



January Trestleboard

Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M.

Chartered on October 27, 1789

www.ru27.org



FROM THE MASTER'S STATION

Worshipful. Matt Frakes
Greetings Brethren,

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to you all. As we approach the New Year in 2023 I think it's important for all of us to reflect on the year that just passed. Whether 2022 was a personally challenging year for you and your family, or a year that was full of immense joy and celebration, I think it's important to take what we've learned from the past year and improve upon ourselves as we quickly approach 2023.

This will be my 2nd time serving as your Worshipful Master of Rockingham Union Lodge #27, having previously served as Master in 2020. The opportunity to lead one of the most active (and in my humble opinion, one of the best) lodges in the state of Virginia is a tremendous honor and one that I don't take lightly. We have a busy year planned for Rockingham Union #27. My goal is to have an insightful, entertaining, and educational program for each monthly stated meeting. For January's meeting, we will have a close friend of mine, Lt. Josiah (Si) Schiavone of the Virginia State Police, present to our lodge. Si will be speaking on the ongoing opioid epidemic, specifically the ongoing heroin epidemic and what the State Police is doing to address it. In addition to a monthly presentation, my goal is to strive to get back to the days of lodge dinners before our stated meetings. Therefore, before January's stated meeting on **January 4th** (at 6:00pm) we will be having pizza. There will be

NO cost for this dinner, but any donations would be greatly appreciated.

I encourage our brethren to re-engage in Rockingham Union #27. For those of you who we haven't seen in a while and who enjoy making New Year's Resolutions, maybe make a personal resolution to become more active in Rockingham Union #27 lodge. Whether that is by making a personal commitment to attend more monthly stated meetings, or by taking part in an upcoming Degree, or as something as simple as whispering good counsel to a fellow brother, we encourage our brethren to be as actively involved as possible.

I'm humbled and honored to be your Worshipful Master for 2023. I look forward to seeing many friendly faces that I haven't seen in a while and the ones that I see on a regular basis. Let's make 2023 the best year yet for Rockingham Union #27!

New Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master – Matthew Frakes
Russell E. Pence, PM, PDDGM - Senior Warden
Martin E. Eagleson - Junior Warden
Herman W. Hale, PDDGM - Treasurer
David T. Silcox, PM - Secretary
David S. Bates - Senior Deacon
Matthew P. Bentel, PM - Junior Deacon
Christopher N. Walker, PM - Chaplain
John M. Kaltenborn - Tiler
Joshua O. Morris - Marshall
Paulo E. Alvez - Senior Steward
Wayne B. Wenger, PM, PDDGM - Junior Steward

We have some fresh faces in the Lodge – please come out, meet and support them this year!

*Stated Communication
4 January 2023*

Dinner at 6:00 PM – Pizza Party!!
 Program at 6:30 PM - Si Schiavone
 Meeting at 7:30 PM

- Attire: Officers-suit or jacket/tie
- Attire: Brethren-business casual

Note that January’s Stated Communication will be on the 4th.

DEGREE PROGRESS

The 3rd Monday of each month is reserved for Degree Work.

Remember to attend the degrees whenever possible. The brethren are needed in attendance to make the ceremonies memorable for the candidates. Also, you get to know them. They are the future of the Lodge

EVENTS

***** Pizza Party before January 4th Stated Communication – 6:00pm, no cost to the brethren *****

- Jan 28th – Division Leadership Conference – Fishersville, 9:30 am at 1275 Old Goose Crk Rd, Fishersville, Virginia 22939. Formal (Dark Suit/Tie) attire
- March 31st – Grand Master’s Official Visit to Districts 6 & 7 – winter tux
- April 4th – Area Masonic Ritual School for Districts 3, 5 & 6 in Front Royal
- May 19th – Grand Master’s Official Visit to District 5 – summer tux
- August 11th & 12th – Reid James Simmons Academy at Roanoke Scottish Rite
- Oct 14th - Area Masonic Ritual School for Districts 3, 5 & 6 in Front Royal

Lodge Prayer List

Sick or Distressed

- None at this time

If you know of a Brother who needs prayers or assistance, please contact the Lodge Secretary at ru27secretary@gmail.com.

Good News!

Rockingham Union #27 was recognized **twice** in The Virginia Masonic Herald, Winter 2022 issue under Masonic Awards and Recognition for our “Cheers for Charity” fundraiser and subsequent award of a check for \$5200 to Detective Gavin Lam. Check out the articles and pictures on pages 24 and 25 of the current issue.

If you know of a Brother’s good fortune or of something in your own life, please contact the Lodge Secretary at ru27secretary@gmail.com. It is a wonderful way to acknowledge the triumphs and successes of our Brethren.

Masonic Birthdays in January

Presgrave, Richard Wayne
 William Taylor III
 Brewer, Keith Leonard

Happy Birthday to all these Brethren!!

Appendant Bodies

O.E.S. - Shenandoah Chapter No. 76

Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:30 PM
 Refreshments before meeting at 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker

First Sergeant Si Schiavone was born and raised in Winchester, VA. He obtained his Bachelors in Science Degree in Environmental Geology from The College of William and Mary in 2004. He then joined the Virginia State Police where he patrolled as a Trooper in Frederick County for several years. In 2009, Si was promoted to Special Agent and was assigned to the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Drug Enforcement Section. For the next six years he worked in locations all over the State investigating narcotics and gang related crimes. His assignments varied from being the lead case agent to numerous heroin overdoses, to working deep under cover in the Tidewater area. In 2015 he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent and assigned as Coordinator of the RUSH Drug Task Force in Harrisonburg, VA. In December of 2016, Si was appointed as the Coordinator of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug and Gang Task Force, where he worked on the front lines battling the Opioid Epidemic. In May of 2018, he was promoted to First Sergeant where he served as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, General Investigations Section. Si was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in December of 2020 and is currently the Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Section for Division 2. He covers 13 counties and oversees numerous Drug Task Forces. He recently received his Master of Public Safety from the University of Virginia.

