

## May 2016 Trestleboard



Brethren, the 656th 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, May 5, 2016, 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

### May 2016 Masonic Birthdays

George H. Pyle	64
Harold W. Wink	53
William D. Cochran	50
James R. Hall	49
George D. Johnson	47
James J. Beird	45
C. Allen Walls PM	45
Lawrence Blackway	44
Paul J. Ferguson Jr.	41
Karl A. Schopfer	41
Winfield T. Stewart	40
John C. Rayias PM	25
Charles W. Welch III	23
Kenneth E. Fowler	22
Wilcox W. Held, Jr.	22
Stephen R. Mills	22
Lester A. Israel	20
Raymond Maniscalco	20
Michael R. Lawson Sr.	15
Giovanni Maiorano	15
James Stimeling Jr.	12
David C. Manners	11
Scott C. Horton	9
Keith R. Laverly	9
Raymond P. Paoletti	9
Kurt W. Weis Jr.	9
Roger D. Booth Jr.	8
Terence L. Scott Jr.	8
John R. Swierk	8
Eric L. Thompson	8
Robert L. Wilson	6
Christopher E. Dent	4
David R. Pepper	2
William A. Pepper	2
James E. Scalia	2
Joshua T. Hiers	1
Dale McKeehan	1
William E. Wilson	1
Marsalis Warren	1

## Message From The East

**The Hourglass** — Masonically speaking, it symbolizes human life and reminds us of our approaching fate.

This month we honor the memory of our Departed Brethren, and the subject of death leads the contemplative Mason to reflect upon what they have done with their life, and to determine the things they want to accomplish in their remaining days.

Brethren, my year as Worshipful Master will be over at the end of next month. It has been a WONDERFUL experience which has allowed me to grow as an individual. Many of you are aware of my plans after I leave the Oriental Chair and hand control of the lodge to my soon-to-be elected successor. For those who do not know, Debbie and I put our personal plans on hold so I could serve as Worshipful Master. But once that is done we plan to sell our home and move to South Carolina. It does sadden me to leave the area, but I know that the lodge will be in GREAT hands for a number of years. Your Ionic Officers have done an OUTSTANDING job, and I know that our upward momentum will carry on for a long time.

One of the things I have learned this year is to be open to new ideas. Although I do not have a Masonic theme this year, if I did, it would be **"Why not?"**. So many times I have stepped back from myself and listened to the suggestions of others. "Why not" is my favorite answer to questions (although it does not fit every circumstance). But in terms of our decision to leave the area to start fresh down South, our answer is "WHY NOT?". We are doing it because we are able to do so, and it makes no sense to wait any longer.

So I would like to invoke the symbol of the Hourglass, and urge you to look at your situation in life. If there is something which you have thought about doing but keep putting off, then now is the time to act. Whether you want to: reconcile a soured relationship; strengthen your FAITH; travel; learn a new skill; embark on a new career; take on a larger role in Lodge; or whatever? Take a look at your options, and if this personal goal is even remotely possible, then take action now. We only have a short time on this Earth. If there is something that you've always wanted to do, then I HOPE you ask yourself "Why not?". They say that CHARITY begins at home, so you should be good to yourself. That way you can be good to others. Be well, my Brothers!

## 5/05/16 Stated Communication

- We will open lodge under Dispensation at **5:30pm** in order to conduct as much business as possible before dinner.
- Lodge work will be conducted on the Entered Apprentice Degree.
- **Dinner will be served at 7pm** (note that this is a different time than normal).
- During dinner, some of our Officers and members will be leaving lodge to perform a **Masonic Funeral Service for Chuck Simmermon, Jr. PM** at 7pm at McCrery & Harra at Rt. 2 and Duncan Road. We will return to lodge at the end of dinner.
- **Lodge will re-open at 8pm**, and we will invite our Ladies, Widows, and Guests inside for our Annual Memorial Service. Gents, feel free to invite your Ladies for the dinner and program.
- The **cost for dinner will be \$12** per person (no cost to May Masonic birthday brethren or our Widows). We ask that you **RSVP with Fred Palmer at 302-981-6202 by Sunday, May 1st.**
- The **District #2 Traveling Gavel** will be available for capture this night.

## Railroad Degree

It was a HUGE success! We had over 110 Masons attend the degree. So many people pitched in. THANK YOU to everyone who made this event possible!



## Sick and Visitation

Please report any need to **Bro. Bill Calloway** at 302-999-0847 or [mildbill2@verizon.net](mailto:mildbill2@verizon.net)

## Membership Information for Ionic Lodge #31 -

Membership	Petitions	Initiations &	Suspensions &	Deaths	Membership
7/01/2015	Pending	Admissions	Resignations		4/30/2016
252	3	8	3	6	251

## Dates to Remember

- Thu 5/05 May Stated Communication**
- Open @ 5:30pm.
  - Dinner @ 7pm.
  - Memorial Service @ 8pm.
- Fri 5/13 EA Degree(s)**
- (pending favorable ballot)
  - Dinner @ 6:30pm.
  - Degree @ 7pm
- Sat 5/14 2nd Saturday Cars & Coffee Social**
- 8-10am in New Castle
  - Open to all!
- Sat 5/14 Open House Party**
- From Noon-4pm in New Castle
- Thu 5/19 Degree or Officer Practice**
- Dinner with degree @ 6:30pm.
  - Degree or practice @ 7pm
- Tue 5/24 Degree or Officer Practice**
- Dinner w/ degree @ 6:30pm.
  - Degree or practice @ 7pm

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

## The "2nd Saturday" Cars & Coffee Social

Held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the New Castle Masonic Hall. 'Hope you can join us on May 14th, from 8-10 am.

## Masonic Open House

Later that same day, from noon-4pm, we will have an **Open House Party** at lodge. There will be food and games, with no cost to anyone. This should be a fun day and is open to all. 'Hope you will attend!

Called From Labor

We remember -  
**Charles Simmermon Jr PM**  
CFL on April 16, 2016

