

March 2015 Trestleboard



Brethren,
The 645rd Stated Communication of Ionic Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. will be held in the Newport Masonic Temple on **Thursday March 5, 2015 at 7:30 PM.** The reading of

the minutes, reception of petitions, Masonic Birthdays, committee reports and all other business, as may lawfully be brought before the Lodge, will be transacted.

James T. Pratzner, PM Attest Christopher Dent,
Worshipful Master Secretary

Brothers,

We are trying to get 100% of our dues into our secretary. As I am sure everyone knows, cost are rising and our income resources are declining. We need everyone to please get their dues up to date. Our net worth has been in the decline we must address this issue.

Please get your dues in. If anyone has any difficulty, please contact me and we will do our best to help out.

Thank you for your support!
Jim Pratzner, WM

Masonic Birthdays - March 2015

Bruce Ashworth 50	John W Day 13
William Esterling Jr 10	Charles Goddard 37
Dale M Hall 40	Stephen Hartman Jr 46
Stephen Hentkowski 6	J Frank Hickam 40
Jeffrey W Irwin 39	Lee T Irwin 16
David Jacowitz 8	Michael E Jones 17
David C Matthews Jr 21	Larry L Smith Sr 47
Robert G Sproul III 33	William J Stout 51
Kevin C Thomas 8	Robert J Welsh 6
Frank F Woodruff 4	Clyde W Yost 51

Should Ionic Lodge Leave Newport?

Brethren, at our February communication we had a lively discussion regarding our finances and our ability to stay in the Newport Masonic Hall. As many of you know, the building is aging. The cost of renovation and repair may be cost prohibitive, and the hall company has raised our rent by 60%. Our new rent cost in Newport will exceed what we currently receive in dues.

Because of this and other factors, we, the Officers of Ionic Lodge and the Strategic Planning Committee, recommend we leave Newport and move to St. John's Lodge in New Castle. We have been offered an attractive lease that will keep our costs about the same as we now have.

Currently we are losing over \$4,000 a year. Based on our current financial situation, we need to ask for a dues increase. The recommendation will be for about \$30- \$40 increase a year. If we stay in Newport, the dues will need to increase \$50-\$60 a year.

Certainly there are challenges with a move to New Castle and there are advantages. It is a newer building and they are financially sound. The structure meets the current building codes, and it's all on one floor. The challenges are mostly logistical and can be managed. We will continue to explore our options and continue to talk with you and address all your issues. We may schedule an Ionic visit in March to a Stated Communication in New Castle to allow our members a chance to see the building. We will ask for a vote at our April 2015 Stated Communication to either move to New Castle or stay in Newport.

Program for March

Brethren,
Our program, which was postponed in February, will feature Bother Edward G. Roth III. Brother Ed is a retired banker, a former Mayor of Glenolden, Pa. and a Past Potentate of Nur Shrine. In addition, he is currently the treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for Children. The Shriners have called their hospital system "The World's Greatest Philanthropy".

You can be sure this will be an interesting presentation as he traces the history of the hospitals and the advances in medicine they have achieved. With specific emphasis on the Philadelphia hospital.

Brotherhood Night

This multi-state, every popular event will be held on Friday March 20, 2015 at the Nur Shrine Center. Tickets are \$40.00 each. Includes a spectacular buffet dinner by "Jimmy's". Contact the Worshipful Master for your tickets.

Attention Grand Lodge Members

The semi-annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Delaware will be held on Saturday March 28, 2015 at the Newport Masonic Temple beginning at 9:00 AM. **THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL NOTICE.**

WE ARE GOING DIGITAL

My brothers, please make every effort to contact our secretary and make certain we have your email address. Many times we add degrees and events that have not come to our attention only once a month..

Upcoming Dates to Remember

March 5th—Thurs. 7:30 PM Ionic stated communication

March 11th- Weds—7:00 PM Entered Apprentice Degree

March 18th—Weds—7:00 PM Officer Practice or Degree

March 20th—Friday -5:30 PM

Brotherhood Night at Nur Shrine Center

March 28th—Saturday—9:00 AM

Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication Newport Masonic Temple

Sick and Visitation

Please contact Brother Ben Deeble, PM, Chairman of the Sick & Visitation Committee to report on the illness or needs of any member of Ionic Lodge. Ben can be reached at (302) 239-7150 or by email at conrady7@aol.com.

Ionic Past Masters

Emil H. Lawrence	1979	J.A. Suksena	1980
Robert Bryant	1981	C.A. Walls	1983
Carl W. Morris	1986	Craig M. Cannon	1991
James T. Pratzner	1992	C.C. Simmermon, Jr.	1994
Jay C. Bergstrom	1995	W. David Pudvan	1996
D. Edward Wright	1998	Dale T. Irwin	1999
Mark S. Warrington	2000	Dale T. Irwin	2002
W. F. Huxtable Jr	2003	C.C. Simmermon, Jr	2004
James E. Duck*	2005	James E. Duck*	2006
Benjamin H. Deeble Jr.	2007	Robert W. Noble	2008
Robert C. Wood	2009	Robert W. Noble	2010
Robert W. Noble	2011	Robert W. Noble	2012

Affiliated Past Masters

John C. Rayias 1998 - Brandywine No. 33
William D. Johnson 2009 - Penns Grove - Excelsior No. 54, NJ

Ionic web site

www.ionic31.org