

September 2015 Trestleboard



Brethren, the 649th Stated Communication of Ionic Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. will be held in the **New Castle "St. John's" Masonic Temple**, located at 1406 Wilmington Road, New Castle, DE on **Thursday, September 3, 2015, starting at**

5:30 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.

Wilcox W. Held, Jr. Attest: **David Pudvan PM**
Worshipful Master Secretary

Ionic Members with the Grand Lodge Award of Honor

William A. Calloway 1993
W. Bryan Irwin 2007

Ionic Distinguished Service Award

Charles P. Wolfe Sr 2007
C. Simmermon Jr PM 2009
Dale T. Irwin PM 2010
Ben Deeble Jr PM 2011
Fred Palmer 2012
Charles L. Porter Jr 2013
Kenneth Weaver Sr 2014

Ionic Lodge Column Award

Ben Deeble Jr PM 2007
W. Bryan Irwin 2007
Robert C. Wood 2007
John M. Maiorano 2008
C. Simmermon Jr PM 2008
Charles L. Porter Jr 2010
Eric L. Thompson 2010
Dale M. Fernsler 2014

September 2015 Masonic Birthdays

Witold A. Brick 62
Howard Othoson 60
Robert J. Stamp 60
Charles Murphy Jr 56
Donald Parks 52
Clifford Walker Sr 49
Lonnie D. Dillon 48
C. Drummond Jr 45
Dayne R. Smith 43
Larry Mullikin Jr. 42
Joseph Bruno Jr 27
Francis E. Kates Jr 24
James D. Taylor Sr 24
Greg A. Lochten 19
Louis M. Dyer Sr 18
Franklin D. Lloyd 13
Michael R. Walls 12
Chris Emerson 7

Question —

Would the community notice if our Lodge went dark?

If you don't like your answer, then let's find new ways to *change* it. This question will be a discussion point at our September meeting. Your input is important.

Message From the East

This is my first opportunity this year to greet you as Worshipful Master of our lodge. It is an honor that I take very seriously. I have read through many Trestleboards of different lodges over the years, and this is the time that the WM usually asks for members to come back to Lodge. I may raise some eyebrows by saying this, but it is NOT one of my goals to increase attendance at our meetings. Let me clarify that — Your attendance is GREATLY appreciated, but increasing the number of names on the Tiler's Roster should not be the focus of what we do. Concentrating on attendance is a misguided goal because it fails to address why some Lodges succeed while others are floundering.

Instead of trying to increase the QUANTITY of Masons in the room, let's look at improving the QUALITY of Freemasonry for those who come to Lodge. Our meetings and degree work must be top-notch, but our members need to WANT to be there. How does that happen?

To answer this, one of my goals is to make it fun and interesting to go to Lodge. We recognize that your time is valuable, and **we want our functions to be something that you will be sorry to have missed if you do not attend.** We will be trying new things to improve our meetings, and we plan to offer short programs to increase Masonic knowledge among our Brothers. Our organization is rich with history, which is something that service clubs cannot offer. We also want our degree work to leave a lasting, positive impression on our candidates, as well as those members & Masonic visitors in attendance.

Having now moved the Lodge to New Castle, it is time to try new things, but foremost we want everyone to feel welcome — that they are part of something exciting! Excitement is contagious, and we will build upon that to ensure the success of Ionic Lodge #31. It's going to be a GREAT year!

9/03/15 Stated Communication

Our first meeting of the year will actually be BEFORE Labor Day weekend:

- **"Business Casual" attire** (collared shirt and dress pants — no jackets, no ties, no shorts, and no jeans).
- We will **open lodge at 5:30pm** in order to conduct as much business as possible prior to dinner.
- **Labor will be conducted on the EA Degree** so that ALL Freemasons may attend.
- We will call off at **6:30pm for an "End-Of-Summer" BBQ Dinner.**
- No charge for dinner to our Widows and September "Masonic Birthday" brethren.
- After dinner, we will wrap up all remaining Lodge business.
- **Entertainment** to be provided after dinner for our guests in the banquet room during our meeting in the Blue Room.
- **Dinner will be "potluck-optional"**, meaning you will pay less if you bring a dish to share. The Lodge will be providing the burgers, dogs, BBQ, and rolls. The cost will be **\$12 per person without a dish, or \$5 per person if you bring a dish.** Please RSVP with Fred Palmer to confirm the number in your party and what food/dish (if any) you are bringing. **Contact Fred at 302-981-6202 by Sunday, August 30th.**



The District #2 Traveling Gavel will be available for capture on 9/03/2015. Although we will open at 5:30pm, we will take the official head count after dinner when we reconvene at 7:30pm for the rest of the Lodge meeting. Please be sure to RSVP if you are coming for dinner.

Please be patient with the random weekly dates. We are working on this with the Hall Co. and other 2 lodges.

- Tue 8/25 - Officer Practice 7pm**
Wed 9/02 - Officer Practice 7pm
Thu 9/03 - Stated Communication
- Lodge opens @ 5:30pm
 - BBQ @ 6:30pm
 - Reconvene @ 7:30pm
- Fri 9/11 - EA Degree**
- Dinner served @ 6:30pm
 - Lodge opens @ 7pm
- Thu 9/17 - Officer Practice**
- Starts @ 7pm
- Tue 9/22 - MM Degree**
- Dinner served @ 6:30pm
 - Lodge opens @ 7pm

Check www.ionic31.org for the latest info.

NOTE: This year, newly raised Master Masons will receive a laser-etched "Officer-style" Ionic name badge. As a fundraiser, current Ionic MM's will be able to purchase their own name badge at a cost of \$25 — please contact the Secretary for info.

Sick and Visitation

Please contact **Brother Bill Calloway**, Chairman of the Sick & Visitation Committee, to report on the illness or needs of any member of Ionic Lodge. Brother Bill can be reached at 302-999-0847 or via email at mildbill2@verizon.net



Membership Information for Ionic Lodge #31 -

Membership 7/01/2015	Petitions Pending	Initiations & Admissions	Suspensions & Resignations	Deaths	Membership 8/31/2015
252	2	0	0	0	252

