



WINTER ISSUE

Happy New Year AD 2015, AL 6015

With a new year we see some new faces in elected positions for the first time in several years.

Joshua Nay was elected Senior Warden and Raymond Greene was elected Junior Warden.

To be eligible to run for these offices, these Brothers dedicated much time and effort in becoming proficient and certified in the required "work". Congratulations!!!

BUILDING STATUS

During the summer the Lodge building received some necessary repairs. All of the soil pipes, some of which dated back to the 1920's or earlier, were replaced. We also had a significant amount of masonry pointing and repair completed. This greatly reduced the water coming into the basement during rain storms. There is still small amount of water that gets into the building which we are planning to also take care of.

Thanks to members who were able to contribute financially, we have recovered much of what had to spend.

Your Lodge has an updated Web Site

<http://lansdowne711.com/> the site provides current information as well as a PDF version of the monthly Lodge Notice. To view the Notice, you will need a password as well as a current version of Adobe PDF reader.

To get the password, contact Josh Nay or Robert Meier, PM, Secretary. Their contact information is in the Notice.

For Face Book users; we have a Face Book page too. It is up-to-date.

www.facebook.com/lansdowne711



50 Year Service Presentation

At our November Stated Meeting a 50 Year Service Award was presented to Bro. Wenner. Assisting and present were 4 members of the 1957 Graduating class from the Patton School for Boys



Did You Know?

An estimated 15,000 Freemasons were engaged in fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg.

What is a Mason?

A Mason is a Man and a Brother whose Trust is in God. He meets you on the Level and acts upon the Square.

Truth is his Compass and he is ever Plumb. He has a true Grip on all that is Rite. He is loyal to his order and whatever his Degree he is Master of himself. In the Lodge of Life he wears unstained the white Lambskin of Innocence. From his Initiation as an Entered Apprentice he Travels ever East towards the Light of Wisdom until he receives the final, the Divine Password that admits him into the Ineffable Presence of the Eternal Supreme Grand Master of the Universe...almighty God.

For a Candidate to be brought to light and see a Lodge full of members, it reinforces what we stand for,

Brotherly Love

However, if they see an empty room, it speaks volumes. Think back to your E. A. Degree. How would you have felt to see no members there supporting a new Brother? Why would someone want to join an empty room!!!

Cost Saving Efforts

We have been working to save money where possible.

For example; about 1/2 of our members now receive their monthly Lodge Notice via email. This saves the Lodge about \$.65 per member, per month when you combine postage, printing and envelopes. The labor to process all of this is not being included in the calculation. So, it's obvious that we've thought about this. While we understand there are some members who do not utilize email to the extent that some others do but, if every member with email access would receive their Notice electronically...we could save even more.

We closed the P.O. Box which also saves money.

We have also asked that our post-meeting refreshment be modified to be more of a snack than a meal. Few of us need a full meal at 9:30 or 10:00 P.M.

Some expenses are not easily reduced, taxes, utilities etc. But when the new ceiling was put in several years ago we had insulation put in. In all the years of our operation, this had never been done. This obviously was something which will pay for itself.



We all knocked on the portals of Freemasonry. Please come out and reconnect with friends and Brothers. You will always find an open door and a welcoming environment. It doesn't matter is you have not been to Lodge in a long time.....you are a member of the Masonic family. Don't let that relationship be forgotten.

Finances

Finances are a topic which tends to be all too often avoided. It's not a pleasant discussion to have, but cannot be avoided.

For those of you that attended the November Stated meeting, you'll remember the detailed report given by the Treasurer. This report detailed our expenses VS our income. The bottom line...we spend about \$5,000 more than we bring in annually. Our sources of income are dues from members, fees from new petitions and rent.

2015 will see a serious discussion about increases in dues and rents, where feasible.

Pease try to attend and add to the discussion and solution.

It is common sense that running a deficit cannot continue for long before ANY business ceases to exist. Don't let it happen to YOUR Lodge.