SHARON MASONIC LODGE NO 327
DISTRICT 1A

Sharon Masonic Lodge
999 Balls Hill Rd
McLean, VA 22101

contact@sharonlodge.org

Contacting the Lodge and its Officers:

If you wish to contact the Lodge or its officers and do not have their contact information, please send an email to contact@sharonlodge.org.

HEADLINES

- Annual Dues for 2026 are now being accepted. Details are included at the end of this document under **Dues and Membership Renewals**.
- Your JW has taken the lead in coordinating training opportunities for ritual on the first, third, and fourth Thursdays of the month. Doors open at 6:30 PM and practice begins at 7:00 PM. Sessions end at 8:00 PM. Read **The State of the Lodge** and learn more!
- Work in the First Degree is scheduled for SA 10/31. Details in **Upcoming Events**!
- Lodge polo shirts are being designed! Details can be found under **Announcements**!

CALLS FOR ACTION

- ~~Remember the District Blood Drive at KMW on SA 09/05! Details in **Announcements**!~~ **CANCELLED**
- Please support our efforts to fulfill a wish list provided by the Women's Home of Arlington. The current charity drive is discussed in **Jobs, Tasks, and Opportunities**.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- The Center for Wilderness Safety is partnering with Sharon Lodge to offer a CPR and AED training opportunity for members and their families. Learn more under **Announcements**!

Upcoming Events:

An EA degree will be delivered on 10/31 at 8:00 AM, all available members are asked to be present.

09/10 TH Regular Meeting

10/08 TH Regular Meeting

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10/31 SA **CALLED COMMUNICATION: Delivery of the First Degree**

7:00 AM ARRIVAL AND PREP / 8:00 AM START

11/1 SU **Campaign Launch! Toys for Tots**

11/12 TH Regular Meeting

12/5 SA ~~**End of Year Party at Sharon Lodge**~~

Date will be repurposed for OPEN INSTALLATION; details TBD. All incoming officers are requested to be present.

12/10 TH Regular Meeting*

Last regular meeting before the Payment Deadline for annual dues.

12/31 TH **Payment Deadline for 2026 Annual Dues**

All payments must be received by this date.

Watch out for these events!

09/01 TU **Past Master's Conferral at the Alexandria Scottish Rite**

6:30 PM Dinner / 7:30 PM Meeting Start

~~09/05 SA~~ ~~**Blood Drive at Kemper Macon Ware**~~ **CANCELLED**

~~Go to redcross.org to learn more and schedule a donation time!~~

09/14 MO **Gavel in the Gravel at Luckstone Quarry (Ashburn)**

Travel with your brothers to Luckstone Quarry in Ashburn and achieve a fraternal visit to Olive Branch No. 114 in Leesburg. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Please advise us by the meeting on Thursday 09/10/2026 if you wish to carpool with a traveling brother. Afternoon/evening traffic will extend travel times and unlit areas should be expected when returning in the evening. Camping chairs and evening coats are recommended.

Special Thanks given in the month of July:

Thank you to The Group International Foundation (TGIF) for their constant support of the First Responder's Breakfasts (1RB). Our goal is to hold one or more of these breakfasts per year. Over the past two years, TGIF's readiness to provide hospitality and run the canteen has helped us deliver the

1RB event on a more consistent basis. Their support is what continues to carry this program forward from year to year.

Thank you to all members, wives, families, and volunteers who supported our work on the 1RB! As a signature event of Sharon Lodge and initiated during the tenure of PM Blue, this event is a clear opportunity for everyone to support the work of Sharon Lodge and say thank you to the individuals who keep our communities and our families safe. To date, we have delivered four (4) breakfasts over the course of three years and aim to deliver at least two (2) to four (4) such events annually. We look forward to doing more!

Special Remembrance:

This Friday marks the 25th anniversary of the attacks on 9/11/2001. Please take a moment to reflect upon and to honor the service and the sacrifices made on that day and those following. Many in this Lodge have been personally touched by its aftermath and its trauma. If you need help, reach out and share – or just sit and reflect. We have much to be grateful for in the presence of those we love and have loved – and much to work continue on their behalf.

Where we are with lodge improvements:

With fall on the horizon, it is time to consider a seasonal refresh for the garden. Those wishing to assist in this effort are encouraged to let us know of your availability and the lodge leadership team will work on coordinating with you.

The State of the Lodge:

In an effort to improve general knowledge in the Lodge, your JW has taken the lead in coordinating training opportunities for ritual on the first, third, and fourth Thursdays of the month. Doors open at 6:30 PM and practice begins at 7:00 PM. Sessions are scheduled to end at 8:00 PM or may be extended as suitable for participants. All members are strongly encouraged to attend these learning opportunities in order to improve their knowledge on matters of etiquette and protocol.

The immediate goal of these practices is to improve (1) the proficiency of all members in their ability to support the advancement of a petitioner, and (2) to improve the ability of the Lodge to conduct regular business and meetings of the Lodge in an efficient and effective manner.

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Please take the time to learn your work and advise the Lodge if you need or would like to request support outside of these learning opportunities. Please show up for these trainings when you are available.

Thank you,

W.M.

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Announcements:

Don't forget the District 1A Blood Drive at Kemper Macon Ware on Saturday 09/05!

Donating blood is a longstanding charitable work undertaken by the Grand Lodge of Virginia and the need is constant. If you or your friends and family are able to donate, we encourage you to do so on your schedule and with your collection agencies of choice.

QUICK FACTS ON BLOOD USE IN MEDICINE TODAY:

- **It can take up to 100 units of blood or more to save the life of one victim of a car accident.**
- **Having blood units available as part of the OB-GYN toolkit is essential in responding to obstetric hemorrhages and other emergencies during childbirth – helping to significantly reduce rates of maternal mortality.**
- **Cancer patients may require the use of multiple and many blood products and units during the course of their treatments.**
- **Most importantly, there is no substitute for biological whole blood in modern medicine.**

If you wish to donate at the event hosted by Kemper Macon Ware in Falls Church and operated by the American Red Cross, the details are as follows:

- Appointments are available from 8:00 AM through 1:00 PM with whole blood and red cell donations being scheduled.
- Please expect to take one (1) to one and a half (1.5) hours of time if you are planning a whole blood donation.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive[1] for more information.

Concord of Vienna will be operating the canteen for this event.

[1]This is an American Red Cross owned and operated website and is provided to you as an informational resource only. Sharon Lodge is making no recommendation concerning the scheduling of appointments and/or the sharing of private and/or sensitive information through this website or any other application – third party owned and operated or otherwise.

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Holiday Cookies

In 2025, several members, their family, and their friends baked cookies at the lodge and at home to share with The Women's Home of Arlington and a local assisted living facility as a mark of good cheer and season's greetings. The event organized at the assisted living facility by a longtime friend of one of your PMs – and delivered with the support of several brothers in December – was described by one of its directors as being "… the best attended event of the season so far! ..." The idea of some of your most active brothers and your newest members, let's keep this effort going *this* December!

Sharon Lodge Swag is coming soon! Make your requests now!

Thanks to the continued efforts of your SW (and incoming WM), Lodge Polo Shirts are being designed and will be finalized within the next few months. Details are pending, but shirts will be available for order once development and designs are complete. At the present time, a pre-order count is being requested so that we can identify the right number of shirts to order and the price at which they will be distributed for.

The basic plan is to order a run of classic style pocket polos in men's sizes according to pre-order tallies. If women's shirts are tallied, we will design a women's shirt as well. Any children's shirts designed will follow the style of the adult designs. The shirts will not be personalized.

Ordering the men's design will be our first priority for production.

If you would like a shirt for yourself, your parents, your wife/girlfriend, and/or your children, please send us (1) the sizes you need, (2) the count of each size that you need, and (3) the style (Men's, Women's, Boy's, or Girl's) that you need. At this time, please plan to purchase the shirts you wish to order.

If we are unable to order the size(s) you are requesting, your request will be sized up to the next size available. If we are unable to order a size that will fit you, we will not tally your order.

We will provide pricing information once known and request any due payments before the final order is placed. Please email your request to the Lodge at contact@sharonlodge.org with the subject line:

- **2026 Polo Shirt Pre-Order Request**

Initial pre-order requests will be tallied through Tuesday, September 08, 2026 so that an accurate tally may be known before the next Thursday meeting.

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CPR and AED Training with The Center for Wilderness Safety

In cooperation with The Center for Wilderness Safety (CWS) – a longstanding friend of the Lodge and a community partner organization – a special CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Training Session is being planned for delivery by the end of the year. This is an excellent opportunity to learn basic lifesaving skills and to certify and/or recertify if you have a need for the credentials being offered. CWS has generously decided to offer a special rate of $25 to the members of Sharon Lodge for certification and a free training session to all other members participating that day.

If you or your family wish to participate, please send an email to contact@sharonlodge.org with the subject line:

- **2026 CPR and AED Training Session**

The class is 3.5 hours and seats are limited. Once interest is confirmed, class information and details on the date and time of the session will be finalized and announced.

Toys for Tots

In 2025, we delivered over 226 toys with an estimated minimum value of $2,500.00. Based upon the prices recorded, the average value of toys donated was $12. These toys were gathered from several locations across Virginia and Maryland and amounted to a total of seven (7) boxes delivered to the Toys for Tots facility in Quantico, Virginia. This was a three-fold (3X) increase from the success of the previous year during which two (2) boxes were collected and the majority of the gifts received were from the generous efforts of seven (7) members only and almost no participation from the wider community. In contrast, almost all of the toys received in 2025 were donated by the general public with Sharon Lodge accounting for less than 10% of the donations collected. Our hope is that more support and participation from the membership will allow us to repeat or improve upon these prior successes without a significant gap.

Originally established in 1947 by Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks on instructions from his wife, Diane, Major Hendricks successfully collected and distributed 5,000 toys in the Los Angeles area with the assistance of his reserve unit[2]. This accomplishment encouraged the Commandant to transform the unit's success into a national community action program by 1948. Today, The Marine

[2] Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation (2026, August 30). *History of The Toys for Tots Program.* Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. https://www.toysfortots.org/about/history/

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Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 1991 with the mission of bringing the joy of Christmas to and helping to send a message of hope to America's economically disadvantaged children [3]. As our November launch date approaches, we will be looking for brothers and family members who wish to contribute to this effort in meaningful ways to let us know. Our goal is to continue running this program on an annual basis without interruption.

Please determine how you can assist in making that happen.

[3] Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation (2026, August 30). *About the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.* Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. https://www.toysfortots.org/about-marine-corps-toys-for-tots/

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Jobs, Tasks, and Opportunities:

Charity Drive for the Women's Home of Arlington

In order to provide continued support to The Women's Home of Arlington, we will be publishing a needs list provided by their leadership team on an occasional or regular basis. For September and until fulfilled, all the items requested are non-expiring consumables in regular use by the organization and its residents. Once we are made aware that specific item categories are stocked at reasonable levels, each item category will be marked as complete. If you have questions concerning the charity drive or would like to discuss a more substantial donation or effort for the Women's Home, please send an e-mail to contact@sharonlodge.org.

The mission of the Women's Home of Arlington is to provide community, structure, and professional support to vulnerable women during one of the most fragile periods of their lives. Since 1963, the organization has helped more than 1000 women get back on their feet. To date and since 2025, we have delivered two food drops, holiday cookies, and 30 sets of sheets and towels to the Women's Home. **Items may be brought to our meetings held on the second Thursday of each month or coordinated with the Lodge if other arrangements need to be made.**

Toilet Paper	Trash Bags (13 GAL)	Bathroom Cleaners (Scrubbing Bubbles, toilet bowl cleaner, etc.)
Paper Towels	Freezer Bags (GAL & QT)	Household Cleaners (Lysol, Fantastic, etc.)
Swifter Wet Wipes	Storage Bags (GAL & QT)	
Tin Foil	Dish Washer Detergent	
Plastic Wrap (for food)	Mr Clean Magic Erasers	

In honor of those who should not be forgotten:

If you wish to support organizations continuing to provide services to our silent heroes and their loved ones, we encourage you to review the work of several organizations serving that mission:

- The Boulder Crest Foundation (https://bouldercrest.org/)
- Tunnels 2 Towers Foundation (https://t2t.org/)
- One Family Gives (https://onefamilybrewing.com/pages/one-family-gives)

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Dues and Membership Renewals:

Exemptions: Individuals with 50+ Years of Membership[4] and Honorary Members

Dues payments for current year are now being accepted by the Lodge Secretary. In general, annual dues are payable by January of the same year and due by December 31st of the same year.

Several accounts remain outstanding at this time. For those individuals who have not yet paid their dues, the portion of your annual dues owed to the Grand Lodge has already been paid; but it is important to ensure that you bring your accounts current in order to recover the funds that the Lodge has paid in advance for you.

If you are in arrears, please bring your accounts up to date by including any outstanding amounts in your payment and let us know what years your payment is to apply to. Please note that if you choose to remain in arrears, your membership will be subject to suspension.

The current amount owed per year is $95/year times the number of years you are making payments for.

Check Instructions

Please make out all checks to

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and indicate all the years being credited by the payment in the memo line:

e.g. **2024 / 2025 / 2026 Annual Dues**.

Cash Instructions

Cash payments can be accepted by the Secretary at the next stated meeting. If paying by cash, please attend the next meeting with your payment(s) in full and secure a receipt of funds once your money has been accepted.

Electronic Payment and Credit Card Options

No electronic payments or credit cards are being accepted at this time.

Other Circumstances

If you have circumstances impacting your ability to pay your dues at the present time, please advise us of your circumstances in person or in writing.

[4] Certification and acceptance of your membership history by the Grand Lodge of Virginia is required and must include membership in a Virginia Lodge for the last five (5) years past in order to qualify for this exemption.