



ALEXANDRIA-WASHINGTON LODGE N^o 22

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
HOLDEN UNDER THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA

The George Washington Masonic Memorial
101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22301
E-mail: secretary@aw22.org Website: <http://aw22.org>

To Those Wishing to Join Our Lodge

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Freemason. Freemasonry is a system of symbolic instruction contained in certain ancient rituals known as degrees.

The Craft has existed from time immemorial and has counted among its most well-known members great composers, such as: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig von Beethoven, and Franz Josef Haydn; great writers, such as: Robert Burns, Arthur Conan Doyle and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe; great scientists such as: Isaac Newton, J.T. Desaguliers and Robert Hooke; and great leaders, such as: George Washington and thirteen other Presidents of the United States, the Marquis de Lafayette, Simon Bolivar, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Winston Churchill, and Salvador Allende, to name a few.

Although the most eminent men have devoted themselves to Freemasonry, Freemasonry does not concern itself with the merely external qualifications of men. Rather, our ancient and honorable order is a spiritual and philosophical Brotherhood, in which each member advances in self-control, self-knowledge, and self-mastery as a means of greater insight into the world around him and ultimate reality. If you gain admission among us, you should expect to find men of the noblest character participating in impressive rituals, seeking to improve themselves and ever assisting you and each other in advancing towards enlightenment.

If you are primarily seeking something other than advancement in knowledge and virtue, such as social advancement by networking, a club, or organized charitable outreach, you should consider joining one of the many other valuable institutions in society which performs those functions. Here, you will progress only by hard work, and the end of your journey will be only light within.

In order to be considered for membership, you must submit a Petition, which I have enclosed. Once you have completed the Petition form, mail it to the Secretary at the address above. The Petition will be read in Lodge after a time, at my discretion, and once read, will lay over for a statutory period of one lunar month. While it lays over, the Lodge will verify the good standing of your vouchers (whether they are from within the Grand Lodge of Virginia or from some other jurisdiction), and form an Investigating Committee to meet with you in your home. The Investigating Committee will discuss your interest in Freemasonry with you, as well as your background and character. Once the petition has laid over for the statutory period, your vouchers have been verified as in good standing, and you have met with the Investigating Committee, the Lodge will vote on your Petition for membership. The vote must be unanimous in order for you to gain admission. If the Lodge's vote is favorable, the Lodge Secretary will contact you to let you know the date on which I have scheduled your initiation.

The threshold requirements to begin your journey in Freemasonry in Virginia are that you be: a man over the age of 18, of good report in the community including no criminal record, of good character, with no physical deformities or defects that would interfere with your participation in our rituals, who believes in God and the immortality of the soul, who has resided in Virginia for at least a year before petitioning, who submits his petition of his own free will and accord. You must be vouched for by two Master Masons in good standing in a Lodge holden under a jurisdiction that is recognized by the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The process of becoming a Mason is by initiation in three Degrees and extensive instruction. After each of the Degrees is conferred upon you, you will work with a coach on the Catechism and philosophical instruction that accompanies each of the Degrees before you can progress to the next.

Not every Lodge in Virginia is as rigorous in its approach as is Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. Within the area of Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, and Fairfax County, there are nineteen Lodges. Every Lodge places a different emphasis on the traditions of the Craft and you may feel more comfortable in another Lodge besides ours.

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 has a long and distinguished history. President and Brother George Washington served as charter Master of the Lodge, and continued to serve as Master while first President of the United States. The Lodge laid the Cornerstone of many important buildings including the United States Capitol, the White House, and the Washington Monument, to name a few. Closer to the present, Presidents William H. Taft and Harry S. Truman witnessed degrees in our Lodge, with Truman taking part in the degree itself.

More information about the history of the Lodge, as well as its meeting times and locations, is available on the Lodge's website at: www.aw22.org

The fees for becoming a Mason in our Lodge are \$500, as follows: \$100 to be submitted with the Petition, \$100.00 to be paid with each of the first two degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft, and \$200 to be submitted with the third degree of Master Mason. Thereafter, you will be required to pay annual dues and Grand Lodge Assessments totaling \$169 per year, which are prorated for your first (partial) year of membership. All of these fees can be paid or pre-paid via PayPal on the Lodge's website if you are elected to membership.

Please call or e-mail me any time if you have any questions or to discuss Freemasonry further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael L. Bailey

Master, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M.

A.L. 6012

APPLICANT — PLEASE READ THE TOP, REVERSE SIDE BEFORE COMPLETING THIS PETITION.

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES IN FREEMASONRY

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of

_____ **Lodge No.** _____ **A.F. & A.M.**
_____, **Va.**

I have resided during the past twelve months within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia and beg leave to state that I believe and trust in God as the Supreme Architect and Governor of the Universe, and unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, and that I am prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish of being serviceable to my fellow creatures. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the established usages and customs of the Fraternity.

Please print or type. Use reverse side, if needed, to fully answer questions.

1. (a) Name in full _____
First Middle Last

(b) Preferred Name (not a nickname) _____

2. Residence _____

3. (a) Social Security No. _____ (b) Telephone No. (Home) _____ (Work) _____ Zip + 4 _____
(Cell) _____ (Fax) _____ (c) E-mail address _____

4. Have you ever petitioned this or any other Masonic Lodge? _____ If so, state name of Lodge, location, date and result of every petition:

(Use back of Petition for additional space.)

5. (a) Where born? _____ (b) Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
City/County State Month Day Year

6. (a) Name of Father _____ (b) Mother's Full Maiden Name _____

7. What is your occupation? _____

8. List names and addresses of your employers, beginning with your current employment, for the past ten years.
(Use back of Petition for additional space.)

| Name of Employer | Address | City, State, Zip | Your Occupation | Length of Employment |
|------------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

9. Where have you resided for the past ten years?

| Address | Year From | Year To |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

10. (a) Single, Married, Widower, or Divorced? (circle one) (b) Wife's Maiden Name _____
List names, age and relationship of each of your dependents:

| Name | Age | Relationship |
|------|-----|--------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

11. Describe your physical defects and deformities, if any: _____

12. Have you ever been charged in a court of law with a criminal offense? YES NO (circle one) Explain circumstances on reverse.

13. (a) Have you answered all the questions above? _____ (b) Upon your honor, are the statements and answers true? _____

14. I have read the information for the applicant noted at the top of the reverse side of this petition.

Date _____

The fee of \$ _____ accompanies this petition.

(Sign full, legal name, IN OWN HANDWRITING)

I usually sign my name thus.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

As the exact nature of the Institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain phases of that Institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages required that men should come to its door entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity; but from a favorable opinion of the Institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of men; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor, and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

The Masonic Fraternity is in no sense an insurance society; neither does it pay benefits in case of sickness or death. In a correct and broad sense, it is both educational and charitable. It extends such assistance only as it is willing and able to grant. It knowingly admits none to membership except those who are able to provide for themselves and those dependent upon them.

FOR LODGE USE ONLY

PETITION FOR DEGREES of _____
Name in full

Dates of Lodge actions: _____ Received at stated meeting of Lodge held on _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Rejected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Elected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Initiated _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Passed _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Raised _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Fees: E.A. _____ F.C. _____ M.M. _____ Annual Dues: _____ Member No. _____ - _____

NOTE--This petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the Lodge for reference.

(Show Question Number) **Additional Space For Information**

RECOMMENDERS (VOUCHERS) PLEASE FILL IN BELOW

We hereby certify that the petitioner has resided for the one year last past or has Masonic residence in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, that we are well acquainted with the petitioner, that we have read the answers to the questions contained in the petition and believe them to be true and that each of us believes the petitioner to be morally and physically qualified, of good character, and under the tongue of good repute. We cheerfully recommend him as a proper candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____
 Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP
 Telephone No. (Home) _____ - _____ (Work) _____ - _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____
 Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP
 Telephone No. (Home) _____ - _____ (Work) _____ - _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____