

## January 2016 Trestleboard



Brethren, the 653rd Stated Communication of Ionic Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. will be held in the **New Castle Masonic Temple**, located at 1406 Wilmington Road, New Castle, Delaware on **Thursday, January 7, 2016, 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.

*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



January 2016 Masonic Birthdays	
Kover M. Hudson Jr	51
Carl W. Morris PM	45
Gerald A. Gerhart	33
Robert D. Ehart	20
Wilfred J. Stewart	18
Richard A. Woyden	10
Logan D. Lecates	8

**Sick and Visitation**  
Please contact **Bro. 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](mailto:mildbill2@verizon.net)

## Message From the East

HAPPY NEW YEAR, my Brothers! This is typically the time to reflect upon the status of things and look to the future.

Nearly 2 years ago, Ionic Lodge #31 basically hit a reset button through the action of Grand Lodge. Since then, our momentum has continued to build and the lodge has undergone a renewed sense of purpose. The most obvious change is that we have moved the lodge to New Castle, which has completely kick-started our engines. Our Past Masters are active again, but they are not filling seats in our Officers' line. Frankly, we have more Masonic "bottoms" than there are Officer chairs, which is a wonderful situation for our lodge. We have an outstanding set of enthusiastic, young Officers who are eager to learn and work together for the betterment of Freemasonry. Our candidates are receiving outstanding degrees. More and more members are participating in activities, too. Attendance at our meetings and degrees has steadily grown each month. The offer of a free dinner for our Masonic Birthday Brethren is also showing positive results because we are seeing more Brothers return to lodge after being away for a while — IT'S GREAT! We have a lot of activities planned for the rest of this Masonic year, including some outstanding speakers.

I look upon our Officers & Members with pride and I see wonderful things in store for our lodge for many years to come. It makes me extremely excited to be a Freemason in Ionic #31!

## 1/07/16 Stated Communication

- Dinner at 6:30pm, and Lodge opens at 7:30pm (switching over to the EA°).
- We are thrilled to have as our guest speaker **R.:W.: Moises I. Gomez**, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of NJ, as well as a Past Master of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge #10 in Westfield, NJ. He will be presenting a program on 9/11 - Experience the Spirit of American Volunteerism. He is a well-regarded speaker, and it will be a GREAT night for sure!
- Our Ladies, Widows, & Friends are encouraged to come for dinner and featured programs.
- "Bill's Bits" by Brother Bill Calloway will be presented.
- The **District II Traveling Gavel** will be available for capture this night.
- The cost for dinner will be \$12 per person (no cost to our Widows and the January Masonic birthday brethren).
- **Please RSVP with Bro. Fred Palmer at 302-981-6202 by Sunday Jan 3rd to reserve your dinner seat. You must let us know that you are coming to dinner so we know how much food to prepare.**



## Special Communication

This hereby serves as official notification that on Friday, January 8, 2016 at 7pm, we will hold a Special Communication for the purpose of conducting a Masonic Trial. A Complaint has been presented against a member of our lodge, and it is our duty to proceed in accordance with Code, Section 24 on this matter. This meeting will only be open to Ionic #31 members.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Thu 1/07 January Stated Communication**
- GL Member Mtg @ 6pm
  - Dinner @ 6:30pm
  - Lodge opens @ 7:30pm
- Fri 1/08 Special Communication**
- Ionic #31 members only
  - Starting at 7pm
- Sat 1/09 "Second Saturday" Social**
- Runs 8-10am in New Castle for coffee & Masonic Fellowship
- Thu 1/21 Officer Checkout — FC°**
- Check-out at 7pm
  - Open to all MM members.
- Tue 1/26 District #2 GL Nominating Meeting**
- Open to District 2 WMs.
- Sat 4/16 Ionic #31 Railroad Degree**
- Tickets available soon!

Check [www.ionic31.org](http://www.ionic31.org) for the latest info.

## The Starfish Story

An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean. "Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die," she said.

"But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea.

"It made a difference for that one."

*Adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley*

## Membership Information for Ionic Lodge #31 -

Membership 7/01/2015	Petitions Pending	Initiations & Admissions	Suspensions & Resignations	Deaths	Membership 12/31/2015
252	1	6	2	3	253

Called From Labor

We remember -  
**Bro. Howard Othoson**  
CFL on 11/18/2015