebrate with joy and rejoicing the transactions of this auspicious ceremony, and may the genuine tenets and principles of the Order be transmitted through this Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

- **So mote it be.** - *As addressed to the Lodge Brethren.*

' How about this '

Due to the sponsorship asked for to enable the Plumblin to be sent to many brethren who appreciate the personal delivery each month, a sponsor has been found, and it is just delightful that Kees de Bruin is so generous.

We don 't see so much of Kees these days as he now lives on the Northland West Coast just South of Dargaville. Kees has responded to the request and has committed to be the sponsor for 5yrs, so - **we say a very BIG thank-you very much Kees,** the brethren of the Lodge are very grateful for your generosity.

Kees has just celebrated his 94th birthday and his family enjoyed a wonderful day with him, our retired WM Adrian de Bruin being his son.

Kees has a wonderful garden which keeps him busy every day.

So we say thanks again Kees, we trust you keep good health and perhaps when visiting family in Hamilton, you may bring your apron and give us a visit.

Our very best wishes to you.

Ed.



The Master of a Lodge

Bernard E. Jones writes: "The custom in every lodge of electing by ballot a new Master each year is of time-immemorial, although there is evidence to show that in many of the early eighteenth-century lodges Masters were elected to serve six instead of twelve months. The Master is elected from those of the members of the lodge who have served the office of Master or Warden, or who, in very exceptional cases, have been rendered eligible by dispensation. Charges appear to indicate that the Master, many centuries ago, was simply an experienced craftsman presiding over the lodge, and, so far as we can see, the idea of his ruling his lodge by virtue of his possession of peculiar secrets was not within the comprehension of our ancient brethren; but in this matter there is room for many different opinions.

The same appears to apply to the old Scottish operative lodges. To-day, in the speculative lodges throughout the world, a Master is one who has been elected to the office by his Brethren, and who has passed through a special ceremony of Installation, in the course of which secrets peculiar to the Master's chair have been communicated to him; but essentially the Master must always be a Brother who is well qualified by years of service as member and officer of the lodge to govern his Brethren in wise understanding.

"The rule that a Master should first have served as a Warden is also an old one. It was not always observed in the early speculative lodges, but it goes right back into the history of the craft guilds from which masonry draws its system of government by Masters and Wardens. Every Master in the old days, as in the new, solemnly pledged himself to observe the ancient usages and customs, and strictly to enforce them within his lodge. It is he who is responsible for the due observance of the masonic laws by the lodge over which he presides."

VW.Bro Gary Kirkin. P.GLec.

The Colour Blue in Freemasonry

Blue seems to have been highly esteemed since far back in antiquity as a beneficent colour, denoting immortality, eternity, chastity and fidelity, with pale blue representing prudence and probity. Exodus 28:31 states; "*Thou shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue.*"

In Medieval times, Christians regarded blue as symbolic of immortality, of perfection, of hope, and of fidelity. It has never been discovered how or when blue became the characteristic colour of Craft Masonry, but the most probable explanation is the simple analogy to the blue dome of heaven, the clouded canopy, or star-decked firmament.

In Masonry, blue indicates universal brotherhood and instructs us that those virtues should be as extensive as the blue arch of heaven itself.

No matter how the idea may have arisen, it seems that from the early 18th century, blue has been deemed the colour appropriate to the Craft degrees and Lodges, hence such terms as Blue masonry, Blue Lodge, Blue degrees have long been used, not only as a convenient method of expression but in recognition of a beautiful symbolism.

Ed.

' Masonic Etiquette '

Etiquette as commonly understood comprises the social graces and observances required by good breeding and good taste. It is doing the right thing, in the right way, at the right time and in the right place: normally the right thing socially, the right way socially and at the right time and place socially.

Punctuality and Regularity -

Punctuality and regularity of attendance are among the first virtues etiquette demands of Freemasons. The brethren should be settled in their places before the Master makes ready to rise to open the Lodge. This entails more than arriving just before the Lodge is tyled. Every brother should sign the attendance book and dress masonically in the suitable room and should be able to do so without semblance of unseemly haste. More than that, he should aim, and therefore should provide time, to meet and greet the brethren with whom he is to spend the evening. For some there will be a handshake, for some a nod and a smile, but for all there should be a cheery attitude. If there is a visitor, do not hesitate to make your-self known and introduce him to others to make him feel at ease and welcome.

Punctuality is a virtue to often dishonoured in the breach in today 's society. Agreed, in a busy life it can be unavoidable; but is it as inevitable as it appears.?

It is discourteous to enter a concert or theatre late, punctuality at business meetings is always considered essential; it is equally important in Freemasonry; regularity and punctuality of attendance is essential to the well-being of the Lodge.

Sanctity of Temples and Lodge Building -

Temples are dedicated to God' s work, Agreed, they are not Churches; but it is a safe and desirable rule and fitting among Freemasons never to speak or act otherwise there than one could in a Church. Outside the Lodge-room, of course, and more especially at supper, good clean humour and harmony are welcome and desirable.

The Master -

The Master rules and governs the Lodge, not just in theory but in fact. Outside it he is a brother among brethren, but even there, for his year in the Chair, set somewhat apart, by virtue of his office, he is the first among equals.

In the Lodge he is supreme, with precedence over all others, Past Masters included.

For the time being, he is the representative, how-ever humble, of King Solomon.

No Master can achieve his best without active support and assistance from his officers and brethren. Intelligently and loyally supported, he can raise the workings of the Lodge to a high standard of excellence when initiating and advancing candidates, who should be inspired with the most favourable impression of the Craft.

Conduct within the Lodge -

Lodge workings are serious and solemn. They should at all times be conducted in a dignified and impressive fashion, and brethren within the Lodge must be at pains to maintain both the Lodge and personal dignity. Silence, except when required to speak, and strict attention to the work in progress is the expectation of every brother.

**" I thought nothing of walking three miles to school...
I have grand-children who don' t think much of it either " Uncle Joe.**

Masonic Secrecy -

“ Freemasonry is not secret, but it has secrets. ” Such secrecy as it does practice requires that on no account shall Lodge business be discussed with outsiders. Nor should anyone ever speak ill of another brother; a good maxim is - “ If you cannot speak well of another Mason, don ’ t speak of him at all. ”

Secret Ballot -

One thing that is secret is the ballot. It is an important procedure, not to be treated lightly, but to be conducted with due seriousness, solemnity and formality. For, in it, justice must both be done and seen to be done. Candidates are given an clear understanding that any information they give of themselves or permit others to give of them is completely confidential. This confidence must never be betrayed; if, therefore, a candidate is rejected do not disclose it or talk about it.

Young Freemasons -

No new member should be left to his own devices, courtesy, hospitality and genuine etiquette impose a moral obligation on older members to pay him special attention in his first months and even his first year to help him learn more about the Craft.

Saluting -

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. Saluting is a case in point; salutes should be crisp, but not stiff; precise and not slovenly, as they often are. This is only a matter of care and attention to detail; it is well within the capacity of everyone to learn to salute properly. All signs should be given in unison. Your Director of Ceremony should be the one to demonstrate and make all brethren aware of the importance of correct manner with saluting.

The Gavel -

Wardens must always be alert to answer the knock of the Master with their gavel. When laying it down again they should replace it silently, so that no sound is heard other than the actual knocks. The gavel is often used much too loudly, a moderate tap, not a heavy blow, is all that is required.

Dress -

Dress is very important, it must be neat, clean and tidy to show respect to the Lodge. More bluntly, want of neatness, lack of cleanliness and tidiness just shows unworthy disrespect. A personal opinion is that if formal evening wear is the prescribed dress of the Lodge, then every member should endeavour to always wear it.

Visitors -

Brethren are actively encouraged to visit other Lodges, both to learn more Freemasonry by seeing others at work, and to extend the fraternal spirit and personal relationships within the Craft. It is likewise a very hospitable duty of members of the host Lodge to do all they can to enable any visitor to feel very welcome, to enjoy his visit, not to see him sit alone, not to let him feel a stranger, but to make him a very welcome guest. If you are visiting, and have been made very welcome, make certain to bidding the Master farewell and thank him for his attentiveness. Remember also, when visiting, you are looked on as a representative of your Lodge , so your demeanour and deportment will be noticed and your host Lodge and any other visitor will judge your Lodge by what they think and see of you.

‘ Do it credit. ’

Conduct in Refectory (South) -

It can be in the refectory that most breaches, and some serious breaches in etiquette may occur. A major purpose of togetherness in the refectory is to promote acquaintance and good fellowship among all members of the Craft. It should therefore afford an opportunity for everyone present to meet as many others as practicable. The whole aim is to ensure mingling of members with members and members with visitors, in happy comradeship, as like as can be to a great adult family reunion, enjoying the warm and valued friends from outside the immediate family. It is incumbent on all members, more especially the Stewards, to see the visitors are fully accommodated and suitably provided for. When toasts are offered, every speaker has the right to be heard, so it is proper that due silence is observed at this time. It is necessary that proper etiquette should always be noticed when visitors are speaking and more especially when a new initiate is experiencing his first time with all members, that he should experience a very cordial atmosphere and genuineness among all the members. Suitable Lodge protocols should be observed, this should not in anyway diminish the harmony, friendship and conviviality that is expected to be enjoyed by all. What has etiquette to do with speeches, someone may ask.? Much: etiquette remember, is doing and saying the right thing, in the right way. It is necessary to add that everything done and said in the refectory should be completely free from any coarseness, vulgarity, suggestiveness or lewdness, and fit for sensitive ears.

Behaviour after leaving Lodge -

Correct behaviour outside the Lodge is a most vital part of our Masonic being. Nothing should be said or done outside the Lodge that might reflect unfavourably on Freemasonry. When wearing Masonic rings, charms or badges outside of Lodge can show your interest and allows comment and scrutiny of your behaviour. So it in your best interests to do credit to the Craft in every manner in which life has to offer you.

Aim -

Lastly, ever keep in mind that the true aim of Freemasonry is “ the building of every part of a man into a spiritual house fit for the habitation of God. ” -

— **Etiquette is an aid to that end.**

Profile in Masonry

Kit Carson - Bro. Christopher Houston Carson - (1809-1868) became a trapper and mountain man early in life and served in the Union Military during the Civil War, he attained the rank of Brigadier General.

Kit Carson joined Montezuma Lodge No 109, New Mexico, in 1859.

Carson City, the capital of the State of Nevada, was named after him, as was 1st Masonic Lodge in Nevada, namely Carson Lodge No 1.

Ed.

' A Freemasons guide to looking good at the Lodge '

WBro. Samuel Windsor

As a freemason, you 're expected to understand the importance of looking your best. But what exactly is the Masonic dress code? For those of you new to the Lodge, or for anyone who 's curious to know, here we give you the lowdown on how to dress to fit in at the not so secret, secret society.

Freemasons are known for their smart dress, but why is it so important? Duncan Burden, the resident Freemason at Mysterious Writings and former owner of humblemason.com says that for a Freemason:

" To dress without effort is to dress without respect for one 's fellow man. "

But fitting in with the Freemasons is easier said than done. That 's because dress codes vary considerably around the world.

American Freemason Nick Johnson, writer of Millennial Freemason says, the right thing to wear can range from " full tuxedo with white gloves to khakis and a sweater and, even further, a t-shirt and jeans. "

Dress requirements can vary somewhat in the UK as well. Burden goes on to say:

" T here are some UK Lodges that request dinner suits, officer uniforms or formal highland dress to be worn. "

With such a varied dress code and high expectations to fulfil, how do you manage to dress to impress and get the proper attire for the Masonic lodge every time?

Thankfully, despite some variation, you 'll be found acceptable at most lodges as long as you follow a few simple dress rules. Generally speaking, according to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire, Freemasonry upholds a simple, standard dress code of:

" d dark suits, black shoes, black ties and white shirts...worn in remembrance of those who died in the service of their country during the two World Wars. "

The Provincial Grand Lodge go on to say that sober formal dress helps maintain a certain uniformity that ensures equality. The key is to keep it simple and keep it smart.

A smart, black or dark suit is the Freemason 's best friend, says Duncan Burden at Mysterious Writings. He describes it as " the standard expectation of being Masonically smart in England ". Quite simply, it 's an essential addition to any Freemason 's wardrobe. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire add that " you don 't need to spend a fortune on your attire " because meetings aren 't a fashion show.

Our advice is to build a wardrobe based on foundation pieces like black or dark suits, classic shoes and crisp white shirts. Simply use these neutral pieces as a base that can be reinvented to fit any event the Lodge may hold.



King George VI knew the importance of dressing correctly at the Lodge.

Adopting the dress code doesn't mean you can't offer a glimpse of your personality through what you wear. Think personal accessories like [cufflinks](#), classy [ties](#), [belts](#) and [pocket squares](#) and of course, a subtly understated but well chosen watch.

If you're in any doubt as to what's acceptable, we recommend you follow [Masonic World](#)'s advice and simply ask which of your accessories it's appropriate to wear and for what occasions.

And remember – it's often the case that masonic pins and rings may only be worn within the Lodge – never in public. You have been warned!

Whatever your Lodge's particular dress code, always bear in mind is that the ethos of Freemasonry goes far beyond the walls of the Lodge. As the writers of [Masonic World](#) say: *"in every moment of our life – in public, at work, at pleasure, with our families, even when you are alone – you are a Mason!"*

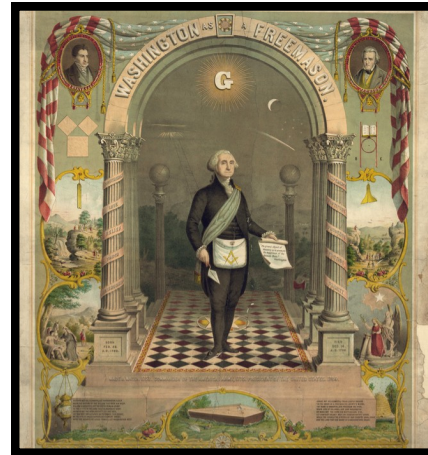
Top tips for the Masonic dress code -

Always look smart and put together, even with more casual dress codes.

It's disrespectful to look like you haven't made an effort. Wear dark colours, and nothing too flashy – you don't want to look like you're showing off.

Simple and classic shoes will give your look a polished edge. Assert your personality with your accessories – don't be afraid to wear your favourite colourful tie.

When in doubt, ask a fellow lodge member or a member of the lodge you are visiting.



**Freemasonry is steeped in tradition and history.
George Washington was famously a member.**

Editors Comments:

This newsletter (Plumblin) is not an official Masonic publication and does not express the policies or opinions of any specific Masonic Lodge, District or Grand Lodge. So go ahead and enjoy it as my gift to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve it let me know -

- I will always listen, I may not do anything about it, but I will listen.

I would love to publish some of the stories from around the District. Stories about individuals, Lodge happenings or histories of Lodges, just let me know. This newsletter is usually sent via internet and small numbers are published in paper format, but feel free to print it out and pass on to a brother.

If you know a brother who is not getting this newsletter let me know and I can arrange either paper format or via internet.

" This Plumblin never goes anywhere - It's just helps point the way. "
Ed.

' The One Dollar Bill '

The great seal of the United States can be easily viewed on the back of a one-dollar bill.

Man is an enigmatic creature having a dual nature temporal and spiritual. His institutions reflect the multiple facets of his complex and varied mental processes. He is at once occupied with the routine of satisfying the basic human needs for food, clothing, shelter and the less tangible and more varied spiritual and social needs.

His viewpoints are as varied as the individuals, subject not only to the external changes of environment but to self-created internal changes. Man alone has within himself any considerable power of thought or imagination. One facet of man ' s behavior to come out of his imagination, superstition, spiritual groping and reasoning is symbolism.

Signs, pictures, objects, words, emblems, words, numerals, music, or any means of conveying ideas from one individual to another became the vehicle of symbolism or symbols.

Certain of man ' s activities lend themselves more readily to symbolism than others.

The ritual of Freemasonry is especially rich in symbols - familiar things that convey a hidden meaning to the initiated. Philosophic Masonry is the heir to the symbolism practiced in the ancient mysteries, the Hebrew Cabal and the Medieval Rosicrucian Societies.

In this present age, where material things engross almost every waking hour, symbolism has lost much of its fascination, but this was not so in the eighteenth century when the revolutionary heroes pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honour to the erection of the new nation. As the crisis moved toward its climax the ideals for which they fought began to assume symbolic form.

On the 4th July 1776, the Continental Congress requested a committee to prepare a device for a Seal for the United States of America. It was not until June 19th 1782 that a design was finally found satisfactory for the Secretary of the Congress, Charles Thomason to submit, it was accepted and the design of the great seal was fixed.

Among those who helped design the Great Seal of the USA, the following were known to have been Freemasons. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, William Houston, and William Barton. Whether they drew heavily upon Freemasonry in this work it is impossible to assert but when an informed Mason examines the Great Seal, here is what he sees.;

On the front side is an eagle whose dexter wing has thirty-two feathers, the number of ordinary degrees in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. The sinister wing has thirty-three feathers, the additional feather corresponding to the Thirty-Third Degree of the same Rite, conferred for outstanding Masonic service. The tail feather number nine, the number of degrees in the Chapter, Council, and Commandery of the York Rite of Freemasonry.

Scottish Rite Masonry has its origin in France; the York Rite is sometimes called the American Rite; the Eagle thus clothed represents the union of French and American Masons in the struggle for Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.



The Glory above the eagle 's head is divided into 24 equal parts and reminds the observer of the Masons gauge which is also divided into 24 equal parts and is emblematic of the service he is obligated to perform. The five pointed stars remind him of the Masonic Blazing Star and the five points of fellowship.

The shield on the eagles breast affirms by its colours, valor (red), purity (white) and justice (blue) and reminds the mason of the Cardinal Virtues, thus the national colours spell out, by gematria, the name of the fraternity. The scroll in the eagle 's beak, bearing the words E PLURIBUS UNUM (one of many) reminds him also of the unity which has made brothers of many.

On the reverse is the All Seeing Eye within a triangle surrounded by a golden glory. Besides the obvious Masonic significance of this design the triangle is isosceles, formed by two right angles having sides of five, twelve, and thirteen units in length, illustrating the 47th Problem of Euclid. The triangle also represents the capstone of the unfinished pyramid and reminds the Mason of the immortality of the soul and that in eternity he will complete the capstone of his earthly labours according to the designs on the trestle-board of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

The unfinished pyramid cannot fail to remind him of the unfinished condition of the Temple when tragedy struck down its Master Architect.

The blaze of glory found on either side of the Great Seal cannot fail to remind the Mason of the Great Light in Masonry which is the rule and guide to faith and practice, and without which no Masonic Lodge can exist. It reminds him that only more light can dispel the pall of ignorance in which he stumbles until he enters the Celestial Lodge where all light is given.



**“ Without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station,
endeavour to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. ”**



Monthly Lodge meeting dates and Masters visits.

