



# HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 - A.F. & A.M. - VIRGINIA

## TRESTLEBOARD

## AUGUST 2020

August 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite

*masks required, social distancing required*

August 11, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

### **Stated Communication (in-person!)**

Alexandria Scottish Rite

*no dinner, masks required, social distancing required*

August 18, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite

*masks required, social distancing required*

August 25, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite

*masks required, social distancing required*

### **Public Health Warning:**

No one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to COVID-19 case(s) in the prior 14 days, is permitted to enter the Lodge building. Public gatherings are not without some risk. All should exercise caution, particularly those who are 65 years of age or older, or if you have underlying health conditions. The safety of our membership is our number one concern. If, for any reason, you feel you are unable to follow the requirement to wear a face covering, DO NOT ATTEND LODGE.



## A MESSAGED FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

We officially opened the lodge back up on the 14th of July. It was great seeing everyone as well as having our 3 new prospects spending time getting to know some of the guys from the lodge. Remember its important for us to get to know these guys just as it is important for them to get to know us especially if/when they decide to petition. Balloting should not be taken lightly and should be well informed whenever possible. Remember these are the guys that we will be potentially electing to receive the degrees of Freemasonry and will call our brothers. I recommend whenever possible to meet with them, talk to them, get to know them as men and as potential Masons, and ask whatever questions you may have of them.

I would like to again congratulate Bro. Bradley Watts for his wonderful return of the Entered Apprentice's catechism! He also gave a moment of reflection afterwards on what he has learned from this degree. It is beautiful thing to see how Masonry has a positive influence on a man's life. Once we are allowed to start doing degree work, I will organize a Fellowcraft Degree so we can keep moving the candidates forward.

We will be resuming our Lodge Ritual Schools on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday's for those that are able and comfortable in attending. All safety protocols will need to be observed. This is also a good way to refresh and sharpen those ritual and catechism skills!

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Timothy J. Fisher  
Worshipful Master  
tfisher2000@gmail.com  
410-610-8981



## The Ballot

Bro. T. G. Winning, Grand Lodge of Scotland



The Ballot Box is freemasonry's sentinel. It stands guard at the portals of the Craft to keep off all who are not qualified to enter; and there is peace and harmony inside those portals only so long as it remains faithful to its sentinel duties. When in good time you are privileged to become a full member of the Lodge you will discover that in a certain real sense it is the very Key - Stone in the arch of our organization. It is important for you, therefore, as soon as possible, to gain a clear understanding of all it means and of the duties of a Mason about it.

First, the Ballot Box gives decisive and practical expression of the principle of qualification. Freemasonry does not solicit members. Petitioners must come of their own choice and free will. Of all those who thus come only such as have certain necessary qualifications are eligible for membership.

The first use of the Ballot is to decide whether in fact and truth a given petitioner possesses those qualifications. Does a petitioner have, or does he not have, the necessary qualifications? This is the question to be decided by the ballot, and it is the only question to be decided. A man may be upright and honorable, a good citizen, a patriot, a loyal friend, and yet not possess the required qualifica-

tions. A black ball is not therefore a mark of disgrace. It is not a judgment on a man's character or on his personality but is purely a technical method for deciding whether he is fitted for a place in the fraternity. For this same reason it is un-Masonic for any member of a Lodge to cast a black ball against a petitioner out of personal spite or private prejudice. When we cast a ballot we act in an official capacity as a spokesman, or sentinel, for the fraternity. We are, so to speak, a member of a jury, and it is therefore unjust for us to permit our exercise of that function to be warped by purely private feelings.

The second point, the Ballot should be 'unanimous'. The petition ought to be acceptable to every member of the Lodge. When the question arises whether a given man should or should not be received into our fellowship, the fraternity itself receives first consideration. This is wise and just. The fraternity has not solicited him, he is soliciting it. It is for him to prove his fitness. Consequently, if a member of a Lodge, not out of prejudice but out of positive and sure knowledge, is convinced that the petitioner would disturb the peace and harmony of the Lodge, it becomes a duty to exclude him. The good and welfare of the body of men already in membership takes precedence over the desires and ambitions of the petitioner.

The third point is that the Ballot must be secret. It is a violation of the Grand Lodge Constitution for a member to tell how he voted, or to discuss a ballot in open Lodge, or to discuss the petitioner. This law has two general purposes; for one thing it protects the peace and harmony of the Lodge; for another, it protects the petitioner. As a petitioner he stands in a confidential relationship to the Lodge; the facts he has given about himself are personal and private, and they must be kept sacred as such; the whole transaction is private between him and the Lodge, therefore nothing about it should go to the outside world. If he is rejected it is for purely Masonic reasons and these should no prejudice him in the eyes of his fellows outside the Craft.

The fourth point is that every member of the Lodge ought to vote if he is present when the Ballot is taken. This means that the Ballot Box is a duty rather than merely a privilege. Membership in the fraternity is an office that carries official duties - as much so as the occupation of one of the chairs; and one of the chief of those official duties is to exercise a watchful care over.

The fifth point is that the Ballot is inviolable. Once it is taken it is taken, and there is no appeal from its verdict. If a Master is convinced that some error was made while taking it he may order another Ballot to be taken at once (as when a member declares that

he has made a mistake), but when he has announced it to be completed and the Ballot closed, the transaction stands finished beyond recall.

The sixth point is that the ballot is independent. This means that when in voting a member has exercised his best judgment in the performance of a duty, he is not answerable to any man, to the Lodge, or to Grand Lodge for his action, whether it was favorable to the candidate or unfavorable. This is the necessary corollary to the principle that voting is a duty; for no man can be held responsible for a duty unless he is recognized to possess the power and the authority necessary to discharge that responsibility.

It would be a mistake to think of the Ballot Box only from the point of view of its power to exclude the unworthy; its positive power is far more impressive. A favorable Ballot is more than a mere grudging admission of a petitioner into membership.

It has, at one stroke and for all time to come, decided that he is to be admitted into full and free fellowship with his brethren. When you become a full member of the Lodge you will not be able to raise any question as to the fitness of another member. You cannot quarrel with him because he may belong to some race against which you feel a prejudice, or because he adheres to some church or religious creed in which you do not believe, or because he may not possess the degree of social polish, you consider necessary, or because he may not be as learned as he ought to be, or is poor, or possesses traits and habits that may jar upon you.

All questions as to the desirability or acceptability of such qualities were decided with complete finality by the Ballot Box at the time his petition came before the Lodge; and that decision remains in force! It is Un-Masonic to consider him under perpetual probation; his period of probation ended when he was elected to membership.

He has been, ever since, a Brother, and it is the duty of every other member of the Lodge to treat him as such so long as his membership shall last.



- Worshipful William Kenneth Hyatt - August 30, 1957 - 63 years
- Brother Robert Lee Shelton - August 30, 1960 - 60 years
- Brother James Edward Christian - August 29, 1961 - 59 years
- Brother Robert Duane Copeland - August 29, 1967 - 53 years
- Right Worshipful Ronald Nicholas Morris - August 17, 1971 - 49 years
- Brother William Bradford Arnhart - August 5, 1975 - 45 years
- Brother Stephen Lacy Arnhart - August 5, 1975 - 45 years
- Brother Brian Jeffrey Fields - August 19, 1975 - 45 years
- Brother Tex William Jones - August 31, 1976 - 44 years
- Brother Neil Thomas Hitchcock - August 28, 1979 - 41 years
- Brother Peter Donald Morlock - August 1, 1984 - 36 years
- Brother Brent Besley Moore - August 18, 1987 - 33 years
- Boettjer, John William Brother - August 15, 1989 - 31 years
- Brother Kirk John Ballanger - August 29, 1989 - 31 years
- Worshipful Andrew Carlyle Apperson - August 29, 1989 - 31 years
- Worshipful Donald Gordon Phillips - August 21, 1990 - 30 years
- Worshipful Dale Wayne Dressler - August 15, 2000 - 20 years
- Worshipful Rodney Patrick Gray - August 21, 2001 - 19 years
- Brother Gregory Michael Stone - August 24, 2004 - 16 years
- Brother Jack Miller - August 13, 2005 - 15 years
- Brother Harmon Morrow Young - August 27, 2005 - 15 years
- Brother Franklin Paul Norris - August 16, 2008 - 12 years
- Worshipful Michael Mongkhoun Souvannaphandhu - August 16, 2008 - 12 years
- Brother Bryan John Proven - August 15, 2009 - 11 years
- Brother James Allan Gleason - August 21, 2010 - 10 years
- Brother Ronald Edward Markiewicz - August 27, 2011 - 9 years
- Brother James D. Compton - August 27, 2011 - 9 years
- Brother Ian A. Ale - August 27, 2011 - 9 years
- Brother James Frederick Cordes - August 29, 2015 - 5 years
- Brother Korosh Yazdanpanah - August 4, 2018 - 2 years



henry knox field

**HKF**

A.F. & A.M.



**JBL**  
NO. 349

john blair lodge

## 2020 OFFICERS

Timothy J. Fisher, Worshipful Master	Ronald E. Markiewicz, Chaplain
Clayton J. Mitchell, Senior Warden	Xavier Mariscal, Senior Steward
Mark A. Boughner, Junior Warden	Joseph Dergham, Junior
Wor. Kenneth R. Reynolds,	Steward
Treasurer	Nelson Sanchez, Jr., Marshal
Wor. Daniel E. Froggett, Secretary	Arnold McNeal, Musician
Korosh Yazdanpanah, Senior Deaco	Wor. Jaime H. Flores, Tiler
	Wor. Erik N. Schultz, Education
	Officer



### LODGE HISTORY

Henry Knox Field Lodge, No. 349, A.F. & A. M., was chartered in the Town of Potomac, Virginia, on February 12, 1925. It was named in honor of Henry Knox Field, a local businessman and community leader from Alexandria, Virginia, who served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, in 1917. Most Worshipful Field was raised to the degree of Master Mason on February 20, 1890, at Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, A.F. & A.M. On June 24, 1893, he was installed Worshipful Master of that Lodge. Most Worshipful Field was born on April 20, 1860 and passed away on August 1, 1917, while serving as Grand Master.

John Blair Lodge No. 187, A.F. & A.M., was instituted on July 31, 1970, and chartered at Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349 on February 10, 1971. The lodge was named in honor of Virginia's first Grand Master and inaugural United States Supreme Court Justice John Blair, Jr. Jewels, aprons, the bible, and tiler's sword were given by Worshipful Raymond L. Colins. The speakers podium for the Lodge was constructed and donated by Right Worshipful Clarence A. Dains. The brazen pillars were constructed and donated by the Charter Treasurer, John Newton Crawford, and the altar cover was later donated by Most Worshipful Werner Herman Morlock, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1993, who died in office on Saturday, March 5, 1994.

The lodges initiated the consolidation process in February 2017, with the Resolution on Consolidation being adopted in June of the same year. Henry Knox Field—John Blair Lodge, No. 349, A.F. & A.M., officially began work January 1, 2018.

HENRY KNOX FIELD—JOHN BLAIR LODGE, No. 349, AF&AM  
 1430 WEST BRADDOCK ROAD  
 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302  
 WWW.FIELDBLAIRLODGE349.ORG

*Stated Communication:*

*Second Tuesday 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m.*