

Brethren

First and foremost we welcome Worshipful Floyd Burgher Jr. home from his military deployment in Afghanistan and we are greatly appreciative that he has been returned safely to us. We look very much forward to seeing him sitting at his station in the East again. Worshipful, on behalf of all the Brethren we express our deepest sense of sadness and sympathy at the passing of your beloved wife, Beverly.

Grand Master of Virginia

We salute RW Howard Michael Sobel for his stellar performance in grand preparation and for receiving the Grand Master's official tiled (Past Masters) visit to our lodge on 25 July. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the many Brothers in attendance for the Grand Master's official visit to ACGL81 and a special thanks to the all of the lodges recording official visits.

Remember Masons do not solicit Members

Talking about Freemasonry and providing information to a prospective member is not soliciting. Most men will not consider joining an organization they know nothing about. Some Masons are concerned about the non-solicitation rule. What this rule means is that a man must come to Freemasonry of his own free will and accord. There can be no coercion. But nothing in Virginia Freemasonry prevents us from discussing Masonry with others by approaching those we know and respect, who we consider to be a potentially suitable applicant, and encouraging them to consider becoming a part of Freemasonry by joining our Lodge. We can tell them we welcome good men joining our organization, but they must ask to join. We can also invite them to an event where they can learn more about our Fraternity. If we get them as excited about Freemasonry as we are, they will consider becoming a part of Freemasonry and joining our Lodge.

One way to begin is to have an introductory conversation with a prospective candidate about Freemasonry, and leave them with one of the publications on Freemasonry such as: "For Your Information" published by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and "What's A Mason?" and "Who Are The Masons and What Do They Do?" both published by the Masonic Information Center. We also recommend that you review the Grand Lodge publication, "Share the Light of Freemasonry."

Your prospective candidate may then want to know more about Freemasonry. You are free to tell them what Freemasonry is all about—its history, its values, and its charities. You can tell them about your Lodge and what Freemasonry means to you. If you wish, you can also refer them to other knowledgeable Brethren in your Lodge or district who can further explain what the Fraternity is all about and provide an additional perspective.

Of course, many men now get their information from the Internet and there are many good Internet sites you can recommend to them. These sites include Grand Lodge websites, such as:

Grand Lodge of Virginia: <http://www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org/>
Grand Lodge of California: <http://www.freemason.org/>
Grand Lodge of Massachusetts: <http://www.glmasons-mass.org/>
Grand Lodge of Nebraska: <http://www.nebraska-grand-lodge.org/>
Grand Lodge of New York: <http://www.nymasons.org/>
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania: <http://www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org/> and the
Grand Lodge of England: <http://www.ugle.org.uk/>

In addition, there are other good sites to recommend. These include:

Masonic Service Association of North America: <http://www.msana.com/>
George Washington Masonic Memorial: <http://www.gwmemorial.org/>
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry: <http://supremecouncil.org/>
Parsons Masons: <http://www.parsonsmasons.org/index.html>
Scottish Rite Journal: <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
Shrine of North America: [http://www.alzafar.org/how the organization works](http://www.alzafar.org/how_the_organization_works)
and the Philalethes Society: <http://www.freemasonry.org/>

After they have some idea about the Fraternity and are interested in learning more, is a good time to let them see the Lodge and meet the Brethren.

Bethel 1 Goes to Grand Session July 2011

Twelve Jobbies from Bethel 1, Arlington, Virginia went to Grand Session (the annual State meeting for Jobs Daughter's in Virginia) at Ferrum, Virginia July 7th through July 10th. They demonstrated that they are growing in grace and leadership skills which Jobbies teaches. As always you can be proud of them as representatives of our lodge's good will. You will be pleased to know that they also won first place in the choir competition. For the first time in the memory of our assembled adult jobbie leadership, Bethel 1 also entered the dance completion and took first place as well doing a very cute number of "Rock Around the Clock." Several daughters also distinguished themselves individually in singing and instrumental competition. Our Bethel 1 daughters are also athletic and put on a good show in swimming relay and four person plank walk teams. Also, three members of our Bethel 1 were selected for the State Bethel, including The Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Jamie Marshall (whose father Jim and brother Jay are members of our lodge). This is only the second time that Bethel 1 has been honored to have the Grand Bethel Honored Queen. Sherry Whidden (our current Bethel Guardian) was installed as the Grand Guardian Council Musician and Paul Shuey was installed as the Vice Associate Grand Guardian meaning that Bethel 1 has two grand officers representing it in state activities and business.

So Just what is DIW School

On the last Wednesday of each and every month, the District Instructor of Work (DIW) holds a ritual school for our 54th Masonic District at 7:30 pm at Sharon Masonic Temple. You, like me, may not have noticed that the last page of the 54th Masonic District Directory has an announced schedule of scheduled work and which of the six lodges is nominally assigned to an officer part. You do not have to be an officer to come and participate. I can assure you that you will experience a very patient but firm teacher in RW Bruce Palmer or anyone else who is there teaching under his direction. Whether you watch or participate actively, you will enjoy this time with other Brethren, who like you are learning how to perform and understand the ritual of our gentle craft better. Bruce recently announced that he is currently working on specific subjects for which brethren present ask. He is doing this because the ritual school has been so sparsely attended recently.

Speaking of Instruction of Work

On the first and third Monday of every month, RW Clark "Andy" Anderson, ACGL81 Lodge Instruction of Work (LIW) leads a study group beginning at 7:30 pm. All brethren are welcome and invited to join us and participate in whatever capacity. Arrangements for other individual or group study dates and times must be made directly with Brother Clark.